

# Swiss Rifle Association

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Rev. A. Scholten, Mr. J. R. Niklaus (Missionary), now and again some visitors from Switzerland and others, who have so kindly contributed to our spiritual education during the year under review.

A great blessing to us are also the meetings on the last Thursday of each month, addressed in English by the Rev. C. Pummel, on which occasions our lady friends are now also being admitted.

As in the past, we celebrated Dank-, Buss- und Bettag—last year for the first time at the Foyer Suisse—and our Christmas Celebration was held on the premises of the City of London Y.M.C.A., Aldersgate Street, E.C.1. Both these meetings were well attended and highly successful.

During the summer months, various rambles were organised, leading us to some beauty spots outside London. In this connection we may mention our visit to Dr. Barnardo's Home, boy section, at Woodford Bridge. We would recommend to every Swiss, while in London, to pay a visit to this Home.

Our social gatherings are getting more and more popular, and the circle of our lady friends is steadily increasing, especially since we have been able to transfer our activities to the Foyer Suisse, where, since the 1st January, 1924, we possess a nice club-room of our own and where much better accommodation is at our disposal for entertaining our friends.

We take this opportunity to express our best thanks to the Ashburton Club for the kind hospitality we enjoyed in their Club House in Red Lion Square from 1917 until the end of 1923. We shall always look back with pleasure to the years we stayed at their address. Unfortunately, the accommodation at our disposal was not sufficient to develop a greater activity.

The address of the Foyer Suisse, 12-15 Upper Bedford Place, where we are now at home, is known to every Swiss in London, and we would ask every compatriot who is looking for true friendship and who has the desire to develop his spiritual welfare, to come and join our ranks. All will find a hearty welcome, and we are convinced nobody will ever regret having responded to our invitation.

We are in need of more members, active and subscribing, and ladies are now also being admitted as subscribing members.

We hope our efforts for the welfare of our compatriots in London will in future meet with more and more success, and to all those who can lend us a helping hand in our activities we would appeal once more to give us their support by joining our Society.

#### Dr. LANG'S DEPARTURE.

When Gottfried Keller, in his capacity of Zürcher Staatschreiber, had to represent the Government of the Canton of Zurich at the farewell dinner to a university professor, he is reported to have made the following speech:—"Our experience has often been that when a professor leaves us, a better one succeeds him. Let us hope that the same will happen in the case of Professor Y." Then he toasted the professor.

Well would it be if a similar hope could be expressed at Dr. Lang's leave-taking. But unfortunately there is no gainsaying that this will cause a permanent and sorely-felt loss, not only to the N.S.H., but to the whole of our colony. Dr. Lang has laboured during three years for our intellectual needs in a way which deserves the highest praise. In his various lectures and in the Literary Page of *The Swiss Observer* Dr. Lang revealed himself as a masterly interpreter of the culture of our native country in general and of its literary form in particular. These intellectual tonics were administered with a mixture of humour and witticism which made them palatable to all those who never or very seldom take to poetry. In this regard Dr. Lang has fulfilled a mission in our colony.

The departing Secretary of the N.S.H. however, laid his prime duty in the endeavour to make Swiss culture better known to English people. This activity he conceived in a lofty spirit, and if all his schemes did not bear immediate fruit, it was not due to lack of energy or want of purpose, but to the inherent difficulties in the way of all such efforts.

The three years' experience in our midst will, no doubt, be of service to Dr. Lang in his future career, and the heartiest wishes of the Swiss Colony in London accompany him to his new sphere of activity.

F. By.

#### SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Those of the members whose enthusiasm has been somewhat damped owing to the inevitable delays in settling the preliminaries, will be delighted to note that within a few weeks' time the shooting range at Hendon will be thrown open for practice. Official intimation has now been received from the Secretary of State for Home Affairs to the effect that the Swiss Rifle Association is an approved rifle club under the Firearms Act, 1920. Furthermore, affiliation to the National Rifle Association has been completed, which carries with it certain privileges necessary for the development of the S.R.A.

The ground at Hendon, which is being rented from the owners under an agreement, is undergoing the requisite preparation. Apart from the automatic 100-yards target, two 300-yards "windmill" targets are being erected. The shooting range will be reserved for members of the S.R.A. exclusively every Wednesday and Saturday from 1 p.m. till dusk, and every Sunday from 10 a.m. till dusk. The official opening ceremony will take place on Saturday afternoon, March 29th, weather permitting.

The initial outlay is heavy and is likely to exceed the present resources of the S.R.A., but it is confidently anticipated that a considerable increase in members may be looked for as soon as shooting practice takes place under open-air conditions. It is also hoped that Swiss firms will give their practical support to a movement which seeks to rekindle in the London colony one of our national sports. The Swiss Minister has offered the first challenge cup: another compatriot undertook to bear the cost of a rifle. As regards the latter, some Swiss Service rifles are being ordered, though, for a start, "Sherwood" rifles, adapted to resemble the former, will be made use of.

During the next two Saturdays, March 8th and 15th, a friendly competition will be fought out at the Regent Polytechnic Rifle Range, for which the S.R.A. offers an engraved silver goblet, the President and Vice-President kindly providing two additional prizes.

A general meeting of the members will be held at No. 1, Gerrard Place, W.1, on Thursday, the 13th inst., at 8.30 p.m., when a report will be submitted and details discussed as regards the official opening day at Hendon.

Any reader interested in the Association and its doings may receive particulars and application form from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. P. F. Boehringer, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C.4.

#### Se non è vero — è ben trovato!

An amusing story has found its way into the Swiss press and has probably been borrowed from one of the great London dailies. At the recent banquet of the Union Helvetia (*vide* last week's S.O.) the President announced that plates to receive the waiters' tips would be passed round, but on being discreetly told that this was not customary at official dinners held at the Hotel Victoria, informed the gathering that this collection would not take place. One of the reporters present, evidently under the influence of the excellent fare, conceived the lofty notion that this *volte-face* was due to the refusal of the waiters to take tips from their own employers (the company consisted mostly of hotel and restaurant managers) and expressed himself accordingly in his paper. The story has been copied by the Swiss press and considerably improved: it is now stated that the dinner party passed a resolution, expressing their appreciation of the kindly feelings exhibited by the waiters.

#### From the 'Agony Column' of the "Times."

Will the Swiss gentleman who occupied from Basle to Paris Berth No. 14 in the Vienna Sleeping-car Carriage on February 22nd, communicate with this box number, and he will in return receive the back of his gold watch, which has inexplicably turned up in the suitcase of the occupier of Berth No. 13? Basle papers, please copy.—Write, Box 19,471 "The Times," 42, Wigmore-street, W.1.

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#### SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

#### General Meeting

ON Thursday, March 13th, at 8.30 p.m.,

AT 1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Ave., W. 1.

The Hon. Secretary.

Owing to Mr. ROD. GAILLARD'S illness, the Pupils' Concert, announced for Tuesday, March 11th, has been postponed, and will now take place on Weds., March 26th.

EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C. 2.  
Dimanche, 9 Mars, 11h.—Pasteur Lelièvre.  
6.30.—Pfr. H. Urner.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, March 11th, at 8 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS: Delegates' Meeting at Union Helvetia, 1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.  
Thursday, March 13th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: General Meeting at No. 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.  
Friday, March 14.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Smoking Concert.  
Saturday, March 15th, at 6.30.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at Gatti's Restaurant, Strand, W.C.  
Wednesday, March 19th, at 7.30 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Council Meeting at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.  
Thursday, March 20, at 7.30.—UNION HELVETIA: Charity Concert for the benefit of London hospitals, at Steinway Hall.  
Friday, March 21st, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Lecture by J. F. Mustard, Esq., on "The Peace of Europe."  
Wednesday, March 26th, at 8 p.m.—CONCERT by Rod. Gaillard's pupils, assisted by Swiss Choral Society, at Morley Hall, 26, George Street, Hanover Square, W.1. (Postponed from March 11th.)  
Friday, March 28, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Lecture by the Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme: "De Rousseau et de certains aspects de la pédagogie moderne," at 28, Red Lion Square.  
Saturday, Apr. 5.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball.  
Every Saturday, 3 to 5 p.m.—SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Miniature Rifle Shooting Practice at Regent Street Polytechnic, W.1.

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