

Schweizerkirche

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**25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
"SCHWEIZERKIRCHE" IN LONDON.
Founded in 1924.**

On Sunday, July 17th a simple but impressive Jubilee Service of the "Schweizerkirche" took place in the Lecture Hall, Kingsway, W.C.2. Simple, because the only visible signs of this festive occasion in the oak-pannelled hall were huge bouquets of summery flowers which adorned the raised platform along the front and the window sills; there were no official delegations and no presentations for outstanding merit and due to the lack of an organ, the prelude was played on a piano and the hymns were accompanied by that faithful organist, Mrs. Drees, on a harmonium. Yet this Jubilee Service was all the more impressive, because the outward simplicity of its setting was in sharp contrast with the deep emotion of those gathered in it.

By 11 o'clock the large hall was well filled. The homely "Oak Room", which has been used for the Sunday morning services of the "Schweizerkirche" since the Church of St. Ann and St. Agnes in Gresham Street, E.C. was made unserviceable by bomb damage, would have proved far too small on this occasion. Amongst the congregation one noticed many old and loyal friends; there was a remarkable number of young people — mostly girls and boys temporarily staying in London; there were several friends from the "Eglise Suisse" in Endell Street and a full complement from the "Consistoire"; the two front rows were occupied by the Swiss Male Choir.

Pfarrer H. Blum, who entered with Pasteur C. Reverdin, invoked God's blessing and the service opened with the hymn

"Wunderbarer König,
Herrscher von uns allen,
Lass dir unser Lob gefallen!"

After prayer and a lesson taken from the prophecy of Isaiah and from one of Paul's epistles the Male Choir, always so ready to help and ably conducted, as usual, by Mr. E.P. Dick, rendered a song of praise from the well-known poem by Matthias Claudius ending in the beautiful words:

"Es ist nur einer ewig und an allen Enden
und wir in seinen Händen."

For his sermon Pfarrer Blum had chosen a text from the Revelation of St. John and he spoke of the blessing which with God's help and through the love of Christ, had gone out from the "Schweizerkirche" through all these 25 years. So many had been helped in need, in danger and in sorrow, and God would continue to help us all if only we would accept the message brought to us by Jesus and pass it on to others.

After another hymn sung by the congregation, Pasteur C. Reverdin mounted the rostrum. His presence was a testimony to the close relationship between the "Eglise Suisse" and the "Schweizerkirche". He spoke in French and brought the greetings from the parent — as he put it — to his son now grown to full maturity. He had chosen a text from Paul's epistles to the Corinthians and like him, exhorted us all to stand by the Church and our Master.

A recital on the cello of two compositions by J. S. Bach was given by Miss Rosemarie Pfaendler, accompanied on the piano by Mr. Rolf Senn. It seemed a

pity that the solemn occasion did not permit us all to express our delight with warm applause.

This Jubilee Celebration would have been incomplete without an address by Mr. F. G. Sommer, who may well be described as the captain of the "Schweizerkirche" and who has for many years been a member of the Consistoire. He spoke in "Schwyzertütsch" of the inspiration he and others had received 25 years ago at the opening service and of the blessings and happiness so many had received through the "Schweizerkirche". Finally, Mr. Sommer read from messages which had reached him from Dr. A. Köchlin, President of the Swiss Protestant Church Federation, Mr. A. Müller, first President of the "Kirchenpflege", Pfarrer C. Th. Hahn, Pfarrer P. Rad and others.

The words of hymn 159 filled the hall and seemed to burst its walls:

"Fahre fort, fahre fort!
Wandle, Volk des Herrn im Licht!
.....
Halte aus, halte aus!
Gottes Volk, halt' deine Treu!"

and these words surely echoed like a solemn vow in the hearts of many.

After the blessing spoken by Pfarrer Blum the congregation dispersed into the sunshine of a beautiful Sunday morning, but the memory of this Jubilee Service will not easily be forgotten.

W.M.

P.S.—A brief history of the "Schweizerkirche" written by Pfarrer Blum appears in the "Gemeindebote", which will gladly be sent to anyone upon application to him.

CHILLON.

A broad sweep of lake of a fathomless blue
With a swirl of white sails on its breast.
A wide arch of sky softly radiant with light,
A shining white mountain at rest.
And close to the shore, where swans gently glide,
And the water caresses its walls,
An ancient grey castle dreams on in the sun
Till the shimmering twilight falls.

Betty A. Ernst.

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