

An interesting Lecture

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The Composition of the London Swiss Colony.

The Blue Book called "Part II of the Census of England and Wales," covering the County of London, has just appeared at H.M. Stationery Office (8s.). The details which we find therein on the number and composition of the Swiss Colony in London should put an end to the wild guesses which are commonly made on that subject. The undeniable, statistically elucidated fact is that there have been living within the administrative county of London in 1921, 4,984 Swiss citizens, of whom 4,681 are described as residents and 303 as visitors. The Swiss Colony is, of all the European alien colonies, the sixth in strength, Russia with 35,021, Poland with 30,969, France with 14,339, Italy with 11,733, and Germany with 9,083 only ranking before her. The Belgian Colony, with 4,949, comes immediately after Switzerland, and the Netherlands with 4,140 are also within the four thousand. Scandinavia has comparatively small colonies—Denmark 1,510, Sweden 1,630, and Norway 821. It is, therefore, only natural that the Swiss Colony should always be aware of its comparatively considerable importance and resources, and act accordingly at given occasions. It is no wonder either that it is able to maintain, if with great sacrifices, a weekly paper and other institutions which are often a matter of envy to smaller foreign colonies of this town. Being the strongest colony of the smaller European States, it behoves the Swiss Colony foremost to defend the interests and the political aspirations of the small nations, which, we realise now more and more, are pretty often identical for all of them.

It is amusing to quote some data about the composition of the Swiss Colony in London. We read that the persons employed in "personal service" form, with 1,398 "males" and 485 "females," two-fifths of the total Swiss population. Next come, as was to be expected, clerks, draughtsmen and typists, with 449 and 70 respectively. Then come those bent on "commercial and financial occupations"; they form a company of 207 males and 20 females. The makers of foods, drinks and tobacco are 129 males and 4 females. There are 69 male transport workers and 3 female, and under "professional occupations" there are 65 males and 76 females. Of the smaller groups, we may mention the workers in chemistry and paints, which hardly extend beyond the singular, being two, and the thirteen—perhaps more amusing—males and six females who are employed in "entertainments." Four masculine and two feminine compatriots are, curiously enough, engaged in "public administration and defence"! To the happy category of the unoccupied and retired belong 173 males and more than three times as many females, that is to say, 582. So we seem to contribute quite a nice share to the London boarding-house flowers.

Let us cast another quick glance at the figures indicating the distribution of the Swiss Colony over the different boroughs of the metropolis. The City is inhabited by 13 residents and one unhappy visitor, who must not have received the best impression of London. In Battersea Park there are 54 residents, whereas there are only 10 in Bethnal Green. Camberwell, with 84 residents and 4 visitors, and Chelsea, with a grand total of 136, contain far more Swiss homes. In Finsbury Park there are 49 Swiss residents, and in Fulham there are 138. Even Hackney, with 64, is not quite forgotten, and Hammersmith, with 74, comes very near. Hampstead, of course, with 176 residents and 30 visitors, shows the great predilection our people show for pure air. Holborn, where a great part of the old Swiss Colony still dwells and where the Swiss Church therefore rightly is, shows 251 residents and 6 visitors. A great contingent also dwells in Islington (349) and even more in Kensington (442 altogether). But with Lambeth (492) we come into the really big figures. Paddington (323), Marylebone (321) and Wandsworth (216) show quite decent congregations. St. Pancras, however, beats them all with 683, though Westminster comes very close to it with 659. Curiosity may be provoked also by a couple of figures relating to ages. We learn that there were only fourteen babies up to four years which figure as Swiss, evidently the immense majority of the progeniture—all those born on British territory—being included under "British subjects." The years 25 to 29 have the lion's share with 395 single and 249 married males, and 167 single and 82 married females, which makes a grand total of 893, and, if we include the widowed and divorced, 898, that is to say, roughly 900 people between 25 and 29. As there are also 691 Swiss citizens between 30 and 34, it shows that the colony consists to a very considerable extent of young people—a fact which might be well worth considering and bearing in mind. As to very ancient, we had, unfortunately, no centenarian to boast of in 1921, but we had one venerable old lady—and a

single one, too—of 85 years. There are, however, altogether 13 octogenarians, 8 ladies and 5 gentlemen.

I would like to add that the interesting Blue Book, from which I have drawn these data, is open for inspection to anybody interested in it at the Secretariat of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1, any day between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

PAUL LANG.

SWISS BANK FOOTBALL CLUB.

The above held their first trial match on Saturday last at Preston Road. Apart from the weather and a few minor accidents, a very pleasant game ensued, under the control of Mr. Way, who referred to the satisfaction of everyone, resulting in a win for the "Colours" by the only goal scored.

For the "Colours" the "Doctor," though perhaps lacking the necessary speed, played excellently, working well with Barbet and Hildebrand, his only two wing men. Herzog, ably partnered by Kurz, formed a strong defence. Dixon, at centre-half, found the ground had the better of him, and in this the majority of players were handicapped also.

Way, the "skipper," led the "Whites." He played a dashing game, but was inclined to forget his wing men at times. The halves, in Shaw, Steiner and Schwendener, proved a strong combination, and, comparing the teams, were the better half-line section of the two. Shaw, perhaps, being rather on the light side. The backs, in Peter and Zurlinden, were not so reliable as those of the "Colours."

Both goalkeepers showed great form and enterprise, and they are to be congratulated on the way they kept the score down.

The resulting selection should produce a very effective Eleven, which, I trust, will go right ahead in the forthcoming contests.

SPV.

AN INTERESTING LECTURE.

Mr. G. P. Gooch, M.A., D.Litt., who will be remembered for the most engaging discourses he on several occasions gave at the Swiss Institute, will deliver a lecture on "Franco-German Relations since 1870" at the London School of Economics and Political Science (Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C.2) on Tuesday, October 2nd, at 5 p.m. The lecture is free, but tickets should be obtained beforehand from the Secretary of the London School of Economics at the address mentioned above.

CINDERELLA DANCES.

The following Dances have been arranged by the two undermentioned societies; they are all held on Saturdays, and are open to non-members if introduced by a member:—

City Swiss Club.


October 27th,
January 19th,
February 16th,
March 15th.

These are held at Gatti's Restaurant, Strand, W.C.; price of the ticket 10/6, including hot supper.

Swiss Mercantile Society.

Every first Saturday of the months of November to April, held at the Midland Hotel, St. Pancras, N.; price of the ticket includes cold supper.

Tickets should be obtained beforehand from committee members of the respective societies.



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CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine

Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le **MARDI 2 OCTOBRE**, au Restaurant GATTI, et sera précédée d'un souper familial à 6.45 h. (sh. 5/- par couvert).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. Georges Dimier, 46, Cannon Street, E.C.4. (Telephone: Central 1321).

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Dimanche, 23 Sept., 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.
6.30.—Pfr. U. Wildbolz.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, Sept. 26, at 8.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Informal Gathering. Dr. Weibel: "Swiss Architecture" at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1 (2nd floor).

Friday, Sept. 28th, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Lecture by Dr. Paul Lang. "La Littérature contemporaine de la Suisse Française et Italienne," at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Tuesday, Oct. 2nd, at 6.45 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Gatti's Restaurant (see adv.).

Tuesday, Oct. 16, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Informal Gathering. Dr. Paul Lang: "Some Aspects of Modern Swiss Literature" at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1 (2nd floor).

Wednesday, Oct. 17, at 7.30.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Council Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W. (restricted to members).

Saturday, Oct. 27th, at 6.30.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at Gatti's Restaurant, Strand, W.C.

Wednesday, Oct. 31, at 8.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Charity Concert with the assistance of the Swiss Institute, Swiss Choral Society and the Swiss Church Choir, at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

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