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sich überlebt habe, und nicht mehr die Ausübung der demokratischen Rechte gestatte. Es ist anzunehmen, dass diese Ansicht gerechtfertigt ist, und dass die Aufgabe der altherwürdigen Tradition durchaus einen Fortschritt bedeutet.

Bei dieser Gelegenheit darf man die weitergehende Frage aufwerfen: Hat überhaupt die moderne Demokratie entgegen der alten römischen es verstanden, Mittel zu finden, die ihre Erhaltung und ihren Ausbau gewährleisten? Darauf ist zu sagen, dass die Erfindung der Buchdruckerkunst erst das grosse technische Mittel schuf, das zur Information der breiten Volksschichten nötig war. Während im alten Rom ein des Schreibens und Lesens sozusagen unkundiges Volk schlecht zur Demokratie taugte, gibt den durch Elementarunterricht vorgebildeten Massen unserer Zeit die Tageszeitung die Kenntnis der Tagesfragen, die gedruckten Vorlagen der Regierungen eine sachliche Orientierung über die Angelegenheiten, zu denen der Bürger Stellung zu nehmen hat. Darüber hinaus übernehmen es die politischen Parteien, den Abstimmenden aufzuklären. Mit der Schulbildung, der Druckerpresse und den politischen Parteien waren also jene Mittel gegeben, welche die moderne Demokratie ermöglichte, eine Staatsform, die sich im alten Rom aus Mangel an diesen "technischen" Mitteln nicht entwickeln konnte. Man sieht an diesem Beispiel, wie überaus wichtig die technischen Mittel für das Werden der Völker sind.

Wenn man nun auf der anderen Seite wahrnimmt, wie mühsam sich die Demokratie in unseren Tagen entwickelt, auf welche Ab- und Umwege einzelne Staaten geraten, wie Spanien, Italien, Russland, wo offenbar erst über die steinige Wüste der Diktatur das gelobte Land der Volksherrschaft erreicht wird; wenn man andernorts daran denkt, welche schweren wirtschaftlichen Krisen sich in einem so demokratischen Lande wie England dauernd erhalten können; wenn die französische Demokratie aus inneren Krisen nicht herauskommt, dann darf und muss man sich doch wohl fragen, ob die Entwicklung der Mittel der Demokratie der gesamten Entwicklung der neuzeitlichen Menschheit angemessen ist. Ob es nicht an diesen Mitteln und ihrer nicht entsprechenden Vervollkommenung liege, wenn die Demokratie vielfach in Misskredit zu geraten droht.

Da sind vielleicht die Fragen aufzuwerfen: Erfüllt heute die Erziehung ihre Aufgabe inbezug auf die Heranbildung des Menschen als Staats- und Weltbürger? Hat nicht der Einfluss der Parteien auf die Presse diese einigermassen verhindert, die Aufklärungsarbeit der Massen so objektiv und uninteressiert durchzuführen, wie dies geboten wäre? Ein Vergleich der ausländischen Presse mit der schweizerischen ergibt überdies, dass man im mit Grossstädten gesegneten Ausland ungleich freizügiger in der Behandlung einzelner Probleme ist. In führenden bürgerlichen Zeitungen des Auslandes — man nehme die Frankfurter, die grossen Wiener Zeitungen zur Hand — findet man Probleme erörtert, an die man bei uns nicht führen darf.

Eine weitere Frage ist, ob die moderne Demokratie nicht nach anderen Mitteln suchen muss, um sich zu entwickeln. Ueber kurz oder lang wird das Radio als Förderer der Demokratie dienen. Jede wichtige Rede der Bundesversammlung wird durchs Radio im ganzen Lande zu hören sein, vor jeder Abstimmung werden Redner aller Parteien in jeder Wohnang, in der sich ein Radiohörer befindet, vernommen werden können. Die Information der Wähler wird allseitig sein. Damit wird die Bedeutung der Tagespresse nicht etwa vermindert, sondern im Gegenteil gehoben werden. Je allseitiger informiert der Wähler ist, desto mehr wird die Parteipresse daraufhin wirken, ihre Gründe durchzusetzen; mit umso stichhaltigeren Motiven wird sie arbeiten müssen. Je aufgeklärter ein Volk ist, je allseitiger es über eine Frage unterrichtet wird, umso lebendiger ist seine Anteilnahme an der Entwicklung, umso lebendiger auch sein Interesse für alles Geistige und werdende und damit für die Presse.

Darum, wer will, dass sich die Demokratie erhalte und entwickle, der sorge in erster Linie dafür, dass sich ihre Mittel entwickle.

Jakob Bühler in "Nat. Zeitung."

Radio Programmes from Swiss Stations.

LAUSANNE, 680 m. 1.5 kw.:

D'anche, 26 Février.
21.00 Audition musicale.

Lundi, 27 Février.

19.30 Huitième causerie pour apprentis, organisée par le Département vaudois de l'agriculture, de l'industrie et du commerce. Sujet: "Le registre du commerce et les raisons sociales," par M. Pierre Rochat, Dr en droit, à Lausanne.

20.30 Retransmission du concert symphonique donné au Grand Théâtre de la Ville de Lausanne par l'Orchestre de la Suisse romande avec le concours de M. Sougne, alto-solo.

Mardi, 28 Février.

20.01 Union radiophonique suisse. Programme de Lausanne: Concert par l'Orchestre D'concert: 1. La Fille du Régiment, ouverture,

Donizetti; 2. Idylle arabe, Chaminade; 3. La Déluge, prélude, Saint-Saëns; 4. Le Cid, ballet, Massenet, (a) Castillane, (b) Andalous, (c) Aragonaise, (d) Aubade, (e) Catalane, (f) Madrilène, (g) Navarraise.
20.50 Récital de chant par Mlle. Nelly Friederich, professeur au Conservatoire.

Mercredi, 29 Février.

20.01 Les maladies des poules et des lapins, par M. Favre, instituteur à Treycoyevagnes. Causerie donnée sous les auspices du Département vaudois de l'agriculture, de l'industrie et du commerce.

20.30 Union radiophonique suisse. Programme de Bâle.

21.50 Nouvelles de presse.

Jeudi, 1 Mars.

20.01 Indépendance Neuchâteloise. Concert vocal par le septuor lausannois. (Direction: Ed. Moudon.)

20.30 Concert symphonique relayé de Genève. (Orchestre de la Suisse romande).

Vendredi, 2 Mars.

20.01 "La littérature française pour otus": Le genre historique au moyen âge. Mémoires et chroniques. Geoffroy de Villehardouin et la "Conquête de Constantinople," par M. le professeur Henri Sensine.

20.30 Programme de Berne.

21.50 Nouvelles de presse.

Samedi, 3 Mars.

13.05 Concert par l'Orchestre Godio renforcé, du Restaurant Old India: 1. Salut à la France, marche, Scassola; 2. Les patineurs, valse, Waldteufel; 3. Le Comte de Luxembourg, L'éhar; 4. Boîte à musique, Antiga; 5. Cœur brisé, Gillet; 6. L'Arlesienne, première suite, Bizet.

20.01 Radio-concert: 1. Martha, ouverture, Flo'tow; 2. La voix des cloches, Luigini; 3. L'étoile, valse, Strauss; 4. Manon Lescaut, fantaisie, Puccini; 5. Chant du soir, Schumann; 6. Les saltimbanques, fantaisie, Ganne.

ZÜRICH, 588 m. 4 kw.:

Montag, 27. Februar.

17.10 Jugendstunde (Heinz Diebold): "Wie das Ford-Auto entsteht."

20.00 Funkbrett: Ein heiteres Programm unter Mitwirkung von Kurt Joachim Baum und Else Karsten vom Schauspielhaus Zürich, Madlen Madsen und Karl Melzer vom Stadttheater Zürich.

Dienstag, 28. Februar.

19.32 Red. A. W. Glogg: "Schmalspurbahnen."

20.00 Romantische Dichtung und Musik, Universitätslektor F. A. Roedemeyer, Frankfurt a.M.

21.10 E. Salghini singt italienische Volkslieder.

Mittwoch, 29. Februar.

17.10 Jugendstunde "Pro Juventute" (Dr. K. Spycher): "Schalttag u. Schaltjahr."

19.32 Clément Berger: "Der König von Rom," II. Teil.

20.00 Sendespielstunde d. "Freien Bühne," Zürich: "Das alte Puppenspiel von Doktor Faust," neu bearbeitet von A. Altherr, Direktor des Kunstgewerbemuseums.

21.00 Unterhaltungs-Konzert.

Donnerstag, 1. März.

17.10 Kinderstunde (Tante Böschenstein): "Der Goldregenbaum," von Maria Batzer.

19.32 Dr. Hugo Debrunner: "Die erste künstlerische Erziehung des Kindes."

20.00 Kleines Konzert, Marcel Saillel, Solo-Oboist d. Tonhalle-Orchesters.

20.30 Alice Müller singt Lieder von Rob. Schumann und Rich. Trunk.

Freitag, 2. März.

20.0 Palmsil-tschech. Abend: 1. Aus den Klavierwerken Chopins, Czieslaw Marek, Zürich (Klavier). Konzert des Hausorchesters. Aus den Werken von Anton Dvorak.

21.00 ca. Schweizerlieder-Stunde: Theo Bachmann, Bariton, singt in unsern vier Landessprachen Volkslieder.

Sonntag, 3. Februar.

17.10 Konzert des Handharmonikaklubs "Edelweiss" Zürich (Dir.: A. Sigg).

19.00 Geläute der Zürcher Kirchen.

19.32 Dipl.-Ing. Robert Spieser, Baden: "Elektrotechnische Neuheiten: Elektrobahnbau."

20.00 Bunter Abend: Mitwirkende: Grete Kaiser und Hans Pawlow vom S-hauspielhaus Zürich; Zunftmusik "Drei Könige" (Leitung: W. Neukomm). Doppelquartett "Alpina."

Sonntag, 4. März.

15.15: Die Stunde der lebenden Schweizerdichter.

16.00 Konzert des Hausorchesters.

17.10: Protestantische Predigt: Pfr. Th. Goldschmid (Wipkingen).

19.32 Kammermusik-Halbstand.

20.30 ca. Lieder zur Laute. I. Teil II. Kaiser aus Wien.

21.00 ca. Wunschkonzert, 1. Teil.

21.20 ca. Lieder zur Laute. II. Teil.

21.40 ca. Wunschkonzert, II. Teil.

FETE NATIONALE.

To the Editor of the *Swiss Observer*.

Dear Sir,—The Swiss Committee for the Fête Nationale of August 1st have sent to the Legation the following letter addressed to the Swiss Clubs abroad:

"Hardly has the last August collection been closed than we venture to approach you again with reference to our coming action. We do so at this early date in order to be able to reach the remotest colonies in good time.

The experiences of former years furnish the proof that our countrymen in other lands are in full understanding and sympathy with the aims and objects of the Swiss Committee for the National Festival, and are always ready to help in Fraternity. This has been the attitude of the Swiss colonies in past years; 140 sections in every part of the globe have assisted in our collection: Frs. 9,253 for badges and Frs. 4,723 in the shape of contributions were poured in from other countries.

On behalf of our Committee we wish to express our sincere thanks to all those who acted in our cause, and also to the generous donors. Our particular thanks are due to our official representatives abroad, our embassies and consulates, for the readiness with which they espoused our cause.

The yield of the next festival day collection is intended for the aged. It is true that there is already an organisation in existence for this purpose, the so-called "Stiftung für das Alter." The recognition of the fact that the number of those who are obliged to spend the evening of their lives in penury and distress has determined the choice of the Swiss Committee for the National Festival. It will be a long time before there is a Federal Fund for the care of the aged, and for the time being application must be made to private assistance. There can be no doubt that our Committee is called upon to help: a sacrifice, on the day of the national festival for those who have passed a life of care and distress is a worthy profession of genuine patriotism.

The collection will be made in the same way as formerly, i.e., by the sale of badges and by voluntary contributions. The badges are sold at Fr. 1 (Swiss) each. Enclosed you will find a specimen, together with an order blank: kindly let us know by return how many badges you require, so that we can deliver them in good time.

We are, of course, fully aware that many of our countrymen abroad are suffering under the pressure of economic conditions, but we have no doubt that they will not withdraw their sympathy from our work, which is both patriotic and useful. We are sure that they will help to prove the truth of the fine motto: "One for all, all for one."

As you have been so good as to give publicity to this appeal on previous occasions I should be greatly obliged if you could see your way to do so again this year.

Thanking you in advance,

I am, Sir, Yours very truly,

F. BORSINGER,

Chargé d'Affaires de Suisse.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Swiss House, 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1., on Wednesday, the 15th February. There were 64 Members present, and the Meeting was preceded by the usual very enjoyable supper.

The President, Mr. A. C. Stahelin, was in the chair and opened the Meeting at 8.15, informing the assembly of the recent death of one of the oldest Honorary Members, Mr. H. Zweifel, who for many years lived in Zurich. The usual silent tribute was paid in his remembrance.

Mr. Stahelin then read out the 39th Annual Report, of which we give a short *résumé* below:

"Although the industrial situation has improved in comparison with 1926, commerce in general has not yet felt the full benefit of the upward tendency discernible in the reports published by leading Banks and Commercial Firms. This is particularly the case in the Export Trades, which we may consider the legitimate sphere of activity of our linguistic compatriots. The further consolidation of foreign currencies has also curtailed still more the chances of obtaining employment for Swiss bank clerks.

Yet it would not be right to conclude that there is no silver lining to the dark clouds overshadowing our horizon. There is, indeed, one very good reason for rejoicing. We have spent our first year in our own home, Swiss House, and the revival of social activities among our members has been very marked and a source of satisfaction to the various Committees. Let us hope that the past year has been the dawn of a new era of drawing our members together, of knitting still closer that bond which unites us regardless of differences of upbringing and speech.

The attendances at the various meetings during the year has increased, and it is to be hoped that a further increase may steadily develop; the different

Dances, held at the Midland Grand Hotel, have also proved a great attraction to the members and their friends.

At the end of 1927 the Society consisted of 16 Honorary Members, 336 Active Members (26 ladies and 310 gentlemen), 16 Corresponding Members, 79 Contributing Members and 53 Contributing Firms and Donors."

Mr. J. Pfaendler, Hon. Secretary of the Education Committee, read out the Report concerning the Education Department and gave us some very interesting news.

"He first of all thanked Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Mr. Borsinger and Dr. Rezzonico, as well as other members of the Swiss Legation, for their generous assistance and the goodwill shown to the Society. He also mentioned that Mr. H. Martin, Hon. President of the Education Committee, was good enough to give two Lantern Lectures, during his recent visit, one evening for the benefit of the members and on another occasion for the students. The Society's thanks were also due to Trustees of the Educational Fund, Messrs. Barbezat, De Brunner, Eichenberger, Gamper and Schupbach.

The Committee held a good many meetings during the year under review, necessitated by the additional work the new home has brought and the increase in students. Based on the monthly average, the total number of students for the whole year amounted to 2,290, as against 1,547 the previous year, which represents an increase of 48%.

The recent visit of National-Councillor Ph. Schmid-Rüdin (Central Secretary of the Swiss Mercantile Society) was also referred to and his great interest, especially his successful endeavours to obtain scholarships for necessitous students from the Swiss Government, was noted with great pleasure.

The Committee's thanks were due to all the teachers of the Day and Evening Classes for their untiring efforts and their splendid services, rendered not only to the students but also to the Society.

The Report of the Evening Classes was rendered by Mr. A. A. Schutz, Hon. Chef de Cours (one of the tellers calling him later 'Chef de Secours'—an office for which there has not yet been a demand at any of the meetings!):

"The number of courses held has again decreased on account of the circumstances mentioned at the beginning of this report. It is, however, gratifying to know that the attendance, expressed in percentage, is better than in previous years, a sign that our young compatriots fully realise the necessity to prepare themselves well for the great fight of life. 30 Language Classes and 11 Short-hand Courses were held in course of the year, and the students sitting for the National Union of Teachers' Examination did great credit to our school and their teachers. From 8 candidates entered 1 obtained a Bronze Medal, 4 a First Class Certificate with Distinction, and the remaining 4 a First Class Certificate."

The first Report of the House Committee covering a whole year in the new home was then read by Mr. J. J. Boos, Hon. Secretary-Treasurer: "The year under review has also been a busy one for the House Committee, and several minor alterations and re-decorations had to be attended to. Special mention must be made of the very comfortable Members' Room, and it is to be regretted that not more use is made thereof.

The House Committee have arranged several Socials, Whist Drives, Jass Evenings, etc., and they will continue doing so in the future. These informal gatherings were greatly enjoyed and hopes were expressed that in the coming year the attendances will grow bigger and bigger.

The following Societies made their Headquarters at Swiss House: The Swiss Institute, which has, however, decided to discontinue activities as from the 31st December, 1927; the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, and the Swiss Benevolent Society. It is noteworthy to mention that they feel very much at home, and the name "Swiss House" thus does not only apply to the building, but is already the one place in London where Swiss meets Swiss irrespective of creed or social standing.

It must further be added that on Friday evenings very interesting lectures are arranged for the students, events to which the members are, of course, also invited, and which ought to be a great attraction, especially to the younger generation.

The four Reports were unanimously accepted by the Meeting with thanks to the different writers.

The Accounts of the various Committees were recommended for acceptance by the Auditors and duly passed.

Two proposals of the House Committee, one of them dealing with the bar, were submitted and accepted after some discussions where the pros and cons as to the closing of the bar on certain evenings were voiced.

The whole Committee then tendered their resignations, and Mr. A. Schupbach, Hon. Member and Trustee to the Educational Fund, was enthusiastically requested to take the chair as President *ad interim*. He first thanked the outgoing Committee for all the work they have done and congratulated them on the success achieved during the past year, and then recommended a re-election *en bloc*. One or two of the Committee Members could not see their way to retain, or preferred to change

over to some other office. The voting was then proceeded with and the result declared a short time afterwards. The further progress and the welfare of the Society were placed in the hands of the President, Mr. A. C. Stahelin; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. M. Paschoud (Chairman of the Education Committee), R. Chappuis (Chairman of the Entertainment Committee) and G. Jenne (Chairman of the House Committee); Hon. Secretary, Mr. O. Jaeggi; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. Brand; Hon. Assist. Secretary, Mr. H. C. Meili; Hon. Assist. Treasurers, Messrs. O. Grob and P. W. Schoop; Librarian, Mr. L. Meyer; Acting Secretary, Mr. A. A. Schutz. *Education Committee*: Messrs. J. Pfaendler, A. A. Schutz, J. H. Attinger, E. Hardmeier and J. H. Buchi. *Entertainment Committee*: Messrs. A. Jufer, J. C. Nussle, J. A. Seiffert and W. Wyss. *House Committee*: Mr. J. J. Boos, Mrs. T. Lunghi-Rezzonico and Messrs. A. Jufer and W. Burren. Press Reporter, Mr. A. A. Schutz; Delegate on the Advisory Board of the Employment Department, Mr. C. Chappuis. Delegates on the Swiss Sports Committee, Messrs. Ch. Strublin, E. Werner and M. Gerig.

Last but not least, it must be mentioned that the outgoing Committee recommended the following nominations for election: as Honorary President, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini; as Honorary Members: Messrs. Chas. A. Barbezat, W. Gamper and W. Eichenberger for their generous assistance and the never-failing interest they have taken in the welfare of the Society as Trustees to the Educational Fund, and Mr. B. Bretscher, the retiring Chairman of the Education Committee, who has over 7 years' uninterrupted and valuable service as a Committee Member to his credit.

We conclude by quoting Mr. Stahelin's last few sentences of his report: "Already a new year is well on its way, and we hope that our next report will be a further chapter of success. The year 1927 has brought us the mixture of ups and downs inevitably connected with any live and growing undertaking. We wish to record our grateful thanks to all our members for their support, and we look forward to their continued co-operation."

Let us trust each other and pull together in true team spirit, preserve us from well-meant but ill-directed interference, and 1928 will be a worthy successor of the years gone by. If every one of us will do his or her full share of work ungrudgingly, be it in Committee or elsewhere, then we must and shall progress." A.A.S.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

Mr. W. Richard, Bellinzona: "The Fight for the Atlantic by the World's Shipping Combines." Mr. G. Burkhardt, Basle: "About Rowing." Mr. P. Aerni, Wichtrach (Berne): "Gymnastics." Mr. A. Honegger: "Reasons for the Depression in the English Spinning Trade." Miss Alice Gautschi, Reinach (Aargau): "Tobacco Industry." Miss Paula Schmitzler, Locarno: "My Native Town, Locarno." Miss F. Huelimann, Kreuzlingen: "Skiing." Mr. Walter O. Vögele, Basle: "English Composers and English Music." Mr. Rud. Grossmann, Zurich: "Mark Twain." Mr. F. Hagmann: "Giving Sight to the Blind (figuratively)."

On Friday last a splendid Lecture, with numerous Lantern Slides, was given by G. E. W. Herbert, Esq., on "Kings in Exile: The Life and History of the Wild Animals."

Saturday: The Excursion on the first nice day of the year was to the Kew Botanical Gardens, a march along the Thames to Richmond; lunch and a walk through the Park. The number of Students formed quite a small army, occupying 4 omnibuses outside.

Drink delicious "Ovaltine" at every meal—for Health!

Pestalozzi Kalendars, 1928
French or German - - - 1/6

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SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB)
74, Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

THE **Annual Dinner and Ball**
WILL BE HELD ON **Thursday, March 15th, at 8 p.m.**
PLEASE BOOK EARLY.
Phone: Museum 908. The Committee.

CITY SWISS CLUB.
Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine **Assemblée Mensuelle** aura lieu le **MARDI, 6 MARS** au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7 h. (prix 6/6).
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 95959).

Ordre du jour:
Procès-verbal. Admissions. Démonstrations. Divers.

The Publisher will be pleased to forward free specimen copies of "The Swiss Observer" to likely subscribers whose addresses may be supplied by readers.

Divine Services.
EGLISE SUISSE (1762), 79, Endell St., W.C.2
(Langue française.)
Dimanche, 26 Février, 11h.: M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.
6.30: M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

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 26. Februar, 11 Uhr morgens und 7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst.
8 Uhr: Chorphode.

BEERDIGUNG.
Beerdigt wurde am 17. Februar Walter BLUM von Matten-Interlaken; geboren am 25. März 1892, gestorben am 14. Februar.

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. Telefon Chiswick 4156.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.
Saturday, 3rd March, 6.45 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance (final) at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras Station, N.W. Tickets 8/6. (See Adv.)
Tuesday, March 6th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting at Paganis, 42, Great Portland Street, W.1. (See Advert.)
Tuesday, March 13th, 1928.—UNIONE TICINESE: Annual Banquet & Ball at Café Monaco, Piccadilly, W.1.
Thursday, March 15th, at 8 p.m.—SCHWEIZERBUND: Annual Dinner and Ball at 74, Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, W.1. (See Adv.)
Saturday, March 31st, at 6.30 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at New Prince's Restaurant, Piccadilly. (See Advert.)