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ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

Dame Marie Rambert, D.B.E., Guest of Honour

To mark the centenary of the birth of Emile Jaques-Dalcroze, the Anglo-Swiss Society organised a dinner at the Dorchester Hotel (Orchid Suite) on Monday, 5th April. In spite of a large number of members and friends cancelling at the last minute on account of illness, a handsome number sat down to dinner at a huge horseshoe-shaped table brightly decorated with spring flowers. The Society's President, Sir Clifford Norton, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., was in the chair, and Dame Marie Rambert, D.B.E., was Guest of Honour. The Swiss Ambassador and Madame de Fischer were present, members of the Embassy, as well as prominent British friends of Switzerland and personalities from the ranks of the Swiss community in this country.

After dinner, the President welcomed the guests and introduced the speaker, Dame Marie Rambert. She gave a most delightful talk about her memories of the Swiss composer Jaques-Dalcroze and of how his ideas on movement and music influenced her own work. In her charming and animated way, the eminent dancer told the audience of her three and a half years with "Monsieur Jaques". She recalled how he was able to teach one hard work, to train one to control rhythm with the whole body, and of how he taught her to interpret harmony, melody, rhythm and atmosphere. She conjured up such personalities as Diaghileff and Nijinsky, and took the listeners back to the brilliant days of ballet in Moscow. But above all, Dame Marie painted a lively and affectionate picture of Emile Jaques-Dalcroze whose ideas and technique penetrated into ballet and whose influence was felt with all the choreographers of his time.

The speaker told a number of enchanting stories which showed the great man not only as a musician and dancing expert who influenced pure classic ballet and modern dancing, but also as a great and human man with a lovely sense of humour.

Dame Marie Rambert spoke without any notes at all, and she completely captured her audience with her sparkling personality which gave the evening a *cachet* all of its own.

Mariann.

ROVING CAMP: A HOLIDAY FOR YOUNG SWISS FROM ABROAD

The Youth Service of the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad is arranging a camping holiday for young Swiss living outside Switzerland for the time of 25th July to 15th August 1965. From the camp base groups will set out on a fortnight's rambling tour under the leadership of a "native" Swiss. The groups will be roving the Jura mountain range and the Canton of Berne and will finish up at the base camp.

Applications are limited and should be made immediately. Forms may be had from the Swiss Embassy, 77-81 Gloucester Place, London W.1. The price covering board, food and transport during the tour will be Fr.140.—. A possible reduction may be granted where circumstances warrant it. In such a case, a letter from the Embassy or Consulate is required.

SWISS CLUB (SCHWEIZERBUND)

The Swiss Club still has over sixty members, and whilst their activities have shrunk considerably since they had to give up their premises in Charlotte Street, they still meet a few times a year for a most enjoyable gathering. On 9th April it was the Annual General Meeting, followed by a Dinner at the Glendower Hotel in South Kensington. There were few members present to whom the Committee reported on their work during 1964, which had consisted of three meetings and the organising of two dinners, one before Christmas at the Montana Hotel and the other following the A.G.M. last February. The accounts were presented, modest but satisfactory, and the Committee was re-elected: Mr. V. Berti, President; Mr. A. Burkhalter, Vice-President; Mr. L. S. R. Asch, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. J. Schmid, Hon. Secretary; Miss Branch and Mrs. Burkhalter, members. Mrs. Asch and Mr. F. Burgunder were re-elected as Hon. Auditors. It was announced with regret that Mr. Burkhalter was not well, and members indicated their hope for a speedy recovery. Mr. F. Delaloye, who, with Mr. E. Nuessle, was present as Trustee, thanked the Committee for their work and also expressed satisfaction that so many members of the Swiss Embassy supported the Swiss Club.

The President referred to this again after dinner at which — an unusual feat at any Swiss function — ladies and gentlemen were exactly balanced in numbers. He welcomed Monsieur Ansermoz and the Editor of the "Swiss Observer" and then handed over to Mr. Delaloye. He has a reputation, deservedly, of being able to make witty after-dinner speeches, and once again he made his audience laugh.

Whilst the excellent dinner with *Emincé de Veau à la Zurichoise*, *Rösti* and *Fendant* had a truly Helvetic flavour, the atmosphere was no less Swiss. Once Mr. Luterbacher had started off on a yodel, there was no holding them, and one Swiss song after another was presented. Ticinese, Romand and Schwyzerdütsch, German, French and English — a veritable singing contest. The writer had had to leave early after the Christmas Dinner, and she was reminded of this at the Glendower on 9th April. Obviously, members felt that the most enjoyable part of the evening had not been reported in full, and this time they wanted to make sure that nothing was left out of any official record in the Colony's own paper. The Editor of the S.O. very gladly testifies to the success of the whole evening; the atmosphere was very happy, and she has not heard so many familiar old and new Swiss songs for a very long time. With the dissolution of the Swiss Male Choir, the idea may have taken root that the singing talents of the Swiss community had waned. Nothing like it — the voices, male and female, are all there, not by any means decreased in volume or splendour, and anyone anxious to have a jolly old sing-song, would do well to come along to the next "do" of the Swiss Club.

Mariann.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 28th May. We shall be glad to receive reports and articles not later than Wednesday, 19th May. Short news items only can be accepted later.