

Swiss Gymnastic Society

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gurandovi successo allegria. Costante Togni, Café Royal, Bexhill."

It was not later than 10 o'clock when the banquet ended in a spirit of complete cheerfulness and the majority of those present adjourned to the Renaissance Room for the dance. However, as soon as the banquet hall was ready for the cabaret it proved a keen competitor to the dance orchestra and managed to allow the dancing enthusiasts to enjoy those few hours in real comfort.

With such good artists as Mr. Charles True (baritone), Messrs. Clapham and Dwyer (famous wireless entertainers), Miss Edith Skinner (soprano), Mr. Claude Chandler (entertainer), "Musicus" and his novelty instruments, Miss Joan Meredith and her violin, and Messrs. Noel Pherns and Jennifer Gwyn (entertainers), those who prefer to be amused while sitting at a table—with something on it—rather than exert themselves at dancing, did not find the time too long. One item which specially pleased the Ticinesi was the singing of Miss Cattaneo (soprano) from Lugano, and we hope to see her on other occasions also.

The evening proved, of course, a much jollier and much more interesting affair than my rather tired narrative, and 2 a.m. came all too soon for most participants, particularly for those Ticinesi who had come from outside London, in order to spend an evening with their friends. Let us hope that we may see them also at some other functions of the Society. We were also very glad at the good number of other Swiss we had with us.

Last, but by no means least, I desire to record the very sincere gratitude of the Unione Ticinese as a whole for the presence of the brothers Monico on this occasion and also for the splendid and generous way in which they treat the Society.

O.B.

FIRST OF AUGUST CELEBRATION.

The Swiss Minister presided on Friday, March 8th, at the Swiss Legation, over the first meeting held by the General Committee for the First of August Celebration of 1929.

This meeting was the sequence of the last one of November 7th, 1928. Most of the Societies in our Colony were represented by their presidents. After a short statement by Mr. P. F. Boehringer, the Chairman of the Organising Committee, it was decided to arrange for a celebration on similar lines as last year; to cover the expenses a financial appeal is to be launched. General satisfaction was expressed at the definite steps which some of the societies had already taken for their co-operation; though the amusement part will be retained the Swiss patriotic cachet will be more in evidence than last year. The whole of the catering arrangements were entrusted to our compatriot Mr. Alfred Schmid, of the Glendower Hotel.

Particulars of the arrangements will be published at a later date, but the Committee will be delighted to receive further suggestions of active co-operation from members of the Colony.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Swiss Minister.

SWISS GYMNASIAC SOCIETY.

The first large Gymnastic Display of the year will take place on Sunday, the 24th March, 1929, at 3.45 p.m. at the Union Helvetia Club, 1, Gerard Place, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1. A large and interesting programme has been arranged for the occasion, comprising individual work by the active members on the Pommel Horse, Horizontal Bar and Parallel Bars, Pyramids, Flag Swinging, etc. The Ladies' Section will perform Drill and Indian Club Swinging, and will also be seen on the Vaulting Horse, whilst the Juniors will give a display of Tumbling. Little Miss Swan will be seen in Speciality Dances, and the customary Indian Club solo of our friend O'Brien will be a feature. It is confidently expected that the Swiss Colony will as usual support the Gymnasts as numerously as possible. A Dance in the evening will conclude the function.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

W. Ruegger, Bregenz: "From Buenos-Aires to Washington." G. Lehmann: "Van Gogh." B. Viret, Lausanne: "Pauperism in Modern Life."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"That Woman in Switzerland should be Granted the Franchise." Proposer, Miss E. Weinmann; Opposer, Miss C. Haselbach.

"That a Boy of a Poor Family in Present Days has No Chance of Succeeding in Life." Proposer, G. Kohler, Lausanne. Opposer, H. Spinner, Zurich.

Friday: A very interesting and instructive lecture was given by R. Cromwell Edwards, Esq. on "The League of Nations."

Sunday: A party of over 200 students visited the Battle Cruiser *London*, which was on view for the Public in the Mouth of the Thames off Tilbury.

Wanted: Translations into English.

Will readers who have the time and inclination occasionally to translate German or French articles into English, for publication in the *Swiss Observer*, kindly send in their names.

J. J. GEILINGER. †

As already announced in our last issue, our highly esteemed compatriot Mr. John James Geilinger died on Saturday, March 9th. The funeral on Thursday, 14th inst., was attended by several members of the Swiss Colony, including Messrs. M. Gerig, E. Werner and J. Zimmermann (City Swiss Club), J. Pfandler and W. Deutsch (Swiss Mercantile Society), R. de Cintra (Swiss Benevolent Society), J. Oltramare, P. F. Boehringer and Mrs. H. Schmid; also Rev. C. H. Hahn, who was present at the service before interment held at St. Saviour's Church, Ealing, the Vicar officiating. Mr. Geilinger was buried beside his wife in Ealing Cemetery. The chief mourners were Mr. Walter H. Geilinger, M.C. and his wife, Mr. Arnold E. Geilinger, A.C.I.I., Miss Edith Geilinger, Mrs. (Emily) Mercer Hollis (née Geilinger) and her husband. It was to be regretted that his eldest son, Mr. J. Werner G. Geilinger, was prevented from attending by illness.

The large number of floral tributes testified to the respect and affection in which this old member of the Swiss Colony has been held for many years past. Besides many individual tributes, beautiful wreaths were sent by the City Swiss Club and the Swiss Mercantile Society. The national flag of his country of origin was symbolised in a wreath presented by Mrs. Grenville Hewitt and her son, Mr. J. Hewitt, old friends of the family.

Mr. John James Geilinger was born in Winterthur on 19th July, 1844. He came to England in 1866, but along with his keen interest in and great admiration for the institutions and spirit of this country, he always retained the most intense affection for Switzerland.

It gave him the greatest delight to visit the land of his birth in 1923, when he was in his eightieth year, and there can be little doubt that this visit, with its revival of old but never forgotten associations, helped to prolong his life. In spite of his long residence in England, Mr. Geilinger remained a Swiss citizen, and this native loyalty was reflected in the enthusiasm with which he associated himself with Swiss organisations in London. Mr. Geilinger was one of the original founders of the City Swiss Club, whose functions it was his pride to attend until failing strength prevented him. He will be remembered for long by all.

A man of pronounced Liberal views, Mr. Geilinger was an early believer in the sober internationalism of which, in later life, he saw the fruit in the League of Nations. He was able to combine the strongest patriotism with respect for the rights of other peoples, and particularly of small nations, and it was this view which made him a strong supporter of the League of Nations Union, the objects of which he felt to be in keeping with his own broad outlook. In addition, Mr. Geilinger was keenly interested in literary and philosophical subjects, and particularly was an ardent admirer of Shakespeare. He was a member of the Shakespeare League and the Shakespeare Reading Society, and his delight in the study and appreciation of the great English playwright's works continued almost till his death. As a member of the Old Playgoers Club, he was a well-known figure at many of their gatherings.

In the business world, Mr. Geilinger was appreciated for his integrity, and on his retirement from active participation in the busy life of Mining Lane, where he was a known personality for over fifty years, he received affectionate testimonials of esteem from the Coffee Brokers Association and many of its members. One of his treasured mementos of his long association with the Coffee Market was a coloured caricature of himself executed by the artist who subsequently became famous for the Vanity Fair cartoons.

His old friends and associates will appreciate that Mr. Geilinger led a rich mental life, and it will be a pleasure to learn that these many intellectual interests held him almost to the last. His faculties did not desert him until nearly the end, which came peacefully, in harmony with his quiet life. A fitting epitaph may be found in a favourite passage from his beloved Shakespeare:—

"We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep."

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Dimanche des Rameaux, 24 Mars, 11h.—"Un Dieu Caché." M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme. —Service de Ste. Cécile.

3h.—Au Foyer: Club missionnaire des enfants. 6.30h.—"Jésus et le monde." M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme. Service de Ste. Cécile.

Vendredi Saint, 29 Mars, 11h.—Service Special avec culte de Cécile et partie musicale.

Lundi de Pâques: Course; rendezvous Waterloo Station 10 a.m., platform 3.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Moutview 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.

(near General Post Office.)

Palmsonntag, den 24. März, 1929.—11 Uhr vorm.: *Confirmation*. Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr: Chorprobe.

Dienstag, den 26. März.—3 Uhr nachm.: Nähverein im "Foyer Suisse."

Karfreitag, den 29. März.—11 Uhr morg.: Gottesdienst und Feier des Heilig. Abendmahls. Kein Abendgottesdienst.

GETAUFT wurden:

Am 16 März 1929: der am 21 September, 1928 geb., Peter Willy Hans JENT, Sohn des Willy Jent und der Frieda Anna geb. Knecht, beide von Winterthur.

Am 20 März 1929: der am 28 Juli 1928 geb., Edmund Joseph MARTIN, Sohn des Ferdinand Alexander Martin von Leuk (Wallis) und der Sophie Marie geb. Lindingger von Wauwil (Luzern.).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, March 23rd, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole.

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