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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE

The London Group of the N.S.H. has not been much heard of in the "Swiss Observer" lately on account of not having a regular reporter. It is nonetheless very much alive and kicking. It has in fact had a succession of unusually interesting and enjoyable evenings since the resumption of activities after the summer recess, all of which were well attended. And it has an equally exciting program in store for the first half of the new year starting as usual with the Annual Film Show on Thursday, 21st January. It is to be followed on 18th February by a talk of Madame Sophie Wyss, the distinguished Swiss lieder singer from Neuveville, on her career in England. Our Colony will thus be afforded an opportunity to pay its due homage to this great artist who has done much for the Swiss musical reputation in England as well as for the younger generation of British composers.

The last meeting of the N.S.H. was also devoted to Swiss music following a delightfully simple pre-Christmas Dinner on 15th December. By courtesy of our Ambassador, a selection of "Expo" Festival discs of "Swiss Composers through the Ages" was played to a most appreciative audience comprising ancient, classic and more modern music in gay as well as serious moods, and acquainting us with distinguished masters hitherto scarcely known to most of us. It is hoped to repeat such evenings devoted to further selections from this wonderful edition of Swiss discs.

The new season of N.S.H. meetings was opened on 22nd September by a talk on "Picturesque Egypt" by Monsieur W. Roch, First Secretary at our Embassy, before his return to Berne. His French commentary delighted his audience as much as the wonderful coloured slides with which he illustrated his talk.

On 20th October Mr. A. Keller fascinated the N.S.H. meeting by a most instructive talk on the development, achievements and problems of Swissair in particular and aviation in general. To complete the pleasure of his audience he showed us a number of more recent Swissair films of entrancing beauty transporting us to Greece and other far off places we all hope to visit one day — by Swissair no doubt.

Yet another talk of foreign lands as seen through Swiss eyes was given on 17th November by Monsieur Max Feller, our new Commercial Counsellor. Having spent over four years in Brazil looking after Switzerland's economic and financial interests, and lecturer was able to present a most captivating story of this enormous country, its very mixed population and varying modes of life, its modernity alongside poverty and primitive conditions, and above all its unsurpassed natural beauty, which he illustrated by his own coloured slides of rare distinction.

The N.S.H. continues to benefit greatly by the charming atmosphere of the Swiss Hostel for Girls where its meetings are held, preceded by modest refreshments. All the meetings are open to the public and all Swiss and friends of members are especially welcome.

E.

CESARE FERRARI †

*"Sfiorire, rifiorir . . . e al gran comando
che voi, nuvole, senza fine muove,
ubbidir mi pareva, io pure, andando."*

(F. CHIESA, *Sonetti*.)

His many friends will be shocked to learn that Cesare Ferrari passed away suddenly at his home at Waverton Cottage, The Avenue, Tadworth, Surrey, on Sunday morning, 3rd January 1965, aged 54 years.

The deceased was well known in the Colony, having taken an active part in former years in social activities. He was a member of the "Unione Ticinese" for many years, being President from 1942 until 1946. During his term of office he effected the revision of the "Statuto".

Although he had been born in London, he was taken to the Canton Ticino at an early age, where, the first World War intervening, he had grown up and received his schooling at Dangio d'Aquila and at the Kollegium at Schwyz. After his return to England he entered the food trade as a salesman with Ferns of Rathbone Place, then with Belloni's of Charlotte Street, and, finally, in wines and spirits with Messrs. F. S. Matta Ltd. of which he lately became a director.

Everybody who had the good fortune to meet "Ces" could not fail to be infected by his charm and geniality as his many friends in the Swiss Colony, and the Italian Colony, in London as well as in the Provinces, readily testify.

To so grievously bereaved Mafalda, to sons Julian and Paul, and to his mother (a sturdy octogenarian) and sister Nina and their families we extend deepest sympathy and sincere condolences.

"Ciao, Cesare!"

PEPPIN.

PIANO RECITAL ANNETTE WEISBROD

Miss Annette Weisbrod has delighted the Swiss communities in various parts of Great Britain with her piano recitals. It is with great pleasure that we announce her appearance at a Musical Evening arranged at the Midland Hotel in Manchester on Friday, 5th February, at 8 p.m. by the Swiss Club Manchester. Mr. Walter Grimmer, violoncello, will also take part in the recital, and works by Brahms, Schumann, Bartók, Halffter and Francaix will be performed.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Publication date of our next issue will be Friday, 12th February. We shall be glad to receive reports and articles not later than Wednesday, 3rd February. Short news items only can be accepted later.

HOW TO JOIN A SWISS SOCIETY

The Editor is occasionally asked by newcomers to the Swiss Community in Great Britain why the "Swiss Observer" does not carry a list of all the Swiss Societies and their activities. Seeing that there are two score and more, it is not possible to include such a list in the limited space available. Anybody interested should apply to the Editor who will be happy to give the necessary information.