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SWISS MALE CHOIR. Annual General Meeting.

The Swiss Male Choir held their Annual General Meeting at the Swiss Club (Schweizerbund), 74, Charlotte Street, W.1, on October 25th, 1946.

Previous to the Meeting an excellent dinner was served by the stewards of the Club, Mr. and Mrs. Wyss, which was much enjoyed by all those present.

Unlike Annual Meetings of other Swiss Societies, this Choir knows how to combine business with pleasure. First of all they started their proceedings with a song; this time they sang, very well rendered "Mein Herz ist fröhlich alle Zeit" (My heart is happy all the time), which put everybody in a happy mood. Then they treated the company to a free dinner with plenty of wine (I think the wine had to be paid for by the consumer); thus they made them hilarious and loosened their tongues, and I am not quite sure whether this is really good policy as the talk waxed fast and furious.

There were 34 active members, 12 passive members and three guests present. (Messrs Stauffer, von Bergen and King.)

The President, Mr. F. G. Sommer, after proposing the toasts to H.M. the King and to Switzerland, extended a hearty welcome to the members and guests, regretting the unavoidable absence of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paul Ruegger.

In opening the Meeting he asked the Secretary, Mr. E. P. Dick, to read out the minutes of the last General Meeting which were unanimously accepted. Then Mr. Ritzmann, the Treasurer, read out his re-

port, acquainting the members with the financial position of the Society, which he termed as being healthy and satisfactory; this again put everybody in a very good mood, and forthwith they burst into song with "Der Bärner Bär" with Yodel solo by Mr. von Bergen, which always makes me feel homesick, hailing from "Bääärn," and obliged me to drown my sorrow with an extra dose of Chianti, which my neighbour, the President, so liberally provided me with.

Silence was then asked for the President, Mr. F. G. Sommer, who read out his excellent annual report. In it he referred to the untimely death of the Vice-President, Mr. J. Berger, and asked the members to honour his memory by a silent tribute. The President also mentioned that the choir numbers 35 active, 56 passive and four life-members, and that 39 rehearsals were held during the year 1945/46. Out of 35 active members an average of 21 members attended or 61½ per cent, which he declared as unsatisfactory, and he made a fervent appeal to all the members to be more punctual in their attendance. The choir participated during the year under review on the following occasions: December 23rd, 1945, Xmas tree celebration of the Swiss Church, Endell Street; January 20th, 1946, induction service of the Rev. H. Blum; January 2nd, Annual Meeting Nouvelle Société Helvétique, at the Dorchester Hotel; June 2nd, Memorial Service for the late J. Berger; June 15th, Fête Suisse, Westminster Central Hall; July 28th, Swiss National Day Celebrations at Stoll Theatre; and August 1st, as guests of the Rütli Ladies' Club.

Mr. Sommer ended his concise report with the hope that the choir may continue in the ensuing year, to adhere to the principles of good comradeship, inspired by music and song.

Pending the elections, Mr. Ch. Strubin took the chair *pro tem*, thanking the outgoing Committee for their services.

The result of the elections was then declared as follows:

F. G. Sommer, President; L. Jobin, Vice-President; A. Jaccard, Secretary; E. Ritzmann, Treasurer; C. Sykora, Librarian. Auditors: Messrs. Luthert and Wagner. Music Commission: Messrs. Fischer, Sommer, Ritzmann, Finsler and Dick.

Mr. Stoeri, President of the Swiss Club, expressed his pleasure to the choir at having them as their "tenants," assuring them that the Swiss Club would always make them feel at home.

Before closing this report I would like to pay a tribute to the conductor of the Swiss Male Choir, Mr. E. P. Dick, who has now for many years not only rendered many valuable services to the Society, but also to the Swiss Colony at large; I also wish to say that I thoroughly enjoyed to be in the midst of our "songsters," and I wish them all the success they so richly deserve.

ST.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will, D.V., be published on Friday, November 29th, 1946. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind donations: L. Forrer, C. R. Jaeger, W. Eichenberger, J. Hausermann, O. Schmidheiny, C. H. Willi, E. Spleiss, E. A. Götz, P. Bessire, W. Deutsch, Miss Margrit Paur, G. Hafner.



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