

Smoking Concert of the Swiss Mercantile Society

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EGLISE SUISSE.

79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

- 25 Mars 11h.—Service du Vendredi Saint
—M. Hoffmann-de Vismé.
- 27 Mars 11h. & 6.30.—Jour de Pâques.
—M. Hoffmann-de Vismé.
— Cultes de Cène, en français, matin
et soir.
- 3 Avril, 11h.—M. Boissonnas.
— 6.30.—Gottesdienst in "Schwyzer-
dütsch."—M. Bertschinger.

NOUV. SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL,
MARCH 16TH.

- Four candidates are admitted; notice is taken of one resignation.
- A Press Commission is to be appointed. The Secretary is charged with inviting Swiss journalists resident in London to a constitutional meeting.
- Resolved: All communications to members, issued by the London Group, shall henceforth be published in English.
- Mr. de Traz reports on the question of the vote by Swiss citizens living abroad. The Council requests him to press the C.C. to continue the study of the question.
- Mr. de Traz reports on the recent activity of the C.C.: Reconstruction of the Ticino Group, question of the recruiting-examinations, affair Moersen, question of water-ways and its submission to a Court of Arbitration, problem of naturalisation.
- Mr. Secrétan is elected delegate to the Comité de la Fête Suisse.
- Resolved: The Council will take notice of such proposals only as are forwarded to the Committee in writing.

GENERAL MEETING, MARCH 18TH,
STEINWAY HALL.

Mr. Robert de Traz, Chef du Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Étranger, gave a substantial lecture on "Les activités du Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Étranger." The Secretariat is actually corresponding with 35 foreign groups; their number has more than tripled within the past eighteen months. They are, of course, very different in size and resources, but all are animated by the same ardent zeal, the group of Beira with its 15 members, of whom 8 belong to the Committee, not less than the very rich group of Alexandria. The interesting lecture brought about an exhaustive discussion. The lecturer did his best to answer the manifold questions. Everybody felt extremely satisfied with the meeting.

On March 17th Mr. de Traz delivered at East End College a lecture, which he will repeat at University College on March 22nd, on "Le Rôle des Petites Nations." He endeavoured to make clear to the English public that small nations, though they may be treated nowadays too often as "quantité négligeable," especially on account of their in-

significant military or economic power, none the less have many achievements to their credit in the realms of Culture. Aeschylus, Dante, Michel Angelo, Rubens, Rousseau and Spitteler were citizens of small nations, and Nietzsche, son of a big nation, found a haven in a small one, and created there his wonderful works, a proof that these surroundings were at least not fatal for his genius. But still greater are the merits of small nations in the promotion of humanitarian matters. The International Court of Arbitration is located in a small country; the Red Cross is a creation of a small nation. Mr. de Traz's lecture aroused great interest at East London College, where Mrs. Perry welcomed our guest and Sir Sidney Lee was in the Chair.

Dr. PAUL LANG,
Secretary.SMOKING CONCERT OF THE
SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The social gatherings, organised by the S.M.S., maintain their old reputation as extremely enjoyable functions, always marked by a spirit of good comradeship and the zest with which all present take part in the programme.

The Smoking Concert held on Wednesday, 16th inst., in the large hall at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1, was a complete success. The Committee of the S.M.S. had provided the maximum of entertainment of a simple and national character to the members, friends and sympathisers, of which about 120 were present. Our Minister, M. Ch. R. Paravicini, was among the guests, as well as the following gentlemen: Col. Eug. Borel, President of the Mixed Arbitral Tribunals, Mr. A. Palliser, formerly Director of the London office of the S.S.S., Mr. H. Martin, Attaché Commercial, Messrs. Geo. Dimier, Ch. A. Barbezat, Alex. Baume, F. Haegler, A. Duruz, J. Schad, F. Zogg, J. G. Hasler, J. C. Rathgeb, W. Tanner.

On the top table, in front of the President, Mr. Ern. Werner, was a huge basket of red and white flowers, to symbolise the national colours of Switzerland. When everyone had enjoyed a splendid supper, Mr. Werner welcomed the guests, and pointed out the vital importance of our diplomatic representation in Great Britain, and that the welfare of our country depended now at least as much on London as on Paris and Rome, which seats of Legations were considered to be of utmost importance in pre-war days. "Every Swiss abroad," he said, "even the youngest and humblest, is a kind of representative of his country, who in his sphere of activity, whatever it may be, can assist, or do harm, to our cause. He can, even in his small circle, through his personal conduct in this hospitable country, either facilitate, or render more difficult, the strenuous task of our Minister and of the gentlemen who assist him." Mr. J. Pfaendler then proposed a toast to Switzerland, the country of our constant thoughts. Our Minister, M. Ch. R. Paravicini, expressed his regrets for not having been able to attend the Dinner arranged in his honour by the S.M.S. a few months ago, as an

important engagement had prevented his presence on that occasion. It was a special pleasure for him to state that he had attended the functions of the S.M.S. as long as a generation ago, as an official of the Swiss Legation in Great Britain, and that he was proud now in his capacity of Minister to be again amongst the members of this very prosperous and active Society. Other very splendid speeches were delivered by Col. Borel, Mr. A. Palliser and Mr. H. Martin. The latter praised the Committee, particularly Mr. F. Eggenberger, Chef de Cours, on their record success this year in organising and carrying out classes for 200 pupils for English, French, Spanish, Italian and Russian. Later in the evening a dear old friend of the S.M.S., Mr. Geo. Dimier, addressed to his countrymen a few words on his recent sporting holiday in the beautiful Engadine. All the speeches were of a very appreciative fervour, and were received with enthusiastic acclamations by all.

The musical part of the evening was also a real treat indeed, and a full success. The principal organiser, Mr. C. Kiefer, had secured great talents amongst the Swiss Colony in London to play and sing on this occasion, and his own "Schnitzelbank" proved that he is a perfect entertainer as well as a most appreciable member of the S.M.S. The playing of Mr. Raym. Chappuis of "Marche des vieux Camarades" and "Campane a Sera" was received with great ovation. Mr. A. Pressia, with his violin, delighted the audience, as everyone had to admit he is a very gifted youth. Mlle. Chevallay was in splendid form. Her mezzo-soprano was heard to great effect, and received well merited encores. An item that caused much pleasure was the "Jodeling" of Mr. W. Roos, accompanied on the "Handorgele" by Mr. Ch. Aeschmann. The Swiss Choral Society, composed of members of the "Union Helvetia," "Schweizerbund" and the "Swiss Mercantile Society," reflected great credit on their conductor, Mr. M. Pestou.

At the close of this very pleasant evening, Mr. E. Werner expressed the thanks of the S.M.S. to all the artistes who had so admirably contributed to the enjoyment of all present, as well as to Mr. Aug. Wyss for his catering, which left nothing to be desired. The evening terminated with the singing of the National Anthem by the whole audience. M. A. B.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, April 5th.—CITY SWISS CLUB.—Annual General Meeting and Supper at 6.30.

Saturday, April 9th, 6.30 p.m.—Swiss Mercantile Society.—CINDERELLA at the Midland Grand Hotel, N.W.1 (postponed from March 26th).

Saturday, April 23rd, 7.30 p.m., Annual Dinner of the Schweizerbund, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.