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SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY

We would direct the attention of our readers to the announcement appearing elsewhere in our columns regarding the Grand Evening Concert (Conductor: Mr. L. Pestou) in aid of London Hospitals, to be held in King George's Hall, Tottenham Court Road, W.1, on Friday, the 28th inst., at 7.45 p.m. A most attractive programme has been arranged, which should afford a real treat to all music lovers. The excellence alike of the entertainment and the object to which the proceeds will be devoted should ensure a bumper attendance.

UNION HELVETIA.

The Annual Dinner and Ball to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the foundation of the English Branch took place at the Clubhouse, 1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Avenue, W., on Friday, October 7th. Over a hundred members and friends assembled in the large hall, which, in addition to the national and cantonal escutcheons, exhibited an abundance of floral decorations. Mr. François J. Borsinger, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires, occupied the chair, and was accompanied by Dr. Max Oederlin and Dr. Paul Ritter.

After the company had sat down to dinner the President of the Society, Mr. F. Rohr, ventured on a new departure from the old-established custom by forthwith introducing the many guests. He referred in gratifying terms to the official representatives of our Legation, and then welcomed the delegates of the following societies:—

SECOURS MUTUEL (Messrs. Colomb & Audemars).
FONDS DE SECOURS (Mr. G. Dimier).
CITY SWISS CLUB (Mr. G. Laemlé).
UNIONE TICINESE (Mr. S. Biucchi).
SCHWEIZERBUND (Mr. F. Bürgin).
SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY (Messrs. E. Werner and J. Pfändler).
NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE (Dr. P. Lang).
SWISS GYMNASIAC SOCIETY (Mr. J. Sermier).
SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY (Mr. J. Manzoni).
U.H. ADMINISTRATIVE (Mr. J. Emmenegger).
U.H. CLUB COMMISSION (Mr. F. Maeder).
U.H. HARROGATE (Mr. A. Schmidt).
CATERING ASSOCIATION (Mr. J. W. Edwards).
"SWISS OBSERVER" (Mr. P. F. Boehringcr).

The two loyal toasts having been given by the Chairman and Mr. Tschanz (a member of the Committee), Mr. G. Dimier rose to return thanks in the name and on behalf of the visitors, stating how happy he felt himself in the company of such charming ladies. Having by some well-chosen compliments succeeded in softening their hearts, he applied himself in a more serious strain to opening and lightening the pockets of the gentlemen present. He referred to the trying circumstances in which a good many of our less fortunate compatriots found themselves in this country as a result of the continued wave of general unemployment, and impressed upon us the heavy additional financial burden which the Swiss Benevolent Society had to shoulder in order to alleviate

these sufferings. He had never appealed in vain, but he desired to lay stress on the self-sacrificing services which in these times the members of the Swiss Benevolent Society were called upon to render: in this work Mr. F. Rohr took a most active and ardent interest. He had no wish to go into figures, but he sincerely hoped that everybody would go home to-night not only with the remembrance of an enjoyable evening, but also with the knowledge and satisfaction of having done his duty to his country. (The collection subsequently made and announced later in the evening produced the handsome sum of £14). The toast of the "Union Helvetia" was next proposed by the President. Mr. F. Rohr, briefly recapitulating the aims of the Society, stated that they had felt the inevitable effects of the last six years; their total assets now amounted to £45,000, whilst from the various benefit funds, such as Sick, Old Age, Invalid, and Assistance, they had paid out up to December last year over £40,000. There were 52 branches in Switzerland, 15 in America, 13 in Italy, 11 in France, and 8 in England (London comprising nearly 700 members), with a total membership of over 7,000. He alluded to the new tendencies in the management of the Central Society at home, and expressed the hope that in time they would mitigate existing grievances and give hotel employees similar rights to those enjoyed by other workers. In conclusion Mr. Rohr expressed his appreciation of those who during the past had given of their best for the good of the Society, and singled out Mr. F. Maeder, Hon. Member, Mr. M. Wullschleger, Hon. President, and Mr. I. Emmenegger, President of the Administrative for Great Britain. He also greeted Mr. E. Neuschwander and Mr. M. de Bry, Hon. Member.

The toast of "The Ladies," which a popular adept on previous occasions had made the feature of the evening, was given by Mr. J. Elmiger, who acquitted himself of his task by offering to take charge of the ladies for the remainder of the evening.

Before adjourning for the ball, the chairman, Mr. Borsinger, rose to say how pleased he was to represent his chief, Mr. C. R. Paravicini, who was at present in Switzerland. The Legation wished at all times to be of service to all, and the most effective way was to maintain contact with their countrymen; he was very grateful to the Union Helvetia for giving him this opportunity to-night.

Mr. Rohr suitably replied and thanked all the participants for their presence, adding that he owed a debt of gratitude to the members of his committee for the successful arrangements, especially to Mr. and Mrs. Wyss, who excelled in their endeavour to give everybody an enjoyable evening.

During the dinner a number of admirable entertainments were interposed. The Swiss Choral Society, under the able conductorship of Mr. Pestou, rendered three songs with a perfection which augurs well for the success of their forthcoming concert. Two songs by Mr. Herbert Cave, the well-known tenor, were rewarded with prolonged applause, and the Jodel songs of Mrs. Aebersold transported us for a few minutes into the heart of our mountains.

These different diversions helped considerably to enliven the gathering, which at the beginning seemed to be somewhat serene; this, of course, may have been due to the demands of the inner man, as the dinner was served later than the advertised time, more than one of the customary academic quarters having passed. One could not help noticing that the speeches did not evoke that response which the speaker looks forward to for encouragement; the proceedings began to liven up only after Mr. Dimier had commanded his characteristic "bans."

The ball, which started at 11.30, continued till an early hour of the morning, when the stern hand of the law imposed an unkindly finish.

SWISS INSTITUTE.

(Communicated.)

On Friday, Oct. 7, about 150 members and friends gathered at 28, Red Lion Square, for the opening meeting of the winter season of the Swiss Institute, when Mr. and Mrs. Percy Merriman gave a Dramatic and Humorous Concert.

Both our guests are highly gifted artists, and such recitals as Wood's "The Bandit Chief," Anstey's "At a Wedding," Foss's "Hullo" and others were all remarkably well delivered by Mr. Merriman and pleased the audience immensely. Mrs. Merriman's very charming and vivacious rendering of some songs of her repertoire met with great success.

The audience was greatly impressed by the dramatic talent displayed by both artists in their rendering of the "Quarrel Scene" from Sheridan's "The School for Scandal" and expressed their delight by repeated and warm applause.

In the concluding item, "Some proposals of Marriage," acted with great spirit by Mr. and Mrs. Merriman, the audience had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with Mr. Merriman's talent as an author.

It was altogether a pleasant evening, for which we are very grateful to the two artists.

"An evening with Mendelssohn" was the subject of Mr. Walter Marlow's lecture on Friday, the 14th inst., and it proved to be a most interesting and instructive evening.

The lecturer very ably outlined the history, the character and the work of the great composer, musician and conductor, who captured musical London of the thirties and forties of last century by his genius and the charm of his personality.

The attention given to the lecturer by the audience was altogether well deserved and well repaid.

A few musical items rendered by members of the Swiss Institute Orchestra served to illustrate Mendelssohn's music and were warmly applauded.

EGLISE SUISSE

79, ENDELL STREET, W.C.2.

Dimanche, 23 Oct., 11h.—

M. E. Boissonnas.

6.30.—Pfarrer Wildbolz.

Dimanche, 30 Oct., 11h.—M. le Pasteur

Hoffmann-de Visme.

6.30.—"Musical Service."

Invitation cordiale à chacun.

Le Jeudi, les jeunes Suissesses sont toutes invitées à l'Eglise dès 4 heures.