

La nouvelle société helvétique

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LA NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE

One of the happiest little Swiss dinners I have attended of late years took place last Friday, the 11th inst., at the Schweizerbund, 74, Charlotte St., W.1. The Society's intention in giving the dinner was the desire to bring the members into more intimate touch with each other, and the experiment was certainly successful. There was an air of camaraderie and good feeling all the evening: the members were allowed to group themselves just as they pleased, on the sole condition that they would make friends with somebody they had not previously known.

The fare was plain, wholesome and plentiful, and good Swiss wines were in demand. The happy idea of providing amusements as far as possible with talent from its own circle bore fruit liberally, but great credit is due to the splendid performance of the Swiss Choral Society under the leadership of Mr. Pestou. The three songs they rendered undoubtedly contributed largely to the success of the evening. A proof of the good intentions of the Society in this direction was the very humorous recitation of the genial president lui-même. A piano quartette played new Swiss music very creditably, and there were songs and recitations of the right sort, with plenty of good piano solos. The speeches were correct in spirit and length.

As a member, I congratulate the promoters of the dinner on the success of their experiment, and I hope that more such events may be arranged by the Society, and that—as was hinted by the president—next time the ladies of the members may be admitted.

A SATISFIED PARTICIPANT.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY (Communicated.)

The first dance of the season has exceeded all expectations regarding attendance, 140 members and friends being present at this joyful gathering. After the pleasant outings to Stanmore we expected to find the Dancing Section in great form, and we are glad to state that last Saturday's performance has not disappointed us.

Mr. Freeman's band has once again scored a big success; no one could resist their tempting tunes.

A compliment is due to the M.C.'s, who have done their very best to provide partners for everyone—even the bar being raided occasionally.

It is hardly necessary to point out that the great success was principally due to the numerous attendance of so many sweet ladies; it was a treat to glance into the ballroom, which reminded one almost of a flower garden.

The catering arrangements were quite satisfactory, although the service was rather slow; but we are sure the Entertainment Committee will find a remedy for that.

The above mentioned Committee, under the very able leadership of Mr. Pfaendler, has shown great activity of late, and we sincerely wish them a large attendance at their gatherings, which are always so well organised.

Their last Smoking Concert and Dinner held at the Union Helvetia on Oct. 26th showed rather a poor attendance, only 60 members being present, which is all the more regrettable as the programme as well as the dinner were excellent.

These concerts are principally arranged for non-dancing members, and we hope that the thoughtfulness of the Committee to cater for all tastes will find its due appreciation in the future.

The Entertainment Committee of the Swiss Mercantile Society has been able to book the Hall at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras Station, for Dances every first Saturday in the month from December until April.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor "The Swiss Observer."

Sir,—In the last issue of your esteemed paper the "A.O.D. The Helvetia Lodge No. 621" publishes an appeal to the members of the Swiss Colony, soliciting funds for the purpose of placing a wreath at the Cenotaph on Armistice Day, in order to pay tribute to the unknown Swiss Soldiers who fell in the Great War whilst serving with the Allied Armies.

The 11th of November is passed, and I do hope that the above mentioned unknown warriors received a wreath—it is right that we should all be honoured with flowers after having struggled through life. But, was there really any reason to pay a special tribute to these men? I know that unfortunately several Swiss fought on opposite sides of the battle front, some, perhaps, to foster "Kultur," others to save "Civilisation." Now, whatever their reasons, all must have heard the call of their Country, and their duty was clear! If they did not follow it, that was their affair, but the mere fact that they now get honoured by some of their countrymen shows, in my opinion, a deplorable state of mentality of the latter.

Let us remember that the object of the Cenotaph is to glorify for ever those who died doing their duty for their Country!

I enclose my card.
November 12th, 1921.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Sunday, Nov. 20, at 3.15 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Sunday Afternoon Concert at the Steinway Hall, Lower Seymour Street, W.1.

Wednesday, Nov. 23, at 7.30 p.m.—Association of British Members of the SWISS ALPINE CLUB: Annual Winter Dinner at the Adelaide Galleries, Gatti's Restaurant, 436, Strand, W.C.

Friday, Nov. 25.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual Banquet and Ball at Prince's Restaurant.

Thursday, Dec. 1 at 8 p.m.—UNIONE TICINESE: Concert and Dance in aid of the Soc. for the Relief of Swiss Poor in London and the Ospedale Bleniese, Ticino, at the Schweizerbund, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.