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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. P. BOHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

#### PROFESSOR PICCARD'S NEW PLAN.

A daring plan to ascend into the stratosphere near the Magnetic Pole has been prepared by Professor Piccard, who last year ascended 10 miles into the air in a special balloon.

Professor Piccard proposes to make his second ascent into the stratosphere from Zurich soon. If this proves successful he will go to the Hudson Bay region to make a third ascent to study cosmic rays and the aurora.

"I am taking practically the same scientific apparatus as before," he said in an interview. "only we shall add a wireless set, by which we should be able to signal our whereabouts from hour to hour, and especially the point at which we shall land. We don't want to repeat the adventure of our last trip, when we were forced to land on a glacier, miles from anywhere, without any means of communication. This time we go armed with two parachutes."

It is hoped to start from Zurich in the second half of this month.

#### ST. GOTHARD TUNNEL STAMPS.

Switzerland will celebrate with an issue of three postage stamps the fiftieth anniversary of the opening on June 1st, 1882, of the St. Gotthard railway. On the 10 centimes stamp, printed in brown, is a portrait of Louis Favre, the engineer in charge of the construction of the tunnel, who died of heart failure before the completion of his work. The portrait on the 20 centimes red is that of the Swiss statesman, Alfred Escher, director of the St. Gotthard Railway from 1817-1878; while the 30 centimes blue portrays Emil Welti, chief of the Swiss department of posts and railways, who was an active supporter of the project. The stamps will be sold by Swiss post offices for two months only, but will remain valid for postage till the end of this year.

#### NEW SWISS CENSOR LAWS FOR FILMS.

The Conseil d'Etat of Switzerland has decided to alter the law of 1927 in reference to cinemas and film depots by the institution of county authorities for the control of films.

In future, the Department of Justice and Police and the municipal authorities will be competent to refuse permission for the showing of a film or part of a film. These authorities have also the right to prescribe measures to safeguard public order, and to forbid admission to a cinema in their area to children under 16 years of age, even when accompanied by an adult.

They have the right to demand the suppression of scenes, texts (spoken or written) and printed or illustrated publicity. A complete prohibition of a film must be immediately notified to the Federal Department of Police. The right of appeal to the Conseil d'Etat is reserved.

A County Commission will be nominated in the various counties, and it must notify the Department of Justice and Police of any film which it desires to place under restriction. The Commission is composed of seven members, one of which is a woman.

#### THE SWISS OBER-AMMERGAU.

Though not, by a very long way, so old as its Bavarian counterpart, the Selzach Passion Play has already made the name of that picturesque village widely known beyond the frontiers of Switzerland. Lying close to the foot of the Jura mountains, Selzach is within easy reach of Solothurn; its two thousand inhabitants are either engaged in the traditional Swiss industry of watchmaking or working on the land. As at

Ober-Ammergau, the villagers themselves are the actors and actresses in the play, lending themselves to its preparation and performance with a devotion which gives it an immensely impressive sincerity. It is in three parts, of which the first is taken from the Old Testament, carrying the story as far as the Ten Commandments and the Brazen Serpent. The second begins with the Herald Angels and the Birth of Christ, and ends with the Entry into Jerusalem. These two parts occupy the morning performance. The third, in the afternoon, tells of the Passion and Death of our Lord, closing with the Ascension. The villagers have built their own theatre, one which seats 1,200 people, all of whom are under cover, and the cast for the play numbers 300. It is to be given this year, at intervals of a few days, from June 5th until October 2nd.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

Colonel Fritz Zuppinger-Meynadier has died at the age of 57 in Zurich.

#### BERNE.

Dr. G. Beck, for many years Editor of the "Berne Tagblatt" has celebrated his 80th birthday.

#### ZUG.

The death is reported from Zug of Dr. Fritz Imbach, chief medical officer of the Bürgerspital.

#### BASLE-COUNTY.

The elections for the "Landrat" ended in a victory for the socialists who have gained 7 seats. The new Council has been constituted as follows:

Freis. and Bauern	33	before	42
Evangel.	5	..	5
Kath. Volkspartei	10	..	10
Bürger and Bauern Partei	2	..	0
Sozial Demokraten	27	..	20
Kommunisten	3	..	3

#### THURGAU.

The electors of the canton of Thurgau have by a big majority refused the vote to women in church matters.

### SUCCESS OF THE 16th SWISS INDUSTRIES

#### FAIR 1932.

The Swiss Industries Fair, which was held in Basle from April 2nd to April 12th, proved to be a full success.

The number of exhibits formed an impressive output of Swiss production. Not only was there no reduction in their numbers, but there was an actual increase: 1,123 exhibitors as against 1,110 last year.

The attendance by the home country reached a new record. The final result of the total issue of admission tickets was as follows: 77,194 as against 75,599 last year.

The number of visitors from other countries remained on the same level as that of the previous year, a fact which goes to prove that the Swiss Industries Fair enjoys a good reputation abroad. Reduced attendance by some states was counterbalanced by an increased number from others.

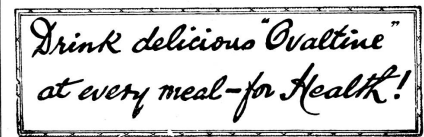
Judging from the business done it may be said that the 1932 Fair shows a highly satisfactory result of the practical solidarity in the history of the Fair and in that of Swiss economics.

The success of the 1932 Swiss Fair is such as to give the Swiss Industries confidence that great obstacles can be overcome if the good will and energy of all concerned are put to the service of a common cause.

### THE "RICHMOND" RESTAURANT

30, THE QUADRANT, RICHMOND, SURREY, (Opposite Railway St.)

HIGH-CLASS CUISINE - DINING ROOM FIRST FLOOR  
AT FIXED PRICES AND A LA CARTE AT ALL TIMES.  
WINES & BEER. OPEN ON SUNDAYS.  
SPECIAL WELCOME TO SWISS.  
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### SWISS SPORTS AT HERNE HILL.

SATURDAY, MAY 28th, 1932.

It looks as if Jupiter Pluvius harbours a secret grudge against the Swiss; once again, the Swiss Sports have been held in pouring rain, and it seemed to me that this year we had been blessed with an extra dose; I do not think it ever left off for a minute right from the beginning to the end. A Sports meeting without the sun is like roast-beef without dripping, and yet, considering the terrible weather conditions, the attendance was better than one could have expected, and between 350 and 400 competitors and spectators were present.

Many a bright hope must have been dashed to the ground on Saturday morning, when the sun persistently refused to send its radiant rays over an expectant community of youngsters, and I can well imagine the solicitous enquiries of the little ones, whether Daddy or Mummy would take them to the "Sports."

Sharp at 2.30 p.m. a pistol shot rang out, thus announcing that the first event had started, and in rapid succession the Flat Handicap races for men, boys and ladies followed each other. As the results of the various events will be given at the end of this narrative, I will, with a few exceptions, desist from commenting on the achievements of each individual performer. As usual these races and competitions were followed with great interest by the onlookers, and the winners each received a great and well merited ovation.

The Committee this year again dispensed with engaging a band, and the musical programme was provided by an Ampligram, which was fed from Mr. Newman's inexhaustible stock of Swiss gramophone records, the familiar tunes at once created a homely atmosphere, and the organisers and Mr. Newman ought to be heartily congratulated on this venture, which, already last year proved to be such a success. The announcing of the various events was done with the aid of a microphone, and I wish to compliment the operator for the very efficient way in which he handled this instrument, it was a great improvement on the megaphone used in former years.

Unfortunately, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, and his daughter were unable to honour the Meeting with their presence, owing to a last minute engagement, but Monsieur de Bourg, 1st Secretary of Legation, was present. The popular President of the Swiss Sports Committee, Monsieur Ch. Barbezat, did the honours in his usual charming way. In spite of the deplorable weather conditions he refused to look gloomy, and his bewitching smile made all and sundry forget the pranks which a typical English climate plays sometimes. He was again the keeper of a certain key, which locks the door to some delicious secrets, which I might devolve later on.

A special interest was created by the 120 yds. Veterans' Handicap, which was won by Mr. H. H. Baumann, (Swiss Mercantile Society) who at the age of 44 seems to get younger and younger every day, it was a most creditable performance, especially as he reached the post well in front of his competitors.

This event was followed by the Veterans' 440 yds. Walking Handicap, (Men over 40) which is always somehow a star turn. I was very much interested in this event, firstly because, on account of my age, which, however, I loathe to disclose, I should be entitled to join these venerable gentlemen, and secondly, on account of one of my oldest friends taking part in it.

I felt somehow tempted to join in, but only the same morning I had been warned of the fearful consequences that might befall me. I was told that I might drop dead instantaneously, and one very good friend of mine (not a doctor) told me, that he was certain that my heart would never stand the strain; I did not wish to be rude, but I consider that my heart has stood me in good stead for the last ..... (I nearly gave the game away), it has harboured many sweet remembrances, and weathered many a storm and strain, and after all, I think I ought to know best; still as I did not wish to deprive any of the competitors of their laurels I nobly stood down, but it made my blood boil, when the Gentleman, who had spoken in such disreputable terms about my heart, proudly lined up for the very race.

Now they were really a jolly crowd, those veterans, and they did not look a bit their age; some seemed to get a little nervous when the shot rang out, nerves at forty and over, do get a

bit touchy sometimes. The only bone I have to pick with them is, that with the exception of a few, they did not walk but they ran, and I am sorry to say that my life long friend was one of the chief offenders which grieved me considerably. One of the judges, I am informed, told him to *step out* (I do not like the term "disqualified") but he would not have any of it, with a sickly smile on his pale lips he gaily kept on *running* and reached the post as fourth. Now I will give him credit for not anticipating any reward for his strenuous exertions, as he left the ground before the distribution of the prizes, but my (bad) heart stood nearly still, when the announcer during the prize distribution, called out the name of my friend, and proudly I collected his trophy and presented it to him on Sunday last. The winner of this race was Mr. F. von Bergen, (Swiss Mercantile Society) who *walked*, and therefore well merited to win.

A no less interesting event proved to be the Tug-o'-War. The appearance on the field of the two teams (Union Helvetia and Hayes Cocoa Co., Ltd.) was very well stage managed and most impressive. Each team, consisting of six men, was accompanied by their manager walking in single file on to the track, with the accompanying tune of a Swiss military march. Before seeing the teams, I felt inclined to fancy the Union Helvetia team as the favourites, for the simple reason that the Hayes Cocoa Company has never before competed, and was therefore to most of the spectators an unknown quantity, whilst for the last few years the first named team had always given a most creditable performance, but lo and behold, when the Hayes men appeared with their *substantial* "anchor" man, I had some serious misgivings as to whether my forecast was a correct one. The Hayes Cocoa team pulled splendidly, they had the appearance of a well trained crew, and although the Union Helvetia made strenuous efforts to carry off the victory they lost by two pulls to one. The sturdy "anchor" man of the "Cocoa" team reminded me, with his rope around his body, of the famous statue of Hercules fighting the two serpents. Both teams received a hearty ovation, when leaving the field.

I came to the obvious conclusion that the six men of the Hayes Company must have been reared on Cocoa and a jolly fine advertisement it is for the Hayes Cocoa Company Ltd. I interviewed some members of the U. H. team as to their usual beverage and I do not think that I give any secret away, when stating that neither Nestle's nor Glaxo is on their menu, and there and then, I perceived that they and myself have, for years and years, taken the wrong stimulant, and it may interest some of my readers to know, that my larder has now been stocked with Hayes Cocoa, and next year, if God wills, I hope to turn out as an equally famous "anchor" man.— A friend of mine, and prominent member of the City Swiss Club, however will have it, that the 1/- meals served at the Hayes Works canteen have done the trick, I wonder.

The Wrestling combats for a moment carried our minds back to bygone times, when we used to watch our wrestlers in the Alps or on the "Festplatz."

Amongst the classical races, the Relay Race (220 x 220 x 440) caused a big stir amongst the spectators, this race was handsomely won by the Swiss Mercantile Society (team A: W. Meier, M. O. Henchoz, E. Burkhart and W. Haeni) and thus the lovely Challenge Cup, presented by M. Arthur Meschini, will at least for a year, adorn the Club Room at the Swiss House; runners-up were the Union Helvetia.

There were innumerable races for little boys and girls, and also for grown ups which were full of amusing incidents, some of the little participants flatly refused to move when the starting signal was given, and not even the most appealing shouts from their anxious parents could make them change their minds, they treated the judges with utter contempt.

The long and high jump competitions suffered considerably on account of the soft ground, but in spite of the unfavourable conditions, some quite remarkable results were obtained, for instance W. Casada (Unione Ticinese) took first honour in high jump (4ft. 11ins.) whilst V. Laemmlin (S.M.S.) was first in the long jump (17ft. 9½ins.).

One of the outstanding performances of the day was the splendid achievements of Ernest Burkhart (S.M.S.) who was first in the 100 yds. and 220 yds. Flat Handicap, and 2nd in the High Jump. O. Luescher (Swiss Bank), also showed himself a fine sportsman. First: Putting the Weight; and 2nd: 220 yds. Flat Handicap.

The fancy events such as the Cigarette — Egg and Spoon Race (Mixed) found many entrants; unfortunately the rain interfered with the performance of these items, which are usually much appreciated by the spectators, giving cause for much merriment. The larger part of the on-lookers preferred the shelter of the Pavilion, and thus missed much of the fun.

The usually so popular Pillow Fight event, showed a great decline in entrants this year, in



spite of the fervent appeals of the two judges, Messrs. P. F. Boehringer and Alf. Schmid. One of the spectators to whom I threw out a challenge, assured me that he can get a black eye at home, and therefore need not come to Herne Hill to be publicly *marked*. I was rather sorry for that, as I have nourished a long standing grievance against this Gentleman for having made sarcastic remarks about my work in connection with a well-known paper, I should have liked to swing with lusty force my pillow round his moking face.

The last item on the programme was the Daily Mail Pushball Match, but owing to the slippery ground, this event was cancelled, and I consider it a very sagacious decision.

In my official capacity as a press reporter, I had the privilege of visiting various other *competitions* which were not included in the programme, and here I noticed that our countrymen were equally efficient. From various mysterious looking vehicles, bottles, containing delicious vintages grown in our homeland, disappeared amongst the *competitors*, I understand however, that no prizes were given for these "bouts," but it has since been whispered to me that some of the "entrants" for these events have received due rewards for their exertions, and I can sympathise with them.—

Then shortly before the prizes were distributed, the President produced his famous key,



and having received a cordial invitation from some high official, to participate of a sip out of the loving cup, I entered the lower part of the Pavilion, where very familiar sounds reached my ears; here most of the committee members foregathered to refresh themselves from the arduous work performed, during 5 hours in constant rain, they surely deserved a little pick-me-up. Although I felt very comfortable down below, I had to wend my way to the upper regions, to witness the distribution of the prizes.

Mademoiselle Paravicini, not having been able to be present, Madame de Cintra, the charming wife of the Hon. Vice-President, took her place, and rewarded every prize winner with a cordial handshake and a most winning smile. All the winners were heartily cheered, and when the President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, M. Lehmann, mounted the steps to receive, as the representative of his Society, the Georges Dimier Challenge Cup, a mighty cheer was raised. When the last prize had found its owner, M. Barbezat addressed the gathering shortly, thanking those who had braved wind, rain and storm, in order to spend a few happy hours amongst their compatriots. A beautiful bouquet of flowers was presented to Mme. de Cintra.

I am not of a jealous nature, quite the contrary, I enjoy seeing people happy, but I felt all the same a wee bit envious, when I saw so many of my countrymen and women carry away their fine prizes; all I took away, apart from pleasant memories, which even the rain could not subdue, was a pair of wet feet and a slight headache. The former, I received by not noticing that I was standing in a miniature lake when talking to a charming "Appenzellerin"; who's quaint Appenzell dialect was as beautiful as that lovely little canton far away; and the latter — no, I won't tell you," but it brought me the *comforting* remark: — I told you so! — and the latter case was considered a *deserving* one.

Coming to the summing up, I can safely say, that this year's Swiss Sports, in spite of the deplorable weather, have again proved a success.

For whatever shortcomings there might have been the weather must be blamed.

The organisers and supporters are entitled to the hearty thanks of both competitors and spectators, and I wish to single out in particular all the officials, who almost drenched to the skin, fulfilled their duties without a murmur; amongst them the Hon. Secretary, M. de Maria, who is an untiring worker.

May the next Sports Meeting in 1933 once again be favoured by the Sun, this is the wish of all those, who left Herne Hill last Saturday wet outside and "inside."

The Official Press Reporter.

## RESULTS.

100 Yds. Flat Handicap (Men): 1st. E. Burkhart, S.M.S. (4½ yds.) 10 1/5. 2nd. O. Luescher, Swiss Bank Corporation, (2½ yds.). 3rd. W. Eggenberger, Swiss Y.M.C.A. (4½ yds.)

120 Yds. Veterans Handicap: 1st. H. H. Baumann (age 44) (10 yds.) 12 3/5 (S.M.S.) 2nd. C. Krebs, S.M.S. (age 35), 1 yd. 3rd. F. A. Pont, Union Helvetia (age 41), 6 yds.

100 Yds. Boys Handicap: 1st. D. Baumann (3 yds.) 11 3/5. 2nd. N. Hartman (1 yd.) 3rd. F. Tschanz (Scratch).

100 Yds. Flat Handicap: (Ladies in Sports Costume): 1st. D. Archer, (Lyons A. C.) 1½ yds. 2nd. B. Lillywhite (Lyons A.C.) 1½ yds. 3rd. D. Farncombe (Lyons A.C.) 5 yds.

Putting the Weight: 1st. O. Luescher, (Swiss Bank Corp.) 35 ft. 1½ ins. 2nd. E. Burkhart (S.M.S.) 34 ft. 3rd. V. Laemmlin (S.M.S.) 33 ft. 8 ins.

High Jump: W. Casada (Unione Ticinese) 4ft. 11ins. 2nd. E. Burkhart (S.M.S.) 4ft. 10 ins. 3rd. E. Hegi (Swiss Y.M.C.A.) 4ft. 9 ins.

Wrestling (Catch-as-catch-can) Light Weight: 1st. J. Gass (S.M.S.) 2nd. F. Scherz (Swiss Gymnastic Society).

440 Yds. Veterans Walking Handicap: 1st. F. Von Bergen (S.M.S.) 2nd. Streuli. 3rd. Charnaux (C.S.C.) 4th. E. Gassmann (C.S.C.) 5th. E. Von Bergen. 6th. C. Donati.

440 Yds. Flat Handicap (Members of Subscribing Firms): 1st. F. V. Pritchett (Monseigneur Rest.) 16 yds. 2nd. E. Sanpietro (Savoy Hotel) 4 yds. 3rd. H. Bornfield (Swiss Bank Corp.) 13 yds.

220 Yds. Flat Handicap: 1st. E. Burkhart (S.M.S.) 9yds. 23 4/5. 2nd O. Luescher (Swiss Bank) 4 yds. 3rd. W. Casada (Unione Ticinese) 7 yds.

Tug of War: Hayes Cocoa Co., Ltd., beat Union Helvetia by two pulls to one.

Long Jump: 1st. V. Laemmlin (S.M.S.) 17 ft. 9½ ins. 2nd W. Burren (S.M.S.) 17 ft. 4½ ins. 3rd. W. Wenger, (S.M.S.) 17 ft. 4½ ins.

Relay Race: 1st. Swiss Mercantile Society A. 4 min. 1 & 1/5 sec. 2nd. Union Helvetia. 3rd. Unione Ticinese.

Georges Dimier Challenge Cup: Won outright by S.M.S. with 41 points. Swiss Bank Corporation, Unione Ticinese and Union Helvetia 7 points each.

100 Yds. Handicap (Ladies in Town Dress): Heat 1.—1st. Mrs. Breverton, 2nd. Miss McKeyon, 3rd. Miss Spooner.

Heat 2.—1st Miss Cox, 2nd Miss Steadman, 3rd. Miss R. Linder.

Girls 60 Yds. Handicap:

Heat 1.—1st. Lina Hauswith, 2nd. M. Dupraz, 3rd. Bruton.

Heat 2.—M. Schmid, 2nd. DeCintra, 3rd. P. Jaeggi, 4th. D. Lillywhite.

Heat 3.—D. Kinnouth, E. Wullschleger, 3rd. P. Dupraz, 4th. E. Guye.

Heat 4.—L. Jaeggi, 2nd. R. Charnaux, 3rd. J. Bowers, 4th. D. Delisle.

Boys 80 Yds. Handicap:

Heat 1.—E. Naef, 2nd. R. Andrea, 3rd. G. De Cintra, 4th. C. Lichtensteiger.

Heat 2.—1st. B. Jaeggi, 2nd. J. Bonifacio, 3rd. E. Von Bergen, 4th. J. Asch.

Heat 3.—1st E. Baumann, 2nd. J. Jaeggi, 3rd. E. Volken, 4th. A. Burkhalter.

Heat 4.—1st. H. Kriesi, 2nd. V. Berlimont, 3rd. C. Clivaz, 4th. P. Kauert.

Pillow Fight: 1st. J. Christen, 2nd. E. Wehrli, 3rd. R. Jaquenoud, 4th. W. Oaster.

Cigarette Race:

Heat 1.— 1st. Mrs. and Mr. Lachat, 2nd. Miss Lillywhite and Mr. Mayer.

Heat 2.—1st. Miss Wirz and Mr. Deubelbeiss, 2nd. Miss J. Raw and Mr. Potter.

**Egg and Spoon Race:**

Heat 1.—1st. P. Dupraz, 2nd. E. Guye.  
Heat 2.—1st. L. Jaeggi, 2nd. R. Charnaux.  
Heat 3.—1st. D. Archer, 2nd. A. Streuli.  
Heat 4.—1st. J. Raw, 2nd. M. Fuchs.

**Three Legged Race:**

Heat 1.—1st. Miss D. Hauswith and Mr. Pianca.  
2nd. Miss L. Jaeggi and Master Jaeggi.  
Heat 2.—1st. Miss Leon and Mr. Potter, 2nd.  
Miss McKeyon and Mr. McKeyon.  
Heat 3.—1st. Miss Wirz and Mr. Deubelbeiss, 2nd.  
Miss Lillywhite and Mr. Mayer.

**NEWS FROM THE COLONY.****XIV ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FOYER SUISSE.**

The Annual Meeting of the Foyer Suisse was held on Friday, 27th May, 1932, at 15 Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1. In the absence of the Swiss Minister, the Hon President of the Trust, M. de Jenner, Councillor of the Swiss Legation was in the chair.

The agenda consisted of the ordinary statutory business: Annual report Financial report, Election of the Council of Management and Auditors.

The accounts were presented by Mr. R. J. Dixon, F.C.J.S., F.L.A.A., F.C.W.A., and passed unanimously.

The following gentlemen were elected to manage the affairs of the Trust for the ensuing year: Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, President; Mr. G. Hafner, Vice-President; H. Barth, Treasurer; C. Bertschinger, Secretary; Rev. C. T. Hahn, H. Joss, A. Müller F. G. Sommer and J. Weber. Mr. R. J. Dixon being also re-elected auditor for 1931/32.

The annual report prepared by the secretary (printed below) was read, fully discussed and also approved unanimously.

The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman.

**XIV ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FOYER SUISSE.**

Most men will agree that we are living in very exceptional times, and, as an eminent journalist wrote a few days ago:

"These are days of change, days of disillusionment and even confusion. As we look abroad we find whole nations bankrupt in money, leaders of men bankrupt in ideas, captains of industry and finance revealed by the test of adversity in very unflattering colours..."

Meeting under these conditions of world crisis I trust, gentlemen, you will find it a refreshing experience to attend at the Foyer Suisse this afternoon. Our income is only slightly lower than the previous year, although for the first time since the institution was opened it has proved difficult to have a full house all the year round. Besides the crisis this is due to several causes, among them the Paris exhibition of 1931, which attracted practically every Swiss seeking a Summer holiday abroad.

The total number of guests staying with us was 1,093, of which 625 were of Swiss nationality. The visitors' list shows a good majority of young men of Swiss nationality.

The Council of Management has met 4 times to receive the report of the House Committee and manage the affairs in general.

Our charity expenditure for the year stands at £433 2s. 0d. If you will kindly add a moderate amount for services rendered in our social department at No. 15, Upper Bedford Place, you will get a total of £780. Will it be too much to hope that such a contribution be entirely for the good of men and for the Glory of God?

Messrs. Goodman, Mellor & Co., continue to be the solicitors of the Foyer Suisse.

The thanks of the Trust are due to Mr. R. J. Dixon, our accountant, and Mr. F. Ineichen who assists him in that department, our manager, Mr. W. Meyer, our chef, Mr. F. Koelliker, and our housekeeper, Mrs. F. Koelliker and staff.

**Social Section:**

It may be necessary to again emphasize the fact to-day, that the activities under this headline are really the raison d'être of the Trust. Nobody who reads the Articles & Memorandum of Association of the Foyer Suisse as laid down by the Consistoire of the Eglise Suisse in 1917 can ever have any doubts on this matter. The all too apparent commercialism of the Trust, Gentlemen, is and must remain the means to an end.

Looking thus at the actual Life in the Foyer Suisse, one must state that the feminine sections are still showing a great preponderance, for the simple reason that practically only girls are allowed to take employment in this Country "Der Zug nach England" has never been so much in the fashion in our homeland as it is to-day, and we are glad to state that our organisation is wonderfully adaptable and elastic and enables us to launch out and give additional help, where we see it necessary. This is our duty, and the pro-

gress of the Trust demands it. You may rest assured that everything possible is being done to receive the great number of Swiss girls and to supply the needs of the ever changing crowds.

The chief meetings here in this hall are Réunion de Jeunes filles every Thursday, directed by M. Hoffmann and M. Pradervand.

Schwyzerkraenzli every Wednesday, directed by Pfr. Hahn,

The Swiss Girls At Home, every Sunday afternoon till now directed by your Secretary.

The two first named meetings are held in the French and German languages, while the Sundays are particularly intended for the cultivation of the English tongue also to bring before the young people certain specific knowledge as needed to-day and generally giving them a wider outlook.

A Musical Afternoon once per month proved also a most attractive feature of the programmes. I wish here to express the very heartiest thanks to these lecturers and helpers, several of whom are members of the Trust; without that help and co-operation, the Sunday gatherings would greatly lack variety.

The aforesaid social activities bring us to the most important item of news of the past year viz: The engagement of a Social Secretary. This matter has been before the C.M. as long as 5 years ago, and has now been realised at last. We have been singularly fortunate in securing the services of Melle de Vargas, late directrice: Home de Jeunes filles de La Gare, Geneva. From the few months experience one must observe that this lady is very capable and has great experience in dealing with girls, and their peculiar needs away from home, and therefore she is bound to be a great help morally and spiritually to all girls who come into contact with her.

To give an idea of the possibilities and scope of such a mission in the Foyer Suisse, allow me to mention that the total number of Swiss girls attending the last Xmas festivals: both Réunion de Jeunes filles and Schwyzerkraenzli exceeded 350.

The record attendance in the Foyer of the past year was, however, the Bazaar of the Sunday School of the Eglise Suisse kindly opened by Mlle Paravicini, the beginning of December last, when a total of 450 entrances were actually paid for.

The Samichlaus childrens party organised by the Schweizerkirche last December, was also a great success and The Old Folks Xmas Luncheon attracted more compatriots over the age of 60 than in any previous year. In the absence of the Swiss Minister, M. de Jenner, Councillor of the Swiss Legation, kindly-presided over the gathering. The most striking feature of this occasion is the evident happiness it brings to such a large number of veterans of the Swiss Community of London.

**The two tenants of the Trust:**

Union chretienne de jeunes gens de langue française and Swiss Y.M.C.A., both continue their good work among young men, and their work is well maintained, although the conditions continue to be most difficult.

The Ecole du Dimanche has met regularly every 4th Sunday in the month.

The Réunion de Couture of the Eglise Suisse the Nöhverein of the Schweizerkirche hold their usual gatherings once per month, and these services to the poor of the Swiss Colony are of the most commendable.

This, Gentlemen brings me to the end of my somewhat lengthy report and looking backwards over another year's life and service, what is uppermost in us, is surely a strong feeling of gratefulness to God for this record of service, and for so many blessings received, and especially those we have passed on in the name of HIM who said: What you have done to the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto me.

C. Bertschinger, Hon Sec.

**IN MORTE DI CECILIA NOTARI.**

Un funebre rintocco ecco percote L'aer tranquillo e il timpano trapassa; si stringe il cor pressago, e il duol già passa, Per pianto in sulle gote.

E un angiol che spari, talun risponde; L'eco fedel, che il lento suon imita, Par soggiunga: la morte con la vita,

or certo si confonde.

Oggi accompagnamno le care spoglie di Cecilia Notari alla loro ultima dimora.

Tutti chi l'amaronno e la stimaronno vollero essere con Lei Sino al limitare della sua breve vita quaggiù.

I dolenti genitori, i fratelli, i parenti, amici, conoscenti, rappresentanti delle diverse società svizzere in Londra,

Era l'unica figlia!... la compagna sicura e cara per i genitari nel tramonto della loro vita operosa!

Venga la Fede col suo manto stellato, venga Lei ad asciugare le lagrime loro che scorreranno abbondanti nella loro triste solitudine.

La bara fu coperta di fiori; corone e girlande di bellissimi fiori; un gran ciascuno

rosso e bianco... ultimo omaggio dall' "Unione Ticinese" alla sorella gentile del suo caro e devoto Presidente.

Un tronco d'albero troncato anzi tempo... tutto composto di rari fiori bianchi; in un canto posa una colomba... un mazzolino di viole ai piedi... ricordando così la cara giovine tutti gli impiegati della casa Meschini, che la conobbero fin da bambina!

Fiori e fiori da parenti ed amici...

Bella, immortal, benefica Fede ai trionfi avvezza! tu fa, che tolto lo sguardo dalla mestizia di questo sacro recinto, rivolgiamo per un istante la mente al Cielo, e vi troviamo gli splendori di un'aurora che non finisce; di quell'aurora che dissipa la folta tenebria di cui è avvolta ogni terrena cosa!

La natura d'ogni intorno canta l'epitalamio della vita! Là nella nostra cara Svizzera che Lei tanto amava, i colli ed i prati s'ammantano di vesti pompose ed il maggio s'appresta a fecondare il cespo delle rose!...

Eppure con questo sorriso di cielo, con questa gaiezza di primavera, una tomba si apre per involare una cara giovine, un'amabile creatura sempre sorridente, che poc'anzi era tutta vita, tutta grazia, tutta giovinezza!

D'onde questo mistero?... Gli è che la morte colla vita si confonde, gli è che il tramonto non è che apparente: la vita comincia sul limitare dell'avello... dall'ombra si sprigiona la luce.

M'inchino riverente e mesta e depongo un umile fiore anch'io su questa tomba bianca...

28 Maggio 1932.

T.L.R.

**SOIREE ANNUELLE SUISSE.**

We are close upon the 63rd Soirée Suisse which will be held at Central Hall, Westminster, on June 23rd. It is the intention of this short article to remind every reader of the coming event. There is, after all, only ONE Soirée Suisse each year, and it is the outstanding event for a great number of Swiss, who have never failed to attend it for many years past. To the resident Swiss it is an institution which must not be missed, and to the transient Swiss it is a surprise.

This annual festival fulfils its true function as a NATIONAL DAY to a very high degree. Granted, it does not take place on the 1st of August, but its character and programme are so similar as to make it a most excellent substitute. Besides, the Soirée Suisse has never lost its character from the very first.

The official invitation speaks of the good action of taking tickets, as the Fonds de Secours pour les Suisses pauvres benefit by the nett proceeds. The writer would stress the other side of the matter, namely, that the purchase of a ticket provides such an amount of enjoyment and happiness as will be remembered for a very long time and the purchaser will be sure to become a fast friend and admirer of the Soirée Suisse.

There is a very big Hall to be filled; the programme is as varied and interesting as ever, and every Swiss, whether he bears in mind his poor compatriots in this country or whether he simply expects full fare for his money, is welcome to participate in the pleasure of the SOIREE SUISSE.

**SWISS RALLY TO WHIPNADE.**

Sunday, July 3rd.

We understand that the Swiss Club Birmingham has written to the various Swiss Societies in London about the outing on July 3rd, and we hope that the various committees will occupy themselves with the question of participation. We shall in one of our next numbers refer specially to this event.

**SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.**

Clothing and underclothing for boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 14 are badly needed just now. All parcels addressed to:— Swiss Benevolent Society, Swiss House, 34, Fitzroy Square, W.1, will be very gratefully received and acknowledged.

G.R.

**CHILDREN'S HOME IN THE ALPS.**

The experiment for the treatment in the dry and rarefied air of the Swiss Alps of weakly children, particularly those predisposed to tuberculosis — a scheme which owes its origin to the generosity of Mr. Christian Kunzle, the president of the Birmingham Children's Hospital — is to be inaugurated this week, when a number of patients from the hospital will be sent to Davos Dorf, in the sunny valley of Davos.

The Hospital Committee have had placed at their disposal, Mr. Kunzle's chateau at Davos Dorf, and this week the first batch of children numbering thirty, departed from Snow Hill Station for Switzerland.

The village of Davos Dorf, which is Mr. Kunzle's birthplace, stands in a sheltered spot, and the chateau in which the children are to be