

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1923)

Heft: 131

Rubrik: Swiss Mercantile Society

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 15.03.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

the negative, whereupon the Lancashire man said: "Well, lad, thou hast seen nowt."

Speaking for my fellow-guests, I think from the hospitality we have received we all run a great risk of seeing what the Lancashire man saw, and speaking for myself, I think I am fully qualified to become the exhibit required to fill the gap at the museum at Zermatt—the effigy of a stuffed climber.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, there is a story I have heard, that, when you are speaking after dinner, if you don't strike oil in ten minutes, cease boring. I shall now strike by thanking the proposer of this toast, on behalf of my fellow-guests and myself, for the exceedingly pleasant evening we have had to-night. I thank you very much indeed.

Prof. EUGENE BOREL, President of the International Tribunal created under the Versailles Treaty, also returned thanks in the name of himself and the other visitors, and said:—

Je suis heureux de pouvoir m'associer aux excellentes paroles que vous venez d'entendre et d'exprimer à mon tour la sincère reconnaissance de tous les hôtes du City Swiss Club pour l'accueil si cordial qu'il nous offre, et que nous savons toujours trouver au sein des réunions organisées par lui. Pour nous tous, cette fête si pleine de charme et d'entrain est particulièrement précieuse et bienfaisante à l'époque où le City Swiss Club à la bonne idée de la placer. Le grand pays dont nous goûtons et apprécions la large hospitalité à des beautés qui peuvent rivaliser avec celles d'autres contrées; mais pendant longtemps après que novembre et décembre soient agréables à passer sur les bords de la Tamise. Au sein des brouillards qui nous étirent et qui sont, pour faire comprendre le spleen en attendant qu'on l'éprouve soi-même, la soirée du City Swiss Club a été depuis plusieurs jours comme un phare dans la nuit, comme un point lumineux vers lequel se dirigeait notre attente joyeuse et impatiente, de même que notre souvenir heureux et reconnaissant s'y reporterait longtemps après que nous serions séparés de nouveau sous la forme agréable d'un banquet et d'un bal, cette réunion de la colonie suisse est véritablement un acte patriotique. La Suisse, dont on vient de parler en termes si éloquentes, et vers laquelle s'élevaient nos pensées et nos vœux, a besoin plus que jamais de l'appui de tous ses enfants. Les circonstances économiques que traverse notre peuple, de même que la grande nation britannique, font appel aux efforts courageux de tous les travailleurs et pour le labeur quotidien aux prises avec les difficultés de l'heure actuelle, ce n'est pas peu de chose que d'être soutenu par la gaieté, la bonne humeur que nous venons retrouver et retremper ici, dans l'atmosphère de solidarité qui se dégage de cette fête de la famille helvétique. Je bois à la prospérité du City Swiss Club et à la santé de tous ses membres.

Mr. Georges Dimier, after having called for the traditional "bans" in honour of the last two speakers, mentioned that he wished to express thanks to Mrs. Charles Chapuis and her sister for the beautiful silk bags they had presented to our Club, which were used for the first time for the collection made this evening. He also singled out for special mention the presence in our midst of Madame Stéphanie Steiger, the devoted Honorary Secretary of the Ladies' Committee of the Swiss House—a post which she had filled with such distinction ever since the foundation of this institution.

Thanks to the promptness with which the dinner was served, and the much appreciated fact that the speakers respected the time-limit suggested by the Chairman, the official part terminated at an unusually early hour; dancing could have been indulged in before 10 p.m., had not the conversion of the hall for this purpose taken up some time. However, the followers of Terpsichore had nothing to complain about, for the excellent orchestra of the Victoria Hotel played continuously till 2.30 a.m. Much appreciated and freely taken advantage of was the free buffet, which seemed to have an inexhaustible supply of enticing dainties and refreshments. We believe, this year's banquet was a record, as far, at least, as the number of participants is concerned; nearly 320 sat down to dinner, filling the spacious dining hall to its full capacity. The Organising Committee had the satisfaction and recompense of seeing their strenuous efforts crowned with unqualified success—a feeling which must have been shared by our compatriot, Mr. E. DeVeigny, the manager of the Victoria Hotel, who deserves a special compliment for providing Swiss wines at "popular" prices.

Besides the guests already referred to, the following were also present:—

Aeschmann, C. (Mr. and Mrs.), Altwegg (Mr. and Mrs.), Barbezat, C. A. (Mr. and Miss), Baume, A. C. (Mr. and Mrs.), Binguely (Mr. and Mrs.), Boehringer, P. F. (Mr. and Mrs.), Borel (Mlle.), Brandenburger, F. (Mr. and Mrs.), Braun (Dr. and Mrs.), Bretscher, U., Bruderlin, F. (Mr. and Mrs.), Buser, H. (Mr. and Mrs.), Carmine (Mrs., Mr. Jr. and Miss), Chapuis, Ch. (Mr. and Mrs.), Chapuis, L. (Mr. and Mrs.), Corbat, A., de Coulon, Defrenne, J., Despond (Mr. and Mrs.), DeTrey, A. (Mr., Mrs. and Miss), DeTrey, C. (Mrs.), DeTrey, J., DeVeigny, J., Deweck, Dimier, G. (Mr. and Mrs.), Dupraz, Eckerstein (Dr. and Mrs.), Fintschin, Forrer, Frei, O. (Mr. and Mrs.), Frenken, L. A. (Mr. and Mrs.), Gampfer (Mr. and Mrs.), Gattiker (Mr. and Mrs.), Gellinger, Gerig (Mr. and Mrs.), Graedel, Guignard, C. W. (Mr. and Mrs.), Hafner (Mr. and Mrs.), Hoffmann-de Visme (Mrs.), Huber, H. (Mr. and Mrs.), Jenne, G., Jenne, H., Jobin, L. (Mr. and Mrs.), Laemli, G., Lauchheimer, L., Hardy, Lichtensteiger, F. W. (Mr. and Mrs.), L'Orsa (Mme.), Luterbacher (Mr. and Mrs.), Marchand, R. (Mr. and Mrs.), Marchand, G., Meschini (Mr. and Mrs.), Monastier, Neuschwander, E., Oltramare, J. (Mr. and Mrs.), de Palaez, J., Pasquier, A. (Mr. and the Misses), De Pury Rappard, W. (Mr. and Miss), Rast, Dr., Ritter (Mr. and Mrs.), Roost (Mr., Mrs. and Miss), Ryl, R., Sandoz (Mr. and Mrs.), Schefer (Mr. and Mrs.), Schmid, A., Schobinger (Mr. and Mrs.), Schröter, (Dr. and Mrs.), Schupbach (Mr., Mrs. and Miss), Senn, H., Sommer, F. G. (Mr. and Mrs.), Speiser (Mr.

and Mrs.), Steiger (Mr. and Mrs.), Stoker (Mr. and Mrs.), Studer, W. (Mr. and Mrs.), Suter, F. (Mr. and Mrs.), Urner, Rev. H., Valon, Veil (Mr. and Mrs.), Wagnière, Wälchli (Mr. and Mrs.), Walsler, Paul (Mr. and Mrs.), Walter (Mr. and Mrs.), de Wattwill, Werner, de Wolf, Dr. P., Wuest, Wutrich, Zimmermann (Mr. and Mrs.), Zogg (Mr. and Mrs.).

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

(The following report on last Saturday's Cinderella has been kindly sent to us by a lady correspondent.)

It would undoubtedly be difficult to find a jollier or more friendly gathering than that at the 2nd Cinderella Dance of the Swiss Mercantile Society, held on Saturday last, the 1st inst., at the Midland Grand Hotel, King's Cross, when 165 of the Swiss Colony and their numerous friends presented themselves to while away a few hours. They succeeded—in fact, the scene looked even more attractive than an act of "Brighter London."

Dancing actually commenced at about 6.45 p.m., and those who had the good sense to arrive early (about a sixth of the community were thus blessed) had ample opportunity of exploiting their fancy steps and jazzing to their hearts' content, without the fear of having to apologize every other minute to those who were unlucky enough to be near them, should they indulge in "high kicks" and exceed the "speed limit."

By 8.30 p.m. the whole affair was in full swing, and there was hardly a face to be seen that was not wreathed in smiles and full of *joie de vivre*. The fair sex had, as usual, arrived in full war paint, and their many charming frocks and wholly dainty appearances formed a very pleasing spectacle. Many of the stronger sex were seen to cast covetous and admiring glances in this direction. Now, to give the men a little encouragement, they, too, were a credit and did their full share to make the evening such a success. They were in exceptionally "high spirits," and it is feared that the carpet between the ball-room and the "bar" must have suffered heavily. At 8.40 p.m. many of the tables were already commandeered by numerous guests, who had apparently at this early hour found their appetites. However, they managed to keep up their flagging energies until 9 o'clock (the interval and supper time), when all made a bee-line for supper.

Everyone did ample justice to the very excellent fare, one party in particular (who had apparently been on hunger strike) demolished the sandwiches quicker than the "hard-working, but patient garçon" could procure them. While all were thus engaged, Mr. G. E. DeBrunner, President of the Society, proposed the toast of "His Majesty the King" and "Switzerland," in which everyone (despite their hunger) heartily joined. He also kindly brought to the notice of the party a very happy coincidence, it being the "13th Armistice" since the joining of forces of Mr. and Mrs. Wyss, of the Union Helvetia. Surely, several of the bashful young men, who might have arrived with the idea that marriage is always a failure, will, after this splendid example, be only too anxious to try their fate. At this stage all the guests became hilarious, but whether it was the effect of the very excellent wine or their usual flow of high spirits, I leave you to guess, but the incessant chatter and good fellowship was very encouraging. With little difficulty the hub-hub was effectively silenced for a few minutes, when a special treat was given by Mr. P. Mathys, who, with the aid of Mr. C. Mayr, sang a popular Swiss "Jodel." They were both highly applauded and much appreciated, besides being the envy of several "young bloods," who did their utmost to make a similar performance, but without noticeable success. One or two other Swiss songs were also sung, although unhappily the English guests were quite in the dark as to what it was all about; probably most of them assumed it was mountains and girls. Mr. A. Kamber very kindly tended a hearty welcome to all, and referred especially to the numerous English friends (whom he looked very pleased to see), and his speech was much appreciated.

By this time dancing commenced again. It is perhaps unnecessary to relate that the spirits of all (in more ways than one) were even more overflowing, and, much to the amusement of those present, several romantic young couples were seen, while dancing, to hide themselves behind the many curtains. (Luckily, no windows were open.) However, none of them were plucky enough to stay there for long, probably for fear of causing too much comment. Also others were found to be missing, but it is believed that they made very good use of the "stairs" and "settees" near by. I wonder?? Even the strains of the perfectly delightful orchestra would not induce some of them to vacate their lair. It is presumed that they took full advantage of the idea that "one is only young—once."

There is little doubt that it was sincerely regretted by all when the dance had to come to an end. It is rumoured that several present had enjoyed themselves too thoroughly to "go straight home."

I think all present will agree with me that the whole affair was a great success, and surely there cannot be any who are not looking forward with eagerness to the Fancy Dress Dance, which is to be held at the same place on the 5th January, 1924.

And here's a "Happy New Year" to the whole of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and may there be many, many more dances like the last. A. H.

LA NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

on Wednesday, November 21st, 1923, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

1. The Treasurer advised the meeting of two admissions and two re-admissions, while he had no resignations to report. Five names were taken off the membership list, owing to departure from England without advice. Total membership, 357.

The report of the Grand Charity Concert shows that, with an expenditure of £26 12s., the handsome sum of £80 6s. net was obtained, and could be handed to the Benevolent Society.

The report of the dinner account was also agreed to by the meeting.

The accounts up to the 14th November showed the income for the year to be £661 3s. 4d., while the expenditure for the same period amounts to £517 14s. With the sum brought forward from last year, there is a credit balance in the bank of £382 3s.

2. The President read Circular No. 43 of the S.S.E. The address of the S.S.E. is now Fribourg, where a home has been found in the premises of the Fribourg Record Office. Seven new Groups have been founded: Ancey (Savoie), Antwerp, Brussels, Frankfurt s.M., Königsfeld i.B., Venice, and Charleroi. The result of the sale of the 1st of August cards, 1924, will benefit the movement of the Swiss Abroad. The S.S.E. sends a very warm appeal to all affiliated Groups in favour of suffering Swiss in Germany. Donations can be sent to the S.S.E., Compté de chèques postaux Fribourg IIA 80. From January, 1924, onwards the *Consular Bulletin* will be added to the *Echo Suisse*, as are already the communications of the N.S.H. This ought to go a long way towards adding to the merit of this publication. The day for Swiss Abroad at the Federal Rifle Competition of 1924 will be August 1st. Many Swiss shooters from abroad are expected. The S.S.E. is ready to accept suggestions regarding the programme of the Auslandschweizer-tag at the next Basle Samples' Fair.

3. Our forthcoming lectures are as follows: December 14th, our member, Mr. O. Braga, "The People of the Tessin: its Ideals and Aspirations," at 8.30 at 28, Red Lion Square. In February, a lecture by Dr. Saleeby on "Sunlight and Health," arranged in conjunction with the Swiss Mercantile Society at the Union Helvetia.

4. Following a favourable offer from the "Foyer Suisse," it was decided that the next Annual Meeting should take place in the big hall of the Foyer Suisse. Other proposals will be considered later.

5. A report by Mr. Kiefer, President of the Entertainment Committee, was read. The deficit of the last dinner was about £20. The moral effect, however, was very good. There were some complaints about too much smoking.

6. The Secretary made a few communications with regard to his work: (a) Certain propaganda for Swiss music has been made in the English musical press in connection with the informal concert of contemporary Swiss music, which took place on Monday, Nov. 26th. (b) Another review has appeared on the Helvetic Bibliography. (c) The campaign for translations is continued. (d) The British press will again be approached with a view to placing before the British public the Swiss point of view in the Zones Question. (e) A Red Cross propaganda page has been drafted for *The Swiss Observer*.

7. Dr. Agénor Krafft, the former French Secretary of the S.S.E., who is now living in London for a short period, gave a succinct causerie on the present state of the Auslandschweizer movement. There are 115 groups to-day, and there is now a certain likelihood that the Confederation will subventionise the S.S.E. in the future. The 39 members of the Parliamentary Group of the Swiss Abroad are very active in this direction. Mr. Baer, the President, thanked Dr. Krafft for his interesting information, which was most refreshing to hear. Dr. PAUL LANG, Secretary.

Appel à la Colonie Genevoise de Londres.

Chers Concitoyens,—J'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que le dîner de l'Escalade sera célébré cette année le Mercredi 12 décembre à sept heures au Restaurant tessinois Pagani (Great Portland Street, Station Oxford Circus). Le propriétaire dévoué, M. Arthur Meschini, a promis de nous soutenir "aux petits signons," à des prix très modérés! Il y aura des vins suisses et la marmite traditionnelle de la Mère Royaume. Les productions d'usage seront les bienvenues. La réunion sera présidée par notre Concitoyen le Professeur Eugène Borel. On chantera la Chanson de l'Escalade et le Cè qué l'aino.

Prérez de s'inscrire aussi tôt que possible auprès de notre ami:

M. Raoul de Cintra, 46, Cannon Street, E.C.4.

A tous Au Revoir le 12 décembre, HENRI MARTIN, 32, Queen Anne Street, W.1.