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the main active section of the S.M.S. owing to the war-time closure of the school, had been able to place 200 applicants during the past year.

In Manchester, the Swiss Club and the Swiss Relief Society held their A.G.M. on 12th February, at the Midland Hotel when Mr. E. Kuebler entered upon his 10th year as President of the Club. The meeting was followed by tea in the Lancaster Room and by an exposé by Mr. Cottet on the fate of our compatriots in Germany.

The next day, the Unione Ticinese held its A.G.M. in London at 74 Charlotte Street, with Mr. C. Ferrari in the chair. The Unione Ticinese *Sezione Femminile* had met in the same premises (former Swiss Club) a fortnight before under the chairmanship of Mrs. T. Lungi-Rezzonico. The distinguished ladies present were told of the varied activities of the past year with monthly meetings held at Swiss House, Fitzroy Square.

Finally, the Swiss Philatelic Society held its first A.G.M. at the Glendower Hotel, Kensington, in the presence of forty members. In the absence of the President and principal founder, Mr. P. F. Boehringer, the Chair was occupied by Mr. F. Streit, Vice-President. The official proceedings over, the afternoon was spent in admiring some fine collections including some treasured Swiss classics. A few special lots were put up for auction, the proceeds of which were handed to the Swiss Benevolent Society.

This flurry of A.G.M.'s over, the end of February saw the "Bierabig" of the City Swiss Club at the Dorchester Hotel. A hundred and thirty members and guests were welcomed by the President, Mr. Anton Bon, for an evening of entertainment beginning with a yodel performance by Mr. Luterbacher followed by works by Chopin, Smetana and Liszt interpreted by Mr. A. Ferber, a well-known Swiss concert pianist living in London.

The March issue of the *Swiss Observer* contained a letter by the Legation announcing that the curfew restrictions applicable to Swiss residents and nationals from some other countries would be removed. Readers were told that restrictions on the possession of bicycles and other vehicles would be removed and that visitors to aliens protected areas would be exempted from curfew and vehicles restrictions.

The *Dansant* referred to above attracted well over 200 members and guests who danced for a solid four hours.

The April issue brought readers news from the far north. The Swiss Club Dumfermline had held its yearly social at the end of March, the highlight of which was a three-hour play written by the "well-known native bard Alfred Huggenberger", called *Dem Bollm si bös Wuche*. These festivities took place in the canteen of the Winterthur Silks factory.

In May, the Swiss Catholics played host at the Dorchester Hotel to the Archbishop of Westminster, the Most Rev. Bernard Griffen. Colonel Bon,

President of the Swiss Catholics, and Father Lafranchi, the then Chaplain, were naturally present at this luncheon during which "His Grace was acquainted with the efforts of the Swiss Chaplain and the Committee and gave his full approval, promise of support and blessing to the work and to all members of the Swiss Colony".

We end with one last A.G.M., that of the City Swiss Club, held by 75 members at Brown's Hotel. The Committee that emerged from this 87th annual meeting was as follows: President, A. Bon; Vice-President, H. Bingguely; Treasurer, R. de Cintra; Secretary, P. Moehr; Assistant Treasurer, P. Oboussier; Assistant Secretary, A. Stauffer; Librarian, G. Marchand. Members of the House Committee were F. Zogg (Treasurer), A. Baume, W. E. Gattiker. Auditors were: H. Pfirter and G. Jenne.

The *Swiss Observer* under Mr. Alfred Stauffer's editorship, was an essential link with Switzerland to a news-starved colony. The issues briefly reviewed had several reprints of interesting articles by our leading editorialists at home. We shall give an account of these writings in a future issue.

P.M.B.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

22nd to 25th August — ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD — Neuchâtel.

Saturday, 2nd November — SWISS CHURCHES BAZAAR.

SWISS CLUB LIVERPOOL: Card Evening on the first Friday of the month at Hotel Dresden, New Chester Road, Bromborough.

SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY: Wednesday, 26th June, 6.30 for 7 p.m. at Swiss House: "The Letter C".

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Forthcoming shooting sessions at the Siberia Range at Bisley: Sunday, 30th June, 1st and 8th September.

NATIONAL DAY celebrated in London at the Wimbledon Town Hall and in Manchester at the Cottons Hotels on Thursday, 1st August.

SCHWEIZERBUND: Friday, 6th September, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. Dinner at the Old Palace, Hatfield Park, Hatfield, Herts.

#### CULTURAL EVENTS

Friday, 21st June, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 p.m. *Andrej Lutschg* is the soloist in the first British performance (by the Orchestra of St. John's, Smith Square) of the Violin Concerto by *Vladimir Vogel*.

Saturday, 22nd June, Assembly Rooms, Bath, 8 p.m. Bath Festival: *The Lucerne Piano Trio* (Albor Rosenfeld, *Markus Nvikos*, *Grazia Wendling*) play works by Beethoven, *Frank Martin* and Schubert.

Sunday, 23rd June, Bath University, 6 p.m. Bath Festival: The pianist *Margaret Kitchin* is a soloist in a programme of works by R. Holloway, Boulez and Britten, played by the Vesuvius Ensemble under Elgar Howarth.

Thursday, 20th June, 7 p.m., Swiss Embassy, *Nouvelle Société Helvétique* — talk (illustrated by a film) on Experiences of Swiss research teams in the Ivory Coast by Professor Alexander von Muralt (see editorial).

Wednesday, 3rd July, 7.45 p.m., Eglise suisse 79 Endell St., harpsichord recital by Gloria Vanoli (organised by *International Liszt Centre for 19th Century Music* and under the patronage of the *NSH*) (Collection).

## OBITUARY

### ERNEST LUTERBACHER

It is with great regret that we report the death, at the age of 87 of *Mr. Ernest Luterbacher*, a former deputy-manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation in London.

Mr. Luterbacher had been an active member of the Swiss Colony, taking part in the activities of the Swiss Mercantile Society, the City Swiss Club and, until it failed for want of new members, of the Swiss Male Choir. The presence of many compatriots from the Swiss societies and the Swiss Bank Corporation at his funeral, which took place on Friday, 17th May at Christchurch, Southgate, reflected his deep ties to the life of the Swiss community in London and the esteem in which he was held by his numerous friends. Among those who attended at the ceremony was his brother Oscar, who lives in London and is a member of the Education Committee of the Swiss Mercantile Society and a sister from Switzerland.

Mr. Luterbacher died after a 5-week illness. A widower since 1942, he had spent a happy retirement counting bowls as one of his main hobbies. He visited his homeland regularly. He lived with his elder daughter, Felice, 46, and a cousin, and leaves a second daughter, Audrey.

Mr. Luterbacher had enjoyed an exciting and distinguished business career. Having joined the Swiss Bank Corporation in Basle in 1903 and gone to the London branch three years later, Mr. Luterbacher was invited by the Bank to become their representative on the staff of a company supplying oil drilling equipment to Rumania and helped financially by the Swiss Bank Corporation. Mr. Luterbacher worked in Rumania for several years and worked for the Lucey Manufacturing Company. In 1919 he became Europe Vickers Commercial Sales Manager in Eastern and Central Europe and had extensive dealings with the Russians. He returned to the service of the Swiss Bank Corporation in London in 1929 and was appointed Deputy Manager in 1947, retiring in 1952.