

Association of british membres of the Swiss Alpine Club

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ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

A company of nearly a hundred members and distinguished visitors sat down to the Annual Winter Dinner of this Association on Wednesday, Nov. 23rd, at the Royal Adelaide Galleries Strand, the chair being occupied by Mr. A. E. W. Mason, the well-known novelist.

The loyal toast having been duly honoured, the Chairman in proposing the health of Queen Mary and the rest of the Royal Family, coupled sincere good wishes with regard to Princess Mary's betrothal.

In introducing the toast of the Swiss Confederation, the Chairman alluded to the absence of Lord Bryce, who fulfilled this task at last year's gathering; he was, however, delighted to state that his Excellency the Swiss Minister would again respond, than whom we could not have a better or more welcome representative of Switzerland. The relations between the two countries were of a most cordial nature; he rejoiced at the endeavour to restore travelling facilities, but regretted that the abolition of visas was rendered so difficult by officialdom on this side. Like the fairy, Mr. Mason continued, who came down from the mountains to bestow happiness upon the children, the people of the plains were now looking up to the people of the mountains for the realisation of those ideals by which the League of Nations was to confer happiness upon mankind.

Mr. Paravicini, in replying, said that his first visit to the Club constituted one of the darkest moments of his life, as he then keenly felt that he lacked the necessary qualification, never having climbed one of our high peaks. Now, however, after having been in their genial company and thoroughly introduced to the Swiss Alps, he was quite at home, in fact he felt that his relations with Alpine climbing had become so intimate that he already looked forward to next year's invitation. He was very proud to find himself in the company of such distinguished travellers as Lieut.-Col. Sir Francis Younghusband and General Bruce, and he thanked the chairman and members for the great friendship they testified for Switzerland.

"The Alpine Club and Kindred Societies" was proposed by Mr. Reginald Graham, who took the audience back to the year 1857, when the Alpine Club was established. He extolled the initiative and energy displayed at all times by that institution, and it was thanks to its untiring efforts, supported by the Royal Geographical Society, that the conquest of Mount Everest had become an actuality; he confidently hoped that their labours would in the near future be crowned with success.

Professor J. Norman Collie, LL.D., F.R.S., who, on rising, was greatly applauded, replied on behalf of the Alpine Club. He continually dreamed about mountains, especially that horrible Mount Everest, and he, too, hoped that by the end of 1922 they would hear the last of the latter. He gave some delightful anecdotes of General Bruce, who is to be the leader of next year's expedition, and referred at some length to the tremendous hardships imposed upon its members.

Lieut.-Col. Sir Francis Younghusband, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E. (President of the Royal Geographical Society), who was greeted with no small ovation, paid a graceful tribute to Swiss Alpine climbing. He related some personal reminiscences when, at the age of 24, he was exploring the then unknown regions of Tibet, often in altitudes of 19,000 feet; it was at that time that he became acquainted with the leader of the next expedi-

tion, General Bruce, who already then had conceived the idea of conquering Mount Everest. Until recently certain political difficulties had stood in the way of achieving this object; the mountain itself presented, in his opinion, no great obstacles in fact, he might say that Mount Everest was an easy mountain, but we were unable at present to ascertain the resistance and endurance that human nature was capable of offering at an altitude of 24,600 feet.

The toast to the visitors was in charge of Mr. W. M. Roberts, and was replied to in a most witty strain by Mr. A. D. Godley.

General Bruce, yielding to a general desire for a speech, gave a short account of the three attempts to climb Mount Everest.

During the evening a presentation was made to Mr. J. A. B. Bruce, the hon. treasurer of the Association. Mr. H. G. Pulling stated that the members wished to recognize the extraordinary services rendered by Mr. Bruce since the foundation. Time did not allow him to enumerate the many expressions of appreciation which he had received from members; he only wished to single out a letter received from the Geneva section of the Swiss Alpine Club. The Chairman then presented Mr. Bruce with a beautifully illuminated address emphasizing that it was solely due to his strenuous work and self-sacrificing interest that the Association had survived the critical years of the war. A pair of binoculars, an aneroid barometer, a well-fitted suit-case, and a cheque accompanied the presentation, as well as a special cup sent by the Geneva section.

Mr. Bruce suitably replied expressing his sincere thanks. A toast to the distinguished Chairman, proposed by Capt. T. G. Longstaff, terminated the very successful gathering which was characterized by a natural flow of after-dinner oratory, sparkling with wit and humour.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

G. E. De Brunner, F. Beyli, C. Shorno M. Aeschlimann, O. Braga, J. Rengger, M. de Euw, F. Zogg, J. L'Hardy, A. Guggenheim, A. Oswald, A. L. Monell, E. Buser, W. Rappard, K. Rhyner, Chas. Bernheim, Max Jutz, E. Gyr, Miss M. Chollt, B. Bretscher, W. Eichenberger, Swiss Bank Corp. Basle, J. Webber, P. Meckenstock, G. Cusi, J. J. Eberli, A. M. Scholer, Swiss Club Birmingham, Swiss Consulate Liverpool, L. Guggenheim, O. E. Schneider, Chas. Duruz, R. Du Bois, M. Tschumper, O. Frei, J. Obrist, E. J. Bruderlin, E. Gassmann, A. G. Hegnauer, A. E. B. Duruz, Francis N. Ellis, A. Palliser, Henri Pavid, O. Wirth, E. L. Bech, Th. Bruderer, C. Buhner, E. Tuscher, A. Finger, A. Diethelm, Ch. Chapuis, Mrs. Lunghi, H. Ott, A. A. Secretan, Dr. Muheim, P. Bessire.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, Dec. 6th, 6.30 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by Supper, at Gatti's.
Friday, Dec. 9th, 8.30 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Lecture by Mr. T. J. Harper, M.A., on "Modern Tendencies," at 28, Red Lion Square W.C.1.
Friday, Dec. 16th 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Lecture by Professor Borel on "The Problem of Naturalisation and Nationalisation in Switzerland" at Steinway Hall.

EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell Street, W. 1.

Dimanche, 4 Decembre, 11h.—Mr. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 6.30.—Pfarrer U. Wildbolz.

BAPTEMES.

Margueret Evelyn ERNST, née le 21-1-21, de Hector et Isabella née Wilson, d'Aarwangen (Berne)—le 20-11-21.

Jules GLAUSER, né le 25-7-21, d'Emil et Marie née Schoré, de Kraudital (Berne)—le 20-11-21.

Doris Marguerite DEUTSCH, née le 14-9-21, de Willy et Dorothy née Piper, de St. Gall—le 27-11-21.

MARIAGES.

Charles Adrien LANCON, de Montmellin (Neuchâtel) et Catherine SCHUTZ, Ettelbruck (Luxembourg)—le 12-11-21.

Victor Charles PARISOD, de Lutry-Villette (Vaud) et Marie SCHALLENBERGER, de Signau (Berne)—le 26-11-21.

SERVICE FUNEBRE.

Adolf WELTI—le 21-11-21.

It is with great regret that we announce the death of Mr. EMILE RITTER of 93, Culverley Rd., Catford, S.E. 6.

Mr. Ritter, who was nearly 50 years of age, contracted a slight cold a week previous which developed into double pneumonia. He died on Saturday, November 19th, and was buried on November 24th at Ladywell Cemetery.

The deceased, a native of Basle, was second cousin to Dr. Paul Ritter, the late Swiss Minister at Washington. He has been for thirty years with the firm of Messrs. Gregory & Sons of which at the time of his death he was a junior partner. Mr. Ritter was a member of the City Swiss Club since 1908.

He leaves a widow and a son, the latter of whom at present is studying for his B.Sc. at the University of London.