

Correspondence

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LA NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

(Communicated.)

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

October 19th, 1921,

at 74, Charlotte Street, W.

1. Eight resignations were noted. The Group at present consists of 552 members.

2. The President read a circular letter from the S.S.E. to the effect that in the beginning of December a conference would take place at Berne, organised by the S.S.E., to which all the National and State Councillors would be invited. At this conference the officials of the S.S.E., aided by as many delegates of the Swiss abroad as possible, will explain to the members of both Houses present the situation and the aspirations of the Swiss abroad. It was agreed that Dr. Latt should attend this meeting on behalf of our Group.

3. The Secretary made a few communications relating to his collaboration with the English press and other items.

His trip to the provinces will take place this week. He will speak at Bradford on the 26th, at Manchester on the 28th, and at Nottingham on the 29th.

4. A report of the Entertainment Committee was read out and agreed to. An informal dinner will take place on Friday, 11th November, to which members will be invited by a special circular.

5. The President of the Propaganda Committee presented an oral report. Three sittings of this committee have already taken place, but the main bulk of their proposals will only be brought before the Council at its next meeting.

6. The monthly report of the Treasurer was agreed to.

CAUSERIE ON HENRI FRÉDÉRIC AMIEL.

by the Rev. Hoffmann-de Visme,

on October 21st, 1921,

at the Steinway Hall, W.1.

It was a monstrous task to be asked to expose the life and the personality of Henri Frédéric Amiel to any audience. It was therefore quite natural that the Rev. Hoffmann deemed it necessary to apologise at the beginning of his causerie for what he was not going to say. Yet if we did not hear many details of the outer events of Amiel's life—if ever they were worth recording—Mr. Hoffmann at any rate succeeded in giving us a psychological sketch of this extraordinary personality which was well worth listening to.

The Genevese thinker, who was born one hundred years ago and died forty years ago, is, in fact, a European celebrity, but not so much on account of any creative power, of any remarkable work or outstanding act of his, but rather because he was a type of man in whom some destructive tendencies of the last century had manifested themselves in the utmost degree. He was endowed originally with many remarkable capacities, artistic and intellectual ones, but by some strange fatality he did not succeed in letting his academic career have the full benefit of his vast experience, nor did he know how to construct the works of art of which he was

such an enthusiast. As professor of philosophy and aesthetics he published only a few crumbs, all his genius being given to his "Journal Intime," 14,000 pages of which were found after his death and partly published by his friends. Mr. Hoffmann succeeded very well in outlining the features of his puzzling character, which was abundantly illustrated by his impressive reading of selected passages from the "Journal Intime."

Members, wishing to buy Swiss books on literary or economic subjects, are reminded that the Secretariat has a certain number of these in stock for sale. A price list will be sent out to applicants on request.

Dr. PAUL LANG,
Secretary.

London, October 25th, 1921.

The attention of the members of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique is called to the Supper and Soirée Familiale which is to take place on November 11th at 7 p.m., at the Swiss Club, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. It is the first gathering of this kind in the Group, and a very promising programme of entertainment is being prepared, which will make it a very enjoyable evening. It is hoped that many members will attend the meeting.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY

The Evening Concert arranged by this Society in aid of London Hospitals took place in the presence of a large and representative gathering of the Swiss Colony on Friday, October 28th, in King George's Hall.

The heavy programme showed clearly the hard and arduous work that the Society had put in during the short time of its existence. A first public appearance always suffers to a certain extent from the natural agitation of the performers, and it could not but be noticed that the first few numbers of the programme showed some nervousness. Gradually, however, the choir warmed up to its work and regained self-confidence when singing Gradl's "Das Bild der Heimat." Their best number was no doubt the "Soldier's Song" by Kinkel, rendered in English. Kreuzer's "Schäfer's Sonntagslied" also appealed to the audience very much.

The soloists—especially Miss Robinson, who sang "Il Baccio"—earned well deserved applause and were obliged to give encores. The double quartett ("Italian Salad") was sung with great effect, and the solo part was finely rendered by Mr. Robinson. Of the other artistes we should like to mention Miss Rita Cordova, who gave some French songs, and Mrs. A. Rossier, who entertained the audience in a lighter strain. Miss A. Adère at the piano accompanied all the numbers to perfection.

During the interval Mr. A. Wyss, Hon. President of the Swiss Choral Society, addressed the audience, stating that the Society was the outcome of the joining of the two choral sections of the Union Helvetia and the Schweizerbund; this was effected about twelve months ago, and since then a strong contingent of music-lovers had joined the ranks from the Swiss Mercantile Society. It was

in the first instance due to the very able and untiring conductorship of Mr. L. Pestou that the Society found itself so soon in a position to appear before the public. He emphasized the zeal and eagerness of the active members and specially singled out for mention Mr. Manzoni, the president of the Society. He then referred to the two hospitals in aid of which the concert was arranged and said how pleased he was that Mr. Arthur Baume, the president of the French Hospital, had honoured the gathering with his presence. Mr. Wyss made a strong appeal in the cause of charity, and he hoped that everybody present would respond generously. (The special collection made during the evening secured the handsome sum of £18.)

Bearing in mind the great difficulties which stand in the way of regular rehearsals, and that the task of the conductor is at times not very encouraging, seeing that frequent changes in his choir often compel him to go over the same ground repeatedly, there will be a general consensus of opinion that the concert was an admirable performance.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir,—Having been closely connected with a well-known Swiss firm for many years, and consequently have a large number of Swiss friends, will you permit me to make a little complaint.

I have many times had the pleasure of attending the social functions given by the Swiss Societies in London, which have always been most enjoyable; but I am sure, not only my own patience, but that of the majority of the audience on several occasions has been rather severely tried by the opening of the entertainment being delayed beyond the appointed hour, sometimes as much as twenty minutes to half an hour.

Perhaps it is difficult for all the artists to assemble at an early hour in the evening, but whatever time is fixed, it should be adhered to within a few minutes.

Starting late is a bad example to the audience, because they get into the habit of knowing that it is not necessary to be in time.

Trusting you will excuse my drawing your attention to this little failing in your otherwise delightful entertainments.

I enclose my card.

1st November, 1921.

EGLISE SUISSE

79, ENDELL STREET, W.C.2.

Dimanche, 6th Nov.—**Fête de la Réformation.**

11h.—M. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6.30.—Pfarrer Wildbolz.

Service de Communion à l'issue des 2 cultes.

Jeudi, 10 Nov., 8 p.m.—

Causerie sur Barnardo.

Dimanche, 13 Nov.—

11h.—M. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6.30.—Pfarrer Wildbolz.

BAPTEME.

Marcelle Dorine LORAUX, fille de M. et Mme. Loraux, de Genève—le 30 Oct.

MARIAGE.

Willy STEINER, de Gontenschwyll (Argovie) et Mabel Ella WAY, de Londres—le 22 Oct.