

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1945)

Heft: 1038

Rubrik: Nouvelle société helvétique

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 14.03.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

we are witnessing a tendency, the repercussion of which, if not arrested, will do harm to our social structure. He sees the danger in too much technical and scientific training at the expense of the cultural values. Through excess of learning of a purely scientific character, the mind becomes alien to the realities of life and loses reverence for the human values; the result is what someone defined as "specialised ignorance." Our own Pestalozzi was aware of this when he observed that technical, scientific or artistic training becomes a danger when imparted to those unfit to receive it or to use it constructively.

Cultural values, the speaker affirmed, are not taken seriously nowadays; true there is a greater demand for books, but this is no criterion, and the fact remains that personal culture is no longer an aim in itself. The remedy lies in a reform of our methods of education, to provide more room for the teaching of the moral and cultural values. Better no school at all, stated the speaker, if the spirit of individual initiative is not taught in them, and he quoted Flaubert "le génie n'est pas rare, mais ce qu'il faut avoir c'est la conscience." The speaker sees a further threat to democracy in the abuse of controls, centralisation, and over-planning; they each lead to new chaos, and create a situation in which the individual will to participate in the life of the nation and accept responsibility is destroyed. It must be one of the chief concerns of every high thinking man to give his whole-hearted co-operation to the peace-time purposes of democracy and emulate our great Vinet when he said "C'est pour servir que nous sommes libres."

The needs of the moment create an international solidarity of all sane forces, and Switzerland has her moral responsibility and her part to play in this post-war reconstruction of democracy. Five years of isolation have engendered at home a certain fatigue and economically and spiritually the atmosphere is somewhat stuffy; especially as regards the young generation, Switzerland is in need of fresh air. The notion of material security first must give way to a new appreciation of the higher spiritual values of national life. From the humanitarian work which Switzerland pursued during the war years, she must now turn to a humanistic fight for national revival. The leaders of Swiss conscience must give the nation its directives.

It is felt at home that Federalism as we know it, offers a sure basis for a new European structure. Small States—and Neutral at that—are not over-popular nowadays, and yet small entities will always have their part to play. They feel the urge to increase in vital spirit what they lack in vital space.

Nations will choose their leaders among the better organisers, the most specialised or the more ruthless, but a fighting humanism, a feeling of conscience allied to an ideal of justice, is a sounder and more solid basis on which to rebuild. This, the speaker concluded, Switzerland can offer as her contribution towards reconstruction of democracy.

Dr. Zbinden answered with erudition various questions put to him by members of his audience, and the meeting was brought to a close by the Chairman, Mr. A. F. Suter, and the Swiss Minister, Mr. P. Ruegger, who, in some well-chosen words, both expressed to the lecturer the gratitude of those present for his eloquent and spirited address.

M.R.

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.

We are pleased to announce that the S.S.E. in Berne has sent to London a copy of the famous film "MARIE LOUISE," a film which depicts the life of French refugee children in Switzerland during the war. Marie Louise, the little heroine, has been placed with a family in the Canton Berne, where she is very happy and it is most amusing to listen to the ease and fluency of a conversation carried on in French and Bärner-tüütsch simultaneously.

The film has had an excellent reception in Lisbon and elsewhere in Europe; it is a non-propaganda reel, but gives a very clear conception of the benefit these children have derived from their stay in our country, and of their gratitude. The film is supplied with English sub-titles.

Arrangements are now being made to show the film in London during September next, and all details will be made public in due course.

The Committee.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Monthly Meeting.

The Monthly Meeting of the City Swiss Club took place on Tuesday, July 3rd, at Brown's Hotel, and was preceded by a dinner.

About eighty Members and Guests were present. Mr. Bon, the President welcomed Monsieur Ruegger, the Swiss Minister and expressed his pleasure at seeing amongst the guests, Monsieur Escher, Counsellor of Legation and successor to Monsieur Girardet.

After the agenda had been dealt with, Mr. C. Wüthrich, M.I.E.E. read a paper on "Celtic Numismatics in Switzerland," dealing with various aspects of pre-historic and pre-Roman evolution in our country, and the coins which were then minted and/or in use, by the tribes.

This highly interesting subject was presented in a very attractive manner by the speaker, who was ably assisted by Mr. Fer showing a number of lantern slides, also a few of the actual coins were shown. Following the suggestion of some of the members this lecture will be published shortly in the "Swiss Observer."

The President warmly thanked Mr. Wüthrich for his excellent address, which, judging from the applause rendered was highly appreciated by the members. Monsieur Ruegger, also extended thanks to the lecturer for having presented an interesting subject in a masterful and attractive manner.

Close of the Meeting 9 o'clock.

ST.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

We hope to go to press again on Friday, August 31st, 1945, and take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their enlarged subscription: P. Bornand, A. F. Gubeli, W. Beckmann, A. Grau, H. Epprecht, Ch. Fer, A. Kunzler, P. Moll, M. A. Oboussier, Miss E. Tschäetli, F. Haegler, W. O. Marbach, E. Schefer, W. C. Bosshardt, N. V. Sowden, A. F. Frickart, H. J. Morff, J. H. Berger, P. Lequint, J. Heimerdinger, Swiss Y.M.C.A.