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ONE GUINEA TO BE WON.

A well-wisher has sent us the first half of a story, printed below, offering a Guinea to any reader of *The Swiss Observer* for the best continuation and conclusion of the story submitted to the Editor by MONDAY, the 27th inst., the Editor's decision to be final. We gladly accept the offer, hoping that competitors will give free vent to their imagination in dealing with such a thrilling situation. Here is a chance for those ladies and gentlemen who have, for lack of a theme, not written anything for us up to now.

The Ticket.

They were a very poor couple, as worldly wealth goes, living in a little cottage hidden in an orchard. Both were musicians, he a once famous cellist and she a teacher of the violin at a neighbouring school for young ladies. The disparity in their ages must have been as much as thirty years, for he was known to be past seventy while she was a woman in the best years of her life.

There was also a little baby girl, their own offspring, a pretty, delicate little creature. This child was at once her mother's delight and despair. Being often away on her duties, she left it in the care of her husband, who was supremely indifferent to its existence, being immersed in an old volume of art, science or history. He was an ailing old man, suffering from a chest complaint from which he obtained comparative relief only in the height of summer. By birth a Venetian of noble descent, he could carry himself still with a pride and haughtiness tolerable only in an Italian. Disdainful of his humble position, he was yet keenly sensitive to outside criticism; much given to moodiness, he could at times show flashes of hatred and cruelty for no visible reason and to the most unsuspecting persons.

But his was the splendid culture of a well-bred, mature mind, of a man travelled and versed in the ways of the world. Perhaps it was not so much the vastness of the knowledge he possessed as the very apparent superiority of mind that impressed one so much. Above all, he was a great artist, childlike and simple in moments of absorption, impatient and intolerant of imperfections. The manysidedness and comprehension of his mind were astounding.

His wife, though in good health, was of the too the greater sufferer. She had married him out of pity one winter when he was lying ill in London without the means to seek relief. She had taken him into the country to the little cottage in the orchard, and there she set to scheming how best to earn the necessary money to maintain them both. Amidst the superfluity of gramophones and broadcasting, this was a bitter struggle for a music mistress. The number of her pupils at the young ladies' school fell off rather than increased; grown up persons had more important things to do than house music and children were no longer expected to have a working knowledge of bow and strings.

Once she had been a bright, eager country lass, with a keen love for music. Accustomed to conscientious work at all times, her progress was slow but steady and her London studies had fined her down to a painstaking and self-supporting musician. But she was not a born artist—just an art-loving woman. When the two met she adored his art and he her womanhood; she married him out of pity for his suffering, but his contempt for her music was none the less great because he never expressed it. For some time she had resisted his repeated offers of marriage, but his purposeful nature prevailed in the end.

An unusually hard and bitter winter had played havoc with the poorly-built cottage in the orchard. The roof was never meant to withstand such a weight of snow, and the cynical work of the plumber in placing the water pipes in the most exposed positions had never borne better fruit. The poor contraption called a combined range and hot water system ate coal by the ton, but failed to give value in heat.

Imagine the wretched existence of our three friends and their intense longing for the first signs of spring. Yet even the spring was late that year, and biting winds kept the hills bare for weeks beyond their time. The long confinement brought the old musician almost to the end of his endurance. Had he been alone to sit with a volume in front of the fire, or to bring back the past in the strains of his beloved cello, or to doze in blissful forgetfulness of the surrounding misery, it would have rendered his circumstances bearable. But the constant interruptions of the fretful child, the many distasteful small duties of the household, tried his spirits to the uttermost limit. At times he would rage through the house like a caged animal and threaten the child with destruction, at others he would throw himself across a bed or a chair, sobbing like a man demented and cursing his destiny.

The woman dreaded to enter the house each day on her return. Weary and exhausted, the fear of an imminent calamity gradually obsessed her and froze her heart whenever she approached the door. This existence went on day by day; the winter seemed interminable and all hope seemed dead. With the advent of spring, however, a small and insignificant gift by a woman friend, the wife of a bank clerk, had the power to restore to her a more hopeful outlook, to bring some colour back into her cheeks and to subject her to emotions of an intensity she had never known hitherto. The gift consisted of a small piece of paper, on which was written in pencil a capital letter, followed by a number, representing a ticket in the Calcutta Derby Sweepstake.

(To continue.)

"AUDAX."

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Spring has come. The number of the members present at the last meeting held at Pagani's on May 7th is a sign thereof. The call of the garden to the horticulturist, the training in view of the Swiss Sports, have had their effect. But the faithful are always with us.

At this meeting three visitors were present, among whom may be mentioned Mr. L. Marchand, the great and worthy brother of our esteemed member Mr. René Marchand. Mr. L. Marchand replied to the toast of "The Visitors" with a few *paroles émuës*.

After the minutes of the last meeting had been read, Mr. Gerig, who, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Boehringer, ably directed the activities of the night, congratulated the Secretary on the extraordinary lucidity of the minutes and the admirable way in which he had so accurately described all that had taken place at the last meeting.

Four new members were elected and duly admitted to membership of the Club.

Donations were voted towards the expenses of the First of August Celebration, the Swiss Sports and the new Radiological Installation for the French Hospital, a notice about which appeared in a recent number of the *Swiss Observer*.

The President announced that the summer meetings will be held on Tuesday, June 4th and on Tuesday July 2nd, at the Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon.

We venture to hope that the weather will be fine and we have heard that the Committee has prepared several surprises and is making a special effort to ensure the success of the meetings this year. We understand, however, that these surprises are being kept a secret, like the dates of the offensives during the war. We are also glad to hear that Mr. C. Chapuis has been appointed M.C., as it was largely due to his initiative and untiring efforts that the Cinderellas during the last session were so successful, and we would therefore recommend members to make a note of the dates.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

(The figure in parentheses denotes the number of the issue in which the subscription expires.)

Ch. de Maria (431), Secretariat des Suisses (432), Mrs. A. Elliott (406), M. F. Corbaz (436), E. Schmid (438), J. Halperin (413), F. Schmidt (439), A. Jacomelli (440), P. Oswald (440), George Ruff (414), Ad. Schmid (440), G. E. Schoop (401), Mrs. B. C. Hossack (441), Miss O. A. Müller (402), F. Schaerer (441), E. Schefer (441), M. A. Mauch-Modica (442), W. Pellet (442), Sig. P. Devincenzi (442), Dr. A. Schedler (442), Chas. E. Wietlisbach (403), Victor Kolb (404), E. A. Scheidegger (404), Dr. Carlo Sommaruga (417), C. O. Brullhard (444), A. Dufour (444), L. Schær (451), C. J. Reinhart (442), J. E. Froehlich (416), Miss L. Fouy (403), C. Kunzle (443), Paul Eichenberger (418), A. Gamper (444), A. Künzler (444), A. J. Steiner (445), O. Steiner (406), Mrs. T. Andreoli (406).

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

F. Hafter, Baden: "Poor People." E. Locher, Baden: "Jean Jaurès." Miss C. Stoffel, Samaden: "Here and there in Italy." Miss M. Fertig, Orbe: "Longfellow." J. Anderhub, Eschenbach-Lucerne: "Unemployment." H. Wucher, Zurich: "Southampton." O. Ernst, Huettwilen: "Speculation on the Stock Exchange." O. Flury, Bienne: "Watch Industry." M. Bruggisser, Wohlen: "Straw Industry." O. Amstad, Zurich: "The Romans in England." W. Boesiger, Burgdorf: "The Food Supply of the Swiss Army." Miss E. Schenk, Burgdorf: "Summer Holidays." A. Bernhard, Baeretswil: "Observations in a Café." M. Meier, Baden: "London at Night." Miss H. Wehrli, Thalwil: "Winter Holidays." M. Grellet, Lausanne: "Against Jaurès."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Should Doctors be Permitted to End the Sufferings of an Incurable Patient?" Proposer, Miss. C. Fischer.

"Do you Prefer the English to the Swiss Character?" Proposer, E. Bendel; Opposer, P. Vidoudez.

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Shooting Range: Opposite Welsh Harp, Hendon.

Swiss Sports Shooting Competition

will be decided during the week-end

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Dimanche, 19 Mai. *Pentecôte*. 11h.: "Plus de Temple" (Apoc. XXI, 22). Ste. Cène. M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

7h.: Service de Cène, suivi de la *Soirée d'Adieux des Missionnaires Romands* (M. et Mme Leresche, M. et Mme Béguin, Mlles Armand et Toedtli). Invitation spéciale à chacun.

Lundi, 20 Mai.: Promenade dans le Bucks. Rendezvous 10 a.m., Marylebone Station.

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.
(near General Post Office.)

Pfingsten, den 19. Mai 1929.—11 Uhr vorm.: Gottesdienst und Feier des Heilig. Abendmahls. Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst und Feier des Heilig. Abendmahls.

Pfingstmontagsausflug nach Chalfont St. Giles. Sammellort: Baker Street (Metro. Station) um 10.45.

GETRAUT wurden am 11 Mai in der Kirche: Wilhelm Karl WAGNER von Basel und Susanna Angelina Inez VALLERANI von Sorriso (Provincia di Novara), Italien.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday and Sunday, May 18th and 19th.—SWISS RIFLE ASSOC.: Swiss Sports Shooting Competition at Shooting Range, opposite Welsh Harp, Hendon.

Friday, May 24th, at 8.15 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOC.: Lantern Lecture on "A Visit to Biskra: Life in an Oasis of the Sahara," by Seymour Kimpton, Esq., B.A., at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, May 25th, at 2.30.—SWISS SPORTS at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.

Wednesday, June 12th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOC.: Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Thursday, June 13th, at 6 p.m.—60me SOIREE ANNUELLE SUISSE at Caxton Hall, Victoria Street, W.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOC.: Every Saturday and Sunday, Shooting Practice on the Rifle Range near the Welsh Harp, Hendon.

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