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CONGRATULATIONS !

(Communicated—Unofficial.)

Masterpiece as the great film "The Birth of a Nation" undoubtedly is, yet unbiassed eye-witnesses appear unanimous in their opinion that the recent Birth of the "Swiss Sports Debating Union" easily excels the former production in point of vividness, atmosphere and incidents of various hues.

It is, however, regrettable that this event was not "gramo-filmed," for it is held that the young Swiss of anno domini 2022 would appreciate oral evidence of what their great-grandfathers did in London after the Great War.

We understand that the "happy father" invited a number of co-citizens to a festive gathering, and the after-dinner conversation drifted to sports and such like things. When four communal garden members of the City Swiss Club entered the club-room, the aforesaid gathering had just arrived at a "dead-heat," and in point of fact the atmosphere had become so sultry that it was deemed advisable to permit a current of fresh air to counteract any latent danger.

Visible consternation was created through father's declared intention that at next year's Sports Meeting he would turn out with "our wives," and many of the married gentlemen present already had visions of becoming deprived of their conjugal affections.

A still more dramatic sensation was produced by the narrative of one of the participants at the last Swiss Sports Meeting, who, on reaching "the summit of his hurdle," found that his predecessor had left his pair of heels behind with which he heavily collided in mid-air.

A further matter of interest was the appointment of a small but select Committee of Bachelors, whose functions at the next Sports Meeting will be to adjudicate on the costumes of the lady competitors, and in this connection it was decided to give the fair sex the chance to compete in "heavyweight" as well as "lightweight" costumes; at least one of the Committee to be an expert on textiles as far as "resisting power" is concerned.

A note of merriment was introduced by an explanation being tendered that a consolation prize had been awarded after it had been discovered that a gentleman thought to be "running in the Walking Race" was only endeavouring to catch a train at Herne Hill, and that a sympathetic jury therefore felt that he should be rewarded for any inconvenience caused him.

While Happy Father showed an unruffled and undisturbed calm, some of his guests were certainly carried away at times by the sporting spirit, resulting more than once in avalanches of verbiage which completely crushed the efforts of the four Ordinary Intruders who had sought a haven of refuge at auction bridge. This fact clearly demonstrates that at functions of this sort there should be some St. John's Ambulance men or at least a couple of bonny Red Cross nurses in attendance to take charge of any possible casualties.

A motion that the losing tug-of-war team should be permitted to cut up the rope and to present suitable lengths to the judges was defeated on the ground that the rope was too stout to easily form running nooses. On the other hand, the proposal that, should there be in future only one entry for the tug-of-war event, this was to be taken as *prima facie* evidence that such team would win the event and that, consequently, the first prize should be sent along to the team's Quartermaster-Sergeant—carriage paid—without calling upon the team to display their prowess at the Meeting, was carried with acclamation.

We understand that a further meeting of this newly constituted Debating Union will be held a little later on, when the official referee has had time to consider what handicaps he will have to impose upon the members who showed "particular strength in voicing their opinion," so as to give others of a more diffident temperament a fair chance on the next occasion, when also the all-important question of suitable Club House accommodation for this youngest addition to the ever-increasing number of Swiss Societies will be carefully gone into.

In the meantime Happy Father has entered into his own recognisances that the proposed next meeting will *not* be held on a Tuesday evening, but that, if such a choice should after all become inevitable, the members of the City Swiss Club will be given "fair warning" to betake themselves elsewhere.

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