

# Ruth Huggenberg

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### SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER.

Let it be recorded here that Mr. Alfred Renou's visit to the Manchester Swiss Club, caused indeed not only much pleasure but awakened in the Committee and Members a feeling of homogeneity along with the London efforts and those of the Legation, with affairs and trend of thoughts in Switzerland.

It is not often the case that a speaker so gifted and a linguist so accomplished can imbue a very mixed audience with the deeper under-lying meaning of his message, and can in so short a space of time, waken a lethargic community and obtain fair promises of more and sustained efforts.

Although the address was styled: "The Swiss in Great Britain and the Secretariat des Suisses à l'Etranger," the lecturer endeavoured to demonstrate that "Strength is Unity."

He drew our renewed attention to the absence of a Swiss Chamber of Commerce in London. Furthermore, that things cannot be granted if not asked for, particularly if no body of responsible people can back up demands, however deserving.

With these and many other points in mind, the N.S.H. London, of which the Manchester Swiss Club is a member, has as so adequately described, "opened its windows." It has attracted new blood, formed new committees, created new activities under the able presidency of Dr. Egli. M. Renou also spoke about the SWISS COUNCIL which has done already so much, the Swiss Furniture Fund being its last achievement, of its various Trade and Cultural Sections which are ready to deal with many aspects, functions and enquiries which cannot be tackled by the Legation, though wholeheartedly supported by them, particularly through the good offices of Monsieur E. de Graffenried.

After these opening remarks, Mr. Renou went on to portray the impressive scenes, giving us at the same time some *resumés* of the discussions during the "Auslandschweizer Tag" where, amongst many other points, the following interesting suggestions were tabled:—

A Parliament of Swiss Abroad to which proposal considerable importance is attached by the authorities at home. It must be borne in mind that the number of Swiss living away from home attains 10% of Switzerland's voting population.

Dual nationality, so often affecting daughters and sons of all Swiss Abroad.

Military Tax, dated 1878, an old bone of contention needing revision.

Old Age Pension — a wonderfully courageous scheme permitting the Swiss Abroad to become facultative contributors.

A proposal to consider the possibility of Swiss Abroad expressing an opinion or even voting on Federal issues, has the sympathy of Dr. Leimgruber the Federal Chancellor.

Holidays of Swiss children at home; the creation of a Swiss school in Switzerland offering, in our case for instance, an English curriculum.

Frequently a Swiss child born abroad does "feel out of it," it is conscious of being the child of foreigners. Under Swiss skies, in ideal surroundings and with a friendlier climate, it will probably become proud of having foreign parents, returning home eventually from such a school with a different outlook and full of pride for Switzerland.

Literature, particularly for children, is now printed in many languages, not so in English. The matter must be remedied.

Finally, the lecturer appealed to his Manchester listeners and to the Colony at large for help and assistance in taking a live interest, not only in the above proposals which can only be accomplished in the course of time, but in our present efforts for improving the relationship between Great Britain and Switzerland. He impressed on us to realise afresh the duties we had here towards each other, to look after newly arrived young Swiss people and to offer them something worth while remembering. He reminded us of our civic duties and, above all, to be represented in London, or at London meetings of the Swiss living in Great Britain, during the coming Spring.

Both Dr. J. A. Schedler and Mr. J. J. Huber in thanking and seconding a sincere vote of thanks to Mr. Renou and to the Swiss Minister, Mr. Paul Ruegger, who is so greatly encouraging the renewed flow of interchanging ideas, felt, that whilst the subject matter of this most interesting lecture be assimilated by the meeting, we could offer now an assurance of greater support and of a re-awakening of interest in Swiss affairs at home and abroad which are, after all, touching the core of all of us.

M.E.L.

### RUTH HUGGENBERG.

Ruth Huggenberg, who is giving a Piano Recital, on January 9th, 1948, at Cowdray Hall, Henrietta Place, W.1, studied from 1939-1946 at the Conservatoire in Zurich with the well-known pianist Emil Frey, and obtained the Concert Diploma.

She has been continuing her studies in England with Louis Kenpner.

We are wishing our young compatriot best success for her recital, and hope, that many of our readers will give her their support.

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