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vice of King George V, in which His Majesty said "I am among you as he that serveth." That is the Christian position, and the greater the possession the larger the stewardship, the higher the rank the greater the responsibility.

Fortunately there is the brighter side of Soviet Russia, and in his concluding remarks the Bishop mentioned his stay of last year when he visited the Opera House in Petrograd. It was filled with well-behaved working men and women and children listening to "Salome," while on another occasion he found a crowd of children in the picture gallery listening attentively to a guide's explanations. The Soviet's endeavour is to bring the best things within reach of all and no Government in Europe does more in the way of bringing art and music before the masses than they do.

While Bolshevism declared war on all religion, closed the churches, confiscated their property and made the teaching of all and every belief illegal under the age of 18 years, it has not succeeded in stamping out the Christian faith. Millions of Russian mothers will go on teaching their children to pray and to read the Bible, and as such the country is really fighting the old battle of Christendom. By filling its prisons with these "law-breakers" it is but putting a martyr's crown on the head of its best citizens and the true Christian faith must shine forth the clearer. In this Russia will follow the Roman Empire and discover that the death of the martyrs will become the seed of the Church.

Dr. Bury's references to "what the Commissars said about Switzerland" were of special interest to the audience and have shown the Doctor, as we have already proved him, to be an ardent friend of our country. X.

#### Pianoforte Recital by Juliette Wihl.

Our numerous readers will be interested to learn that Madame Juliette Wihl, the Belgian artist now resident in London, is giving her only recital this season at the Wigmore Hall on Wednesday, December 14th, at 8.30 p.m.

Juliette Wihl is no stranger to us. For several years after the war Switzerland was the home of this brilliant pianist, and whilst she was with us we had repeated opportunities of listening to the glorious music she culled forth from her instrument. Madame Wihl very rapidly created a large number of friends for herself throughout our Republic, and each successive visit has steadily swelled the ranks of her admirers, who flock to hear her wherever she plays.

Only a few weeks ago in Zurich and Berne, *en passant* for England, Madame Wihl gave two recitals and her cultured programme awakened unusual interest in musical circles, as she devoted part of the evening to the older school of composers who wrote for the cembalo. Purcell, England's great musician of the days of the Stuarts, Couperin, Rameau, Scarlatti, were among those to whom she rendered homage and a glowing interpretation, and her forthcoming London programme will again contain the delicately chiselled, enthralling works of these early Masters of Music. César Franck's "Prelude, Choral and Fugue" is likewise included in the evening's recital, which closes with the great Polish composer, of whom Juliette Wihl is acknowledged to be one of the leading exponents of the day—Chopin. Several études, his beautiful Nocturne in E Major, opus 62, and Ballade in F Minor, opus 52, complete the itinerary for December 14th, when Juliette Wihl will be only too happy to welcome those of her Swiss friends who are now in London.

Reverting to her Swiss recitals, the following extracts from some of the leading Swiss papers afford interesting reading:—

The *Berner Bund* says "We know of old that the artist possesses very considerable powers of interpretation and a highly developed technique. She seems to be at the very apex of her abilities. Juliette Wihl offered us a sparkling selection of small and exquisite writings by an older generation. Chopin's works were most magnificently reproduced by the artist, who gave them with all the wide and spiritual culture she possesses."

The *Neue Berner Zeitung* writes "Her present recital served to corroborate the impression made by her earlier appearance. Juliette Wihl is an interpreter of extremely rare qualities...Absolute technical purity and artistic beauty."

The *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* writes "Her powerful pianistic gifts have endowed her with an amazing wide range of expression which she commands in a truly sovereign manner."

The *Zürcher Post* writes "How greatly Juliette Wihl is capable of coping with the works of a more profound nature she proved in César Franck's splendid Prelude Choral and Fugue, where the grand interpretation held the audience spellbound."

#### BACK NUMBERS OF THE "S.O."

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#### BÜCHER-BESPRECHUNG.

Der *Pestalozzikalender* für das Jahr 1928. Bestellungen nimmt der *Swiss Observer* entgegen.—Von ganzem Herzen möchten wir diese Encyclopädie unserer Schweizerjugend empfehlen. Es ist unseres Erachtens das beste Werk seiner Art. Belehrend, ergötzlich, unterhaltend, ansponierend. Erschienen ist es wie sonst in den 3 Landessprachen; die deutsche Ausgabe bereichert durch das Schatzkästlein. Warum nicht auch in den anderen Landessprachen? Es besteht ferner eine besondere Ausgabe für die Mädchen. Aus dem Inhalt belehrender Art greifen wir nur die dem Kalendarium beigegebenen Biographien bedeutender Persönlichkeiten heraus, die mathematischen Tabellen, die unregelmässigen Verben, die Schilderung der Wasseranlagen in Wallis, etc. Also sei unseren Lesern der *Pestalozzikalender* nochmals herzlich empfohlen auf den Weihnachtstisch ihrer Kinder. Niemand wird es bereuen. (Preis 2/9, 2/10 postfrei.)

Das *Werk*. Verlag Gebr. Fretz A.G., Zürich.—Wir empfehlen die Oktober- und Novembernummern dieser Zeitschrift. Hauptsächlich letztere, die uns besonders wertvoll erscheint. In ihr nimmt die Besprechung des Neubaus des Bundesgerichts in Lausanne den Hauptplatz ein. Lausanne ist um ein wirklich schönes Gebäude reicher geworden. Das Aeusserer wie das Innere verdienen alle Beachtung und reiches Lob. Einfachheit der Fassade, vorzügliche Ausnützung der Baufläche. Das Treppenhaus ist grossartig, und eines Grand-Prix würdig die Skulpturen des Bildhauers Casimir Raymond, besonders die Karyatiden am Eingang des grossen Audiensales. Wegen der trefflichen graphischen Wiedergabe verdient der Verlag Geb. Fretz alle Anerkennung. Weiter macht uns diese reichhaltige Nummer mit zwei schweizerischen Künstlern bekannt: Surbeck und Théophile Robert. Da ist keine Künstelei sondern ächte Kunst zu sehen. Der Aufsatz "Eine grosse Epoche" soll die Grundlagen eines von der Architektenschaft herbeigewünschten Aufschwunges klarlegen. Das beigegebene Bild, Le Corbusier's Phantasie entspringend, vermag uns nicht für derartige Zukunftskunst zu begeistern. Die Landschaft wird aber in Zukunft wahrscheinlich vom Flugzeug aus betrachtet werden, deswegen muss man "grossartig" bauen.

#### IN THE COURTS.

Rupert Wolf, 36, described as a shirt-maker of Porchester Place, Marble Arch, was remanded in custody by Mr. Fry at Bow-street Police Court on Nov. 17th on a charge of making a false statement for the purpose of procuring a British passport.

Wolf, a Swiss citizen, was arrested at the British Passport Office, Westminster, on Wednesday. He is unable to speak English, and the evidence had to be interpreted.

Detective-Sergt. Campion, of Scotland Yard, said that Wolf had no occupation in England. The police knew of his activities, which were not at all satisfactory, and they wished to make further enquiries. After his arrest he was shown a passport application form and a birth certificate, both in the name of Henry Hyams. He then said: "I met a man a few days ago who asked me if I would like to be naturalised. I said I would. He told me I should need a British passport, and it would cost me £15. A few days later he brought that form, which I signed, and I gave him two photographs. I have never seen the birth certificate."

Wolf now denied that he signed the application form.

In reply to the Magistrate, Sergt. Campion said that the police objected to bail.

#### SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Choral Society was held on Saturday, 26th November last, at the Swiss Club.

In a short address the President, Mr. J. Manzoni, expressed the Committee's best thanks for the kind support the Society had again received during the past business year, from the Swiss Club, the Foyer Suisse and anew from the Union Helvetia Club. All the three Institutions had put their halls, free of charge, at the disposal of the Society for the Choir's weekly rehearsals. Words of thanks the President continued, were also due to the Contributing Members of the Society: in extending their support to our Society they had greatly assisted the Committee in carrying out their duties. The President hoped that the Society could always count on the former's kind support.

Following the President's address the Annual Report and the Financial Statements were read and accepted.

According to the Report, the Choir gave the Annual Concert at the end of April last at Mortimer Hall. Furthermore, it assisted at the Concert on the 29th October last at Wigmore Hall in aid of the George Dimier Fund. The Treble Quartette assisted at the Fête Suisse at Caxton Hall and, on the 19th June last, sang at the League of Nations Union Festival at the Crystal Palace.

The members contributed Frs. 75.25 towards the Collection made annually by the 1st August Committee in Zurich.

Owing to poor support, the net proceeds of the Concert in aid of the George Dimier Fund, organised in conjunction with the Swiss Institute Orchestra, amounted to some £5 only.

The General Meeting elected the Committee for 1927/28 as follows: President, J. Manzoni;

Vice-President and Hon. Secretary, E. Bommer; Hon. Asst. Secretary, E. Weber; Hon. Treasurer, E. Ritzmann; Hon. Asst. Treasurer, W. Wyss; Hon. Librarian, O. Michel; Associate, J. Gerber.

At the Ordinary General Meeting which followed it was agreed to hold the Annual Banquet and Ball on Friday, 24th February, 1928, at the First Avenue Hotel. The Choir's Annual Concert was fixed for Thursday, 19th April, 1928. Bo.

#### SWISS GYMNASIUM SOCIETY.

The National Amateur Wrestling Championship of Great Britain (Featherweight, Catch-as-catch-can style) was staged at the Union Helvetia Club on Thursday evening last, and a fairly good attendance witnessed some excellent wrestling for the coveted honour. Without any attempt at exaggeration, the best wrestling of the year was seen on Thursday night, as this country has always been, and still is, strongest in the Featherweight class. Our Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, was in the chair and distributed the medals and Challenge Cup to the winner, Mr. Munro, of Edinburgh, and the runner-up, Mr. Sansum, of the London Amateur Wrestling Society. The 11 stone 3lbs. Tournament Competition was won by Mr. Johnson, of the Stadium Amateur Wrestling Club. A most enthusiastic audience cheered our Minister to the echo for the interest he took in this truly excellent sporting demonstration.

LADIES' SECTION.—As already announced in these columns a Ladies' Section is in the course of formation. All Swiss ladies or daughters of Swiss parents are cordially invited to send in their names and addresses to the Hon. Secretary, C. L. Schlaeppli, 47, Ebury Street, S.W.1. Practice will take place shortly at the Paddington and Maida Vale High School, Elgin Avenue, Maida Vale, W.

#### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

An interesting Lantern Slide Lecture, "From Geneva to Angora," was given at Swiss House on Friday, the 2nd inst., by Monsieur Henri Martin, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires in Turkey. Monsieur C. R. Paravicini honoured the meeting with his presence, and opened it by expressing everybody's pleasure at seeing M. Martin back in London again after an absence of eighteen months and that, although his visit would unfortunately be only of short duration, M. Martin had already mentioned that he hoped he would be able to come to London at least once a year. A prospect which was applauded by all present.

M. Martin then showed, by means of the magic lantern, a great number of excellent photographs taken on his journey to the East, starting at Geneva and passing by way of Venice, Athens, Salonica, Constantinople, Brussa to Angora, the new capital of Turkey. The many pictures and the lecturer's description of the latter town evoked special interest, as it is a little off the map when people travel, and Cook's have not been tempted to extend their tours so far.

To conclude, the President, Mr. A. C. Stahelin, thanked M. Martin very heartily in the name of the S.M.S. and Mr. Thomas expressed in a few words high appreciation on behalf of the guests.

As a grand finale, some records of Turkish melodies were enjoyed, thus ending a very pleasant evening at Swiss House. O. Jaeggi.

#### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

Miss Hanna Storrer, Winterthur: "Aquariums in house and school." Mr. Max Michel, Basle: "The Barberine-work in Switzerland." Mr. Her. Jeanrenaud, Basle: "International Economic Conference." Mr. E. Filter, Zurich: "Winter, pleasure and Sport at St. Moritz." Mr. E. Walder, St. Gallen: "Remembrance of the South of France." Mr. M. Racine, Bienne: "The Iron Mask." Miss Elsy Tschopp, Basle: "The Romance of the 'Posthorn.'" Mr. André Burdet, Yverdon: "Gothic Art." Miss Hanna Storrer, Winterthur: "How to Read Books."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Are you in favour of mixed national marriages?" Proposer, Mr. L. E. Fessina, Ligornetto (Ticino); Opposer, Mr. Rene Perret, Geneva.

"Do you think there is a possibility of war during the next five years?" Proposer, Mr. A. Lorenzelli, Yverdon; Opposer, Mr. Ed. Steiner, Zurich.

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