

# Ernest Ansermet in London

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stay; he praised the moral courage of the Swiss people in making momentous decisions at critical moments. "The only queues I saw in Switzerland," he said, "were those at the various ski lifts." He mentioned that all the trains were running to time as every Swiss is in possession of a stop-watch. He stated that he had not yet mastered the "Schwyzerdütsch," which language he termed as a humiliating experience to all Englishmen who think they know the German language.

This witty and impromptu speech was much enjoyed by the members present.

It was left to Monsieur Paul Ruegger, the Swiss Minister, to sum up, a task which he carried out in an exemplary manner. He terminated his effective address by thanking the various speakers for their interesting *exposés*, and the distinguished guests for their attendance, saying that their presence had been highly appreciated by the City Swiss Club.

The Committee of the Club is to be congratulated on having assembled for the occasion a number of eminent people who are in the public eye of both countries. *ST.*

### NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

The monthly meeting for March was held at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.2, on Tuesday, the 19th. The Swiss Minister addressed the audience and introduced the speaker, Col. Dr. Cottier, General Manager of the Office Federal des Transports, who held a most interesting and charming *causerie* on Transport problems in Switzerland during the war.

### ERNEST ANSERMET IN LONDON.

Swiss House was honoured on Sunday evening, 24th February, by the presence of Monsieur Ernest Ansermet, the famous Swiss conductor, who addressed a small and select gathering on the subject of "Music To-day." The lecture was given under the auspices of the International Arts Guild.

Mr. Eric Whyte, of the British Arts Council, took the chair.

The Swiss Minister was represented by Monsieur Barbey.

Monsieur Ansermet said there are plenty of markets but no well defined centre of music in the world to-day. He felt London might become the world's music centre but that for the moment it lacked direction.

Addressing a word to the critics, Monsieur Ansermet suggested they could play a far more important part in helping to give the lead than by reporting mainly the sharp B flats and the shortened semibreve! They should not only attend concerts and give helpful criticism but also prepare the public mind in advance — this, in his opinion, would be of enormous help.

A very interesting discussion followed the lecture — during which Monsieur Ansermet explained how he had introduced the works of the composers after the last war to the people of Geneva. For a long time they were unwilling and very critical but he persisted in giving them Stravinsky, Hindemith, Bartók, Ravel and Debussy. Now "les Genevois" are proud of their long acquaintance and knowledge of these works.

NINA PFAENDLER.

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