

Swiss Choral Society

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members and friends were unable to attend its *première* in London, it was decided to give them an opportunity of seeing this excellent film at Swiss House. The picture shows the wonderful work which is done by the International Red Cross in caring for prisoners of war, the wounded and afflicted. The film formed a striking contrast to the first part of the programme, giving the other side of this global conflict, with Switzerland in its traditional rôle of relieving the suffering of innumerable war victims all over the world.

In conclusion, Mr. W. Deutsch paid a warm tribute to Mr. C. Fer, who had projected the films on his famous Paillard apparatus. This well deserved vote of thanks was heartily endorsed with prolonged acclamation by an appreciative audience.

This being the last meeting of the year, the President extended the Society's best wishes to all members for a peaceful Christmas and every happiness in the coming year.

WB.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Monthly Meeting.

The Monthly Meeting of the City Swiss Club took place on Tuesday, December 7th, at Brown's Hotel, and was preceded by the customary dinner, which was attended by 102 members.

Professor Keller, at present on a Swiss Government mission in this country, addressed the members of the Club on the Economic position in Switzerland. The very interesting and lucid *exposé* which the speaker put before the members was greatly appreciated and heartily applauded.

Two new members were admitted. The Secretary of the Club was invited to send a telegram of congratulation to Dr. F. Calonder, a former President of the Swiss Confederation and Honorary Member of the City Swiss Club, on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

RUTLI LADIES' CLUB TEA-DANCE.

19th December, 1943.

As announced in the Swiss Observer the "Rütli Ladies' Club" held its first function at the Schweizerbund in aid of the Swiss Benevolent Society, in form of a Tea Dance.

Quite a large number of Swiss girls, boys and their friends were present, and the strains of a good dance band soon set their feet in motion. Tea with a variety of cakes and biscuits given by Mr. J. Webber, Mr. Burkhalter and Mrs. Bolla, were enjoyed by all. An acrobatic turn was given with much skill by Mr. O. Smith. Miss Uebersax kindly obliged with a few Yodels. Very much appreciated were the Swiss vales played by Mr. Haeusermann and Mr. Rossier. Later followed the draw of the tombola for which many splendid prizes had been given. The afternoon which passed only too quickly for everybody came to a happy ending with a few Swiss Xmas Carols. Many thanks are due to all those members who contributed to the success of the dance.

The proceeds of the function, £22, are to be presented to the Swiss Benevolent Society.

O.M.B.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Choral Society was held on October 29th, 1943, at the Swiss Club, Charlotte Street, W.1.

The President, Mr. F. G. Sommer, opened the meeting at 7 p.m. with words of welcome to 31 active members present.

The Hon. Secretary then read the Minutes of the last meeting and the Hon. Treasurer gave his report on the finances of the Society, both reports being received with prolonged acclamation and unanimously accepted.

The most important event of the evening was to discuss the proposal formulated by the President and seconded by Mr. F. Conrad, to elect His Excellency the Swiss Minister, Monsieur W. Thurnheer, as Honorary President of the Society. Various speakers supported the proposal and after a short discussion the meeting decided unanimously to approach Monsieur Thurnheer asking him whether he would honour the Choir by becoming an Honorary President. I have purposely delayed this report so as to enable me to put on record here the good news that Monsieur Thurnheer has very kindly accepted the Honorary Presidency of the Swiss Choral Society. The Choir was delighted to hear His Excellency's reply at a subsequent rehearsal and feels greatly honoured; there is no doubt that His Excellency's acceptance will give great impetus and encouragement to all the Members to continue the practice of those customs which are so treasured by our people at home.

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The President further formulated a proposal, also seconded by Mr. F. Conrad, to honour our Founder Member and First President, Mr. J. Manzoni, in view of twenty-four years incessant work during which he guided the Society successfully through many a storm to come out on top of all difficulties. As the President bestowed the Honorary Vice-Presidency on Mr. Manzoni, loud cheers broke forth from the Members and the proposal was carried unanimously with prolonged acclamation.

The Meeting then proceeded with the ordinary business. After extending his gratitude to the Members for their support during the past season, the President called upon Mr. Manzoni to conduct the election of the new Committee for 1943/44. A proposal to re-elect the outgoing President and Committee for a new term of office was accepted unanimously, thus Mr. F. C. Sommer re-occupied the Chair after only a few minutes absence. Therefore the governing body remains unchanged with

Mr. F. G. Sommer : *President*;
 Mr. J. H. Berger : *Vice-Président*;
 Mr. E. P. Dick : *Hon. Secretary*;
 Mr. E. Ritzmann : *Hon. Treasurer*;
 Mr. C. Sykora : *Hon. Librarian*.

A new music Commission was also elected to select new songs and it is hoped that we may obtain new songs from Switzerland in the near future.

Two new auditors were also elected.

The meeting confirmed the continuance of fortnightly rehearsals at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, every other Friday from 6.30 to 8 p.m.

The President then welcomed several new active Members who joined the Choir during the past season and expressed satisfaction for the way the Choir is growing, having now 41 active Members, the highest figure ever attained. Upon this happy note the President closed the meeting thanking the Members for their attention.

epd.

PERSONAL.

By the passing away of Madame Marie Golay, wife of the late Monsieur Charles Hector Golay, on the 3rd of December, at Frome, Somerset, one of the oldest members (if not the oldest) of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain has left us.

Madame M. Golay was born in Switzerland on the 14th of October, 1847, and came to England in 1868.

Old members of the Société de Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres will remember Monsieur Hector Golay who always attended the annual dinner of the Society with his wife and family when this function was taking place in the good old days previous to the last war.

* * *

We are pleased to hear that our friend Mr. F. M. Gamper has left the hospital and is convalescing at home; he wishes us to return sincere thanks for the many letters and enquiries.

CHRISTMAS AT THE SWISS CHURCH.

On Christmas Day, at 11 a.m., there will be a Service in French at the Eglise Suisse, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2, and a Service in German at the "Oak Room," Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C.2.

On *Sunday, December 26th*, at 3 p.m., a *Christmas Tree Celebration* will take place at the Eglise Suisse; the service will be in French and German, and we hope to have a very large gathering; children will be welcome. After the service, tea will be served; it will be a real "fête de famille."

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

We hope to publish our next issue on January 28th.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

WAITRESS AND SERVICE-HAND required — No Sunday work, closing 8 p.m. Half-day off weekly. Good wages and food. Experience not essential if quick and adaptable. Apply VIENNA CAFE, Berkeley Arcade, Baker Street, N.W.1. Wel. 8388.

ANCIEN élève Ecole de Commerce, Neuchâtel, British, five languages including Russian, many years experience and valuable connections (1) import-export textiles (2) tourism: desires contact enterprising Swiss business man or firm interested in plans for post-war trade. Box No. 26, Swiss Observer 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- Union Chretienne de langue française (French-speaking Y.M.C.A.) 9, Soho Square (Eglise Française), Réunion chaque mardi à 5.45 p.m. Invitation cordiale à tous.
- Sunday, January 2nd, 1944, at 3.30 p.m. — Catholic Christmas and New Year's Service, at St. Peters Church, Palace Street, S.W.1 — followed by Christmas Party, at Westminster Cathedral Hall.
- Saturday, January 8th, 1944, at 2.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Monthly Meeting, at Swiss House 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, followed by social afternoon, cards, darts, etc.
- Tuesday, January 11th, 1944, at 7.15 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, preceded by a "Bierabig" at 6 p.m. (See Advert.).
- Saturday, January 15th, 1944, at 2.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Annual General Meeting, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, preceded by a Luncheon at 1 p.m. (See Advert.).
- Saturday, February 5th, 1944 — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Film Show, at Conway Hall, at 2 p.m. or 4 p.m. Entrance free.