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EIDGENÖSSISCHE GLOSSEN.

Von Maikäfern.

Wir haben hier schon einmal über die lieben Maikäfer gesprochen. Damals stand mir keine Zahl zur Verfügung, um den Schaden einigermaßen in Geld auszudrücken. Nun ist mir eine solche Zahl in die Hände gefallen: Im untern Rhodetal hat man den Heuertrag auf 1 Hektare Land, wo die Engerlinge vertilgt worden waren, verglichen mit dem Heuertrag einer benachbarten Hektare Land, wo man die Engerlinge am Leben gelassen hatte. Man konstatierte auf dem englerfreien Land einen Mehrertrag von 1000 Kg. Heu, entsprechend einem Werte von 100 Fr. Das ist nun natürlich immer noch keine gesicherte Unterlage, um den durch die Maikäfer verursachten Schaden einzuschätzen. Doch die hundert Franken Mehrertrag pro Hektare geben immerhin ein gewisses Bild. Unter ähnlichen Verhältnissen kommen wir bei einem Quadratkilometer schon zu 10,000 Fr., bei tausend Quadratkilometern zu 10 Millionen. Da wir rund 21,000 Quadratkilometer Wiesen-, Weide- und Ackerboden besitzen, ist der durch die Maikäfer verursachte Schaden sicherlich höher als diese Summe. Es sind also wahrhaftig auf diesem Gebiete Millionen zu verdienen!

Akustischen Fehlern.

Kann das Problem der Akustik unseres Nationalratssaales wirklich nicht gelöst werden? Muss es immer wieder heissen: "Der Referent der Kommission hält eine auf der Journalistentribüne völlig unverständliche Rede über die Russlandpolitik des Bundesrates."

Fliegern.

Die Welt ist voll Begeisterung für das Fliegen. Oder richtiger ausgedrückt: für die erfolgreichen Flieger. Auch die Schweiz tut mit—doch die zivilen Flieger kann man immer noch an den Fingern abzählen. Soviel ich weiss, gibt es von jenem ausgeprobten Daimler-Leichtflugzeug, das nicht teurer ist als ein Sechszylinderwagen, in der Schweiz nur ein Exemplar. Wir sind also noch keine fliegende Nation, obwohl es für ein Binnenland die schönste Erlösung bedeutete. Warum greift das Militärdepartement auf diesem Gebiete nicht fördernd ein? Da es unmöglich scheint, der Einsicht zum Durchbruch zu verhelfen, dass die jährliche Ausgabe von zehn Millionen für die Friedensarbeit lohnend wäre, so verende man doch wenigstens möglichst viel Geld des Militärdepartementes für Einrichtungen, die unserm zivilen Leben zugute kommen. Man erleichtere jungen Leuten den Erwerb eines Flugzeuges, wie man Kavalleristen ein Pferd in den Stall stellt. Ueber die Wichtigkeit der Flugzeuge im Falle eines Krieges sind sich ja die Sachverständigen "erfreulich" einig. Da es aber sicherlich leichter ist, unausgebildete Jünglinge in Schützengrabenschen zu verwandeln, als von einem Tag auf den andern zu Fliegern auszubilden, und da es ebenso sicher leichter ist, Schützengräben auszuheben als im Handumdrehen Flugmaschinen herzustellen, liegt die Folgerung auf der Hand. Oder wenn man sich vor diesen Kosten scheut (eine solche Flugmaschine kostet im Einzelverkauf 11,000-12,000 Franken), so schaffe man wenigstens eine Versicherungsmöglichkeit, deren Prämien sich innerhalb erschwinglicher Grenzen bewegen, für jene, die wohl ihr eigenes Leben, doch nicht das von Angehörigen riskieren können. Diese Versicherungsmöglichkeit besteht heute noch nicht!

Gesandten.

Es ist erfreulich, dass Nationalrat Pfister in der Bundesversammlung der Ueberzeugung Ausdruck gegeben hat, unsere Gesandten seien keine Sekundarschüler. Es ist ja seltsam, dass eine solche Wahrheit bei uns überhaupt noch verkündet werden muss. Doch die Seltsamkeit ist nicht ohne Grund. Wenn es bei uns eine Weltfirma auf dem Gebiete der Milchverwertung gegeben hat, die Millionenverluste erlitten hat, weil die zentrale Kontrolle nicht ausreichend gewesen sei, so besteht bei unsern Gesandtschaften eher die entgegengesetzte Gefahr. Es muss buchstäblich wegen jeder Kleinigkeit nach Bern geschrieben werden. Das sollte aufhören, denn da wir endlich so weit gekommen sind (und mit was für Mühe), die nötige Zahl von Gesandtschaften zu besitzen, so müssen wir auch noch so weit kommen (sicherlich zwar auch mit Mühe), die Gesandtschaften den entsprechenden finanziellen Kredit und die entsprechende Machtbefugnis zur Verfügung zu stellen. Sonst zerbricht man die Initiative, lähmt man die beste Kraft. Schliesslich brauchen wir auf unsern ausländischen Vorposten selbständige Männer und nicht folgsame Bureauangestellte, die das berühmte hochwertige Tüpfli auf dem i an den richtigen, von Bern aus vorgeschriebenen Platz setzen!

Elektr. Apparaten und einem Engländer.

Die Flieger Chamberlin und Levine haben die solothurnische Scintilla-Fabrik, die den Magnetapparat für ihren Motor geliefert hat, besucht. Es schadet nichts, wenn bei dieser Gelegenheit auch manche Schweizer erfahren, dass diese Fabrik dank ihres Erzeugnisses Weltruf gewonnen hat. Wenn die Italiener stolz sind, dass Lindberghs Flugzeug

von Italienern gebaut worden sei, so können wir ein wenig stolz darauf sein, dass auch jener Motor von einem schweizerischen Magneten "angezündet" worden ist. Es gibt also doch noch wichtige Funken in der Welt, die man uns, das heisst einer Solothurner Fabrik verdankt!

Dafür aber, um gleich wieder zur Bescheidenheit zurückzukehren, haben wir auf dem Gebiete des elektrischen Fahrzeuges schmachlich versagt. Unter 6000 Personenwagen im Kanton Zürich gibt es nur noch 12 mit elektrischem Motor. Die andern alle laufen mit trutzgebörigem oder trutzfreiem Benzin. Her mit einem Produkt, benzinähnlich oder benzinunähnlich, hergestellt dank des elektrischen Stromes! Es ist höchste Zeit! Der Scintilla-Magnet allein genügt nicht!

Vergessen wir nicht, dass ein vor hundert Jahren geborener Engländer, der in Winterthur und Oerlikon wirkende, vor etwas mehr als zwanzig Jahren in Basel vorstorbene Charles Brown, der "Vater unserer nationalen Maschinenindustrie" genannt wird. Vergessen wir das nicht, wenn wir wider einmal schimpfen sollten—wegen einer englischen Zollerhöhung!

Felix Moeschlin in "N.Z."

DISCOVERIES.

By Sophie Wyss, the Swiss Soprano.

To begin with, the Mortimer Hall is a discovery, or at any rate to me, a comparatively new-comer to London. Monsieur Gaillard did well to engage such a Hall, for it is at the same time intimate and dignified, and its stately Georgian decorations give it the atmosphere of the Great Age of music.

The Hall was not Monsieur Gaillard's only discovery. One scarcely knows where to begin, there were so many. I doubt if any other master of singing could have made such a show. But it was the Male Triple Quartet that gave me most pleasure. Their tone and finish were utterly irreproachable. Ciro Pinsuti's "In this hour of Softened Splendour" was splendour indeed. They also gave "Mein Mutterlein" and "Am Brunnelein," matter enough to stir the Swiss heart.

Stella Cavalli's soprano voice has a very pleasant timbre. She seems to me to be heading straight for the Opera stage: she obviously has the right temperament, and the clear, strong voice that will sound at its best above orchestras. If there were an Opera House in every town of a certain size in England, then she would soon be "Tosca," "Butterfly" and such parts. Last night she gave us airs from "Turandot," "Lodoletta" (a lesser known Mascagni work) and "Traviata." "E strano," which is the well-known "Ah, fors e lui" with some recitative tacked on to the beginning, but with the final "Sempre libera..." omitted, is a perilously difficult undertaking, both vocally and artistically. Miss Cavalli overrode its difficulties with the dashing spirit of a cavalry officer surmounting stiff jumps, and this was a pity, for the half pathetic touch of joy that is in poor Traviata's heart as she sings can only be rendered by restraint and a certain tenderness of expression. However, we shall probably hear more of Stella Cavalli.

Probably Beatrice Ashworth will have the easiest immediate success of those we heard, at any rate from the commercial point of view. She has the full charm of an English girl, and her mezzo voice is extremely pleasing. She sang a song of Debussy in English and two ballads by Liza Lehmann, "Thoughts have Wings" and "The Wood Pigeon." Her diction is clear, and she made so much point out of them I felt convinced that it was quite possible she will mature into a favourite with English audiences. I should advise her "sticking" to English, and English alone. There is any amount of good English music to be sung.

Another mezzo-soprano who gave us great pleasure was Madame Marie Jobin. I should like to have heard more of her, preferably in French Lieder, for in Gounod's "Primavera" she showed that she had some lovely and sustained light notes.

Eve Crawford opened the ball for us with "Il Bacio." She sang the difficult thing in the right quick tempo, and not as the Germans sing it. She gave the impression of having pertinacity and courage, and these are the gifts that go a long way towards surmounting the difficulties of singing. She was followed by Miss D. Burton, whose rendering of the "Ave Maria" in "Cavalleria Rusticana" had the promise in it that suggested operatic possibilities.

Mr. John Rattray is a bass who has a firm, natural resonance in his notes, and Mr. Oakenfield, a baritone, has already (I understand he has only been studying some months) an excellent system of "attacking" a note. I expect he will direct his attention to oratorio.

And lastly, I was on the point of mentioning Monsieur Gaillard's own singing, in the place of Miss Leggart, when I realised that we all know his art so well that there is no need whatever to write of it here. He is certainly to be congratulated on this Concert: few, perhaps, realised that years of well-directed work lay behind it.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Dinner given on Saturday July 2nd, at Pagani's Restaurant, in honour of MM. A. Reinhard and W. Siegentaler, of the Rowing Club "Reuss," Lucerne.

Under the presidency of Mr. L. Jobin, this function proved undoubtedly a great success. It is to be regretted that the attendance was not more in line with the importance of the occasion, but those members who could have attended and did not do so missed a most enjoyable evening.

Shortly after 9.30, the traditional toasts to H.M. the King and to La Suisse having been duly honoured, the President, Mr. L. Jobin, rose to extend a most cordial welcome to the guests of the City Swiss Club, MM. A. Reinhard and W. Siegentaler, the 'Pair Or' of the Rowing Club "Reuss," Lucerne, Mr. Jos. A. Vallaster, President of the Rowing Club "Reuss," and to Mme. T. Reinhard and Mlle. S. Hoffmann. In a perfect little speech the President laid stress on the object of our invitation, the chief aim not being to acclaim, if possible, the victors of a race at Henley Regatta, but to show in practical form the great interest the City Swiss Club and the entire Swiss Colony in London take in all efforts our compatriots undertake abroad in honour of our dear national colours. If unfortunate circumstances prevented our friends from Lucerne repeating their successes gained in 1924 in Zurich, 1925 in Prague and 1926 in Lucerne, nevertheless the additional experience gained in England will prove extremely useful when making those further efforts during the Olympiade, 1928. There can be no doubt that, given the time necessary to get perfectly acquainted with the course on the Thames, the result would have been different. The importance of training on the course itself is amply illustrated by the annual boatrace between Oxford and Cambridge Universities. The President expressed the Club's great appreciation that our invitation had been accepted, and he hoped that an agreeable memory would remain with our guests of the few moments spent with us. The City Swiss Club's best wishes for the future accompany our compatriots, and we are all looking forward to welcoming them again in London next year. The toast is "Our Guests!"

Mr. Jos. A. Vallaster, who replied, asked the meeting to allow him to address them in Schwyzdütsch, as they spoke it in Lucerne. It afforded them quite a special pleasure to be with us this evening, and in the name of the crew, MM. Reinhard and Siegentaler, as well as in the name of the Rowing Club "Reuss," he expressed cordial thanks and appreciation of the hospitality shown them. He mentioned especially the names of Mr. L. Jobin, C. Chappuis and Schorno, who had been instrumental in making all possible preparations. The reception on arrival in London by Dr. Rezzonico, Secretary of the Swiss Legation, made them feel at home at once, and the interest thus shown was an incentive to them to give of their very best in honour of our dear country. If the first attempt failed, still they gained valuable experience, and it was some consolation to know that they lost against an opponent who succeeded in winning the Final that night. They would continue to pursue their aim, persevere, come again and yet lead our beloved Swiss colours to victory!

Mr. L'Hardy thanked Mr. Vallaster for the flattering words addressed to the City Swiss Club. Unfortunately, our next monthly meeting being due for Tuesday next, this no doubt explained why more members did not find it possible to attend. It was to be regretted that our guests could not come to Hendon. However, this occasion led the speaker to search his memory as regards precedents of Swiss Nautical Societies. And he mentioned that 26 years ago there actually existed in London a Swiss Rowing Club without statues or Committee, only consisting of serious men! And even a flag, embroidered by a charming lady, had been presented. One Sunday three boats and that flag set out from Hampton Wick. In the evening, with plenty of wind in their sails, they returned, but the beautiful flag had been lost and was never found again. Three months later the Club also was lost and gone, and thus was the short existence of the only Swiss Nautical Society in the speaker's memory. He hopes, however, to revive it, complete with flag, which shall not be lost again.

Mr. L. Jobin informed the meeting that Mr. A. Reinhard offered to be coach to that Club, under the presidency of Mr. L'Hardy.

Mr. C. Chappuis confessed he did not quite follow the Schwyzdütsch (Shame!). He modestly belittled the efforts he had made to get the competitors at Henley suitably housed and fed. As Mr. W. Strebel had asked him to find the right accommodation, of course he had to set out and try his best. His interesting details of exploration highly amused everybody present. He called on all present to drink the health of our member, Mr. Strebel, and asked the friends from Lucerne to give him their best wishes.

Mr. Pfändler expressed his pleasure that a Swiss crew had once more ventured to Henley. Having been a very keen rower himself in his younger days, he was all the more pleased. He

hoped they would take home with them very good impressions, in spite of the weather, and that we should have the pleasure of seeing them again soon.

Mr. W. Siegentaler was deeply touched by the hospitality offered them in this great town. They were one and all returning with the very best impressions. Everything went splendidly, thanks to all those who helped so unselfishly. They had been rowing and training hard for two months, and it would have been a hopeless proposition if they had had to look after the organising part as well. He was sorry to say that their failure was his fault. He did not know how it was, that they could not show Henley what they were capable of doing. Henley was the 'greatest ever' for a Rowing Club. To achieve fame there was everything. They had been told to be quick at the start, and that the English crews were quick starters. So they did their utmost at the beginning. They went to the start quiet, collected and confident. The starter was good enough to explain to them all about the start, which they very much appreciated. Off they went, and when after ten strokes they dared to look up to see where their opponents were, they had gained a length. They were astounded. Still they gained until they had a lead of two lengths which they easily held against all spurts of their opponents. One somewhat disconcerting feature was the fact that the English coach of their opponents rode on a bicycle along the Thames, shouting his instructions to his boat. Also the spectators were very much nearer than they had ever experienced before. Now they had the wind against them, about 300 metres from the winning post, still leading by two lengths, when suddenly his legs, arms and back became limp, ten more strokes and he saw black and collapsed! He knew no more and for two hours afterwards he was absolutely down and out. It was not the distance, being 2,111 metres, their usual distance being 2,000 metres. The end came too sudden, he simply could not understand it. Once more he expressed his very best thanks to everyone.

Mr. A. Reinhard also addressed the meeting. What was to be said had been said. He paid a high compliment to the English Clubs with whom they came in touch. They had been very well received. The Leander Club made them Honorary Members during their stay, and he was deeply impressed by the fairness shown all round. He called on the members of the Rowing Club "Reuss" to stand up and give the City Swiss Club a hearty "Rudergruss."

Mr. L. Jobin told the meeting that Dr. Riedweg, who had made final arrangements in Henley, had had to leave England, and was sorry he could not attend to-night. He once more assured the "Reuss" representatives that we are looking forward to seeing them again next year, that our sympathies are with them, and that we wished them "Bon voyage."

Mr. Vallaster was deeply moved by the good wishes and intentions of the City Swiss Club as expressed that night. They were returning with the very best impressions and hoped to come again next year. They had set their hearts on a win at Henley and a first failure would not discourage them.

The meeting broke up at 11 o'clock, although the writer has heard it rumoured that the fleet of three motor-cars downstairs did not take the most direct route home! M.G.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

Mr. Ed. Steck, Bern: "Albert Einstein." Mr. Paul Schindler, Zurich: "Universal Artificial Languages." Mr. Alfred Lüscher, Schöftland: "International Arbitration and the League of Nations." Miss Elsie Gempp, Basle: "Sweet Peas." Miss Lottie Walker, Berne: "Ladies of To-day." Miss Margot Aeschbacher, Berne: "Patience." Miss Margrit Stoeri, Bilten (Glarus): "Locarno." Miss Huldy Rahm, Zurich: "Modern Girls." Mr. Fritz Vogel, Zurich: "The Russian Revolution." Mr. Arthur Dardel, Zofingen: "The Necessity of Advertising." Miss Gertrud Zurlüh, Engelberg: "The Task of a Housekeeper." Miss Odette Pfähler: "The Italian Opera at Covent Garden." Mr. Stephan Sprecher, Chur: "Something about the English Language and its Origin." Mr. Adolf Wegmann, Zurich: "Moving Pictures."

The debating classes dealt with the following subject:—

"Is War a Necessity?" Proposer, Mr. A. de Limoge, La Chaux-de-Fonds; Opposer, Mr. Ernest Schaal, Zurich.

On Friday night there was a Debate, with Mr. J. W. Klein in the chair, and it was decided to form a circle of old students who make it their duty to speak English whenever they meet. For this purpose they will soon be wearing a badge of their own, the design of which was supplied by the students themselves.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, as evidence of good faith.

SACCO DI ROMA.

To the Editor of the *Swiss Observer*.

Dear Sir,—I am glad to be able to inform you that I have forwarded to-day a cheque for 500 Francs to Lucerne, as a contribution of the Swiss Colony in London towards the erection of the monument to the Swiss Guard in Rome.

I avail myself of this opportunity to thank you and all those of our countrymen who have helped towards commemorating the deeds of valour of our forbears who did their duty so valiantly during the "Sacco di Roma."

I remain, Yours sincerely,

June 30th, 1927. C. R. PARAVICINI.

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*Der Berner Verein für Verbreitung guter Schriften veröffentlicht in seiner Nr. 145 (Juniheft 1927) fünf Erzählungen der bekannten aargauischen Schriftstellerin Anna Burg, der Verfasserin des Berner Heftes Nr. 104 "Siebenzigmal siebenmal."

"Der Unbekannte" ist das Ideal eines älteren Mädchens, das für den Fremden schwärmt, aber dann die Hand eines einfachen Handwerkers annimmt, mit dem es eine glückliche Ehe eingeht. Die Erzählung "Zwei Ringe" führt uns ein junges Mädchen vor, das den Ring ihres Geliebten verkaufen muss, um ihrer Grossmutter Pflege zu verschaffen, und darüber den Bräutigam verliert, während die Grossmutter ihren Ring behält. "Die Reisende" macht auf ihren Geschäftsfahrten die Bekanntschaft eines tüchtigen Mannes; das Bild einer Freundin ihrer Grossmutter führt die Verbindung der beiden herbei. "Aus dem Wartesaal" ist die Geschichte einer Klavierspielerin, die sich von ihrem Gatten, einem heruntergekommenen Geiger, trennte, aber später sich mit dem Reuigen versöhnt und ihn auf seinen Konzert-

reisen begleitet. Die Erzählung "Zwei Frauen" stellt den Gegensatz dar zwischen einer braven schweizerischen Hausfrau und einer weltgewandten Amerikanerin.

Wir wünschen den fünf Erzählungen "Von Frauen" von Anna Burg, die uns weibliche Tugenden in verschiedener Gestalt vor Augen führen, eine freundliche Aufnahme.

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Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Mountview 1798). Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

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

Sonntag, den 10. Juli 1927.—11 Uhr vorm: Predigt. Die Abendgottesdienste finden erst wieder im kommenden September statt.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12—1 Uhr in der Kirche. Mittwoch, 3—5 Uhr, im Foyer Suisse.

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen etc., an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4. Telephone Chiswick 4156.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

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.