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from among the most valiant at Berne; the four first had to swear to watch over the banner, and if the banneret fell to seize it or hold it high, or hand it from one to the other and never abandon it until death. The others took an oath "to stay with the banner, and aid in defending it, to hold and protect it and to sacrifice their lives for it."

This banner was for the Swiss the symbol of the Mother Country.

They gave their lives for it with a heroism of which history has preserved numerous examples. In foreign service, as well as at home, our fathers have always considered their ensigns as the visible sign of the oath taken, as the emblem of fidelity to military duty.

Arbedo, Grandson, Marignan, Cappel, Malplaque, the Tuileries, the Beresina have all been witness of it. In our days, in our eyes, the Swiss flag is something still more. It is the dazzling symbol of national unity, a unity realized in spite of the greatest obstacles, in spite of the diversity of races, of languages, of religion, upon the basis of democracy by the conscious will of populations animated by the same ideal.

From this flag of a little nation born of the spontaneous union of twenty-two Republics, there sprang into life the neutralised international flag which extends its protecting folds over the work of the Red Cross. The plenipotentiaries of thirty-five States who gathered on July 6th, 1906 for the revision of the Geneva Convention wished to state it in these terms: "In homage to Switzerland the heraldic sign of the Red Cross upon a white ground, formed by inversion of the Federal colors, is now maintained as a distinctive emblem of sanitary service in armies."

This nation, ancient by reason of its history, is modern in its aspirations.

Its flag is resplendent as the banner of the victors of Morgarten, first victory of liberty in the Middle Ages. One might say that this flag symbolizes the whole national life of our people: their thirst for independence, their ideal of justice and Christian brotherhood; their 'raison d'être' in Europe. When it passes at the head of our battalions everyone must take off his hat to it. It is six centuries of liberty passing by.

The above article appeared in the August number of the "Swiss Monthly" from the pen of Emily Keene Barnum, its versatile editress, we reproduce it *in extenso* together with the "preliminaries" to which we owe this interesting study.

Mr. H. Siegmund's Farewell Dinner at Paganì's Restaurant.

Alas, the Swiss Colony of London has lost one of its staunch supporters by the definite return to Switzerland of Mr. H. Siegmund, the founder and Managing Director of the well-known forwarding concern, The European & General Express Co. Ltd.; but there is no doubt that the knowledge gained abroad will in some way or other make its influence felt for the good of Auslandschweizer when he has settled down in the home-land.

It was to celebrate this event that Mr. Siegmund brought together at Paganì's, on the 25th inst., a number of his personal as well as business friends, and the three new Directors of the Company, to say good-bye to them and to receive their sincere wishes for his future welfare. His love for all that is really Swiss and a constant hankering after the beauties of his country and the amenities that living over there should afford him, have at last conquered, after 20 years of untiring activity in London. He may well be proud to look back on the flourishing business he has gradually built up in collaboration with Mr. E. Schneider-Hall. They started with a staff of a dozen and brought it to one of over 60.

The evening passed off in the most congenial spirit, helped by an excellent dinner with musical interludes and speeches, from which a good deal of Mr. Siegmund's early experiences in London, pleasant and otherwise, could be gleaned.

A very handsome presentation of a silver and cut-glass Tantalus was made by Mr. Schneider-Hall in his and the Staff's name.

In the course of the evening Mr. Siegmund introduced to those present the three new Directors who will replace him and we hope that they will give Mr. Schneider-Hall some of the valuable assistance which he is losing by Mr. Siegmund's departure, so much regretted by all his friends and the Swiss Colony in London.

PERSONAL.

A rare example of birthday celebrations was set by our compatriot, Mr. Richard Heusser, who commemorated his fiftieth anniversary by inviting last month (August 25th) about 450 aged and needy people of his native town Zurich to a steamer trip on the lake followed by a dinner and social treat in Rapperswil. We wish to express here our congratulations to Mr. Heusser upon the attainment of his jubilee year and our admiration of the rare and noble manner in which he has signalized the event. Mr. Heusser's business engagements unfortunately keep him away from the social functions of our Colony; he is one of the representatives of Messrs. A. Gagniere & Co. Ltd., of 34, Golden Square, W. 1.

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Prices include postage; in ordering, simply state number or series, remitting respective amount (preferably in $\frac{1}{2}$ stamps) to Publishers, *The Swiss Observer*, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

* Das August-Heft des Vereins für Verbreitung guter Schriften in Zürich bringt zwei Novellen aus der Feder von Emil Strauss, die den längst in der vordersten Reihe deutscher Erzähler stehenden, jetzt sechzig-jährigen Meister auf der Höhe seiner Kunst zeigen. Beides sind Liebesgeschichten jener konzentrierten Art, die Strauss mit Vorliebe pflegt, seit er sich nach den grossen Erfolgen mit seinen vielgelesenen Büchern, dem "Engelwirt," dem "Freund Hain," und den "Kreuzungen," vom Roman abkehrt und der kürzeren Novelle und dem Drama zugewendet hat. In beiden ist wieder, wie wir es bei ihm zu finden gewohnt sind, das psychologische Problem in wundervoller Weise mit der Landschaft verbunden. So wird gleich in der ersten Novelle, dem "Laufen," die dem Heft den Namen gegeben hat, das Bild des ruhevoll dahinfließenden Rheinstroms, der, von der Roten Fluh plötzlich eingengt und im Tiefsten aufgewühlt, den Todesnachen der zwei Liebenden verschlingt, zum Symbol der ungebändigten Naturkraft, die auch im Leben des Menschen oft unerwartet hervorbricht und dem seelischen Konflikt jäh die tragische Wendung verleiht. Wie schön klingen in der zweiten Novelle "Baptist" die silbernen Töne der Bodenseelandschaft mit der Resignation des alternden Mannes zusammen, der zu spät ein in der Jugend verzehrtes Glück gewahrt wird. Möge das wertvolle kleine Heft recht viele Leser anregen, zu den umfangreicheren Werken des uns Schweizern so besonders sympathischen Rhein- und Nachbardichters zu greifen.

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Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

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Procès-verbal. Admissions. Dmissions. Divers.

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Dimanche, 19 Septembre—Jeûne Fédérale.

Pendant l'absence du pasteur, Mr. Alex. Berthoud recevra à l'Eglise le Mercredi matin de 10.30 à midi, et le Dimanche à l'heure du culte. Adresser toute correspondance à 79, Endell Street, W.C.2.
Les cultes du soir reprendront le 19 Septembre à 6.30 h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, den 5. September.—Gottesdienst.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12—1 in der Kirche.

Mittwoch 3—5 im 'Foyer Suisse.'

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen etc. an Pfr. C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Sunday, September 19th, at 3.30.—SWISS Y.M.C.A.: Celebration of the Eidg. Dank-, Buss & Bettag, at the Foyer Suisse, 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.—Rehearsals every Friday evening. Every Swiss heartily invited to attend. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, Swiss Choral Society, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.
SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—Every Saturday and Sunday (weather permitting) Shooting Practice at the Range, Hendon (opposite Old Welsh Harp). Lunch provided on Sundays.

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