

Swiss Rifle Association

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The Concert of M. Gaillard and his Pupils.

An excellent programme was admirably carried through by the pupils of Mr. Rodolphe Gaillard, assisted by the Swiss Choral Society, at the concert held on Wednesday, 26th March, at Morley Hall, Hanover Square.

The standard throughout was consistently high, and it is, therefore, somewhat difficult to select individual items for special mention, though perhaps the singing of Miss Heale (soprano), Miss Maude Woodruff (mezzo-soprano) and Mr. Gaillard, and the piano solos by Miss Berthe Menetry and Miss Meyrick are deserving of such.

Miss Heale has a singularly sweet voice, and her singing of Gounod's "O Divine Redeemer" and the encore "Mimi" (La Bohème) was exquisite. Miss Woodruff, also, proved herself a finished artiste in her most powerful rendering of "Softly awakes my heart," with its remarkably descriptive accompaniment, and "Wait for me, dearest." Miss Woodruff was the recipient of a bouquet.

Another mezzo-soprano of considerable merit is Miss Joan Leggatt, who sang the familiar "Ombra mai fu" (Handel) with much charm.

Mr. Gaillard himself was heard to great advantage in "Christ is risen" (Rachmaninoff), "Tyrannic Love" (Handel) and "Take, O, take." The melody of the latter is full of pathos and haunting beauty, and was of particular interest to the audience owing to its accompaniment being played by the composer, Mr. Carlo Marchisio, who also figured on the programme in a piano solo, Chopin's Nocturne No. 9.

The vocalists already mentioned also put in some excellent work in duets, trios and quartettes, and Mr. Gaillard, who must be proud of such pupils, has proved himself a splendid voice producer.

In the pianoforte playing Miss B. Menetry showed much sympathy with Chopin in her rendering of Valse No. 2, which was delightful in the extreme, and more cannot be said of her interpretation of Schubert's Impromptu. Miss Irina Meyrick, too, gave a fine performance in "A night in May" and "The Sea."

The choral items by the Swiss Choral Society included "Nun leb' wohl, du kleine Gasse," sung by twelve male voices, "In silent night," "Nos Montagnes" and Thurmwarts Minne," and were all very well rendered, though occasionally suffering from lack of expression and perhaps from the unusual disposition of the parts. It seemed to us that in some passages the full beauty of the harmony was lost owing to the basses being in too prominent a position, thus overwhelming the inner, and sometimes moving, parts. Mr. Gaillard wielded the baton.

The hall was well filled, and everyone present must have had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Mr. Gaillard is to be warmly congratulated upon this success and the standard of music provided. If the remainder of his pupils are up to anything like this standard, he must have a wonderful band of musicians around him.

One detail to which we would draw Mr. Gaillard's attention is that the music stand was left to occupy the centre of the stage throughout the proceedings—a small matter, perhaps, but sufficient to detract the attention of the listeners, who like to see the soloists. R. D. M.

On Tuesday, April 1st, the Swiss Choral Society gave a concert at Morley Hall. About 300 people were present, who were impressed by the considerable improvement of the choir under the conductorship of Mr. R. Gaillard. The many songs were well rendered and were interspersed by solo numbers from Mr. Gaillard, Irena Meyrick (piano) and Yvonne Morris (cello). The choir consists now of 40 active members under the leadership of Mr. J. Manzoni, the devoted president.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The shooting range at Hendon is now practically completed, preliminary shooting taking place this afternoon. The official opening ceremony has been definitely fixed for to-day week, the 12th inst. The Swiss Minister, who is the Hon. President of the club, will be present, and our Association will be honoured by the presence of Sir Henry Jackson, President of the Metropolitan Boroughs Rifle Shooting Association. Following a short reception at 2.30, a competition will take place between some of the Swiss crack shots and a selected team of one of the London rifle clubs.

Entrance to the ground (Messrs. Westley Richards Shooting School) is opposite the Welsh Harp. Only those presenting members' cards or accompanied by a member can be admitted.

ALBERT HUBER †

Another veteran of last century's City Swiss Club history has joined the majority.

There are still a few of his contemporaries about London, who will recollect his rapid advance to leadership in the Club. The writer can still recall his presiding at the Annual Banquet of the City Swiss Club in 1874, when he described the

acceptance by the Swiss people of the new Constitution in these words:—

"L'Unité de la Suisse par l'acceptation de la nouvelle Constitution est un fait accompli." The shout that went up from the body of the hall in recognition and approval I have never forgotten.

It was his last function in London; he had a call to partnership with his old firm in Zurich, whom he had left an apprentice—and re-entered a partner!

Huber was a great lover of nature. When in London, he found relaxation in walking, boating and other outdoor recreations, in which the writer had his genial companionship on many occasions.

On his return to Switzerland his enthusiasm for sport found greater opportunities in sailing and rowing, as well as walking and climbing.

He practically founded and presided over the "Seeklub" for many years, the foremost rowing club in Switzerland, gaining successes on many waters, not only at home, but in France, Italy and elsewhere; he was, in fact, so much identified with it that he was popularly called the "Seeklub-Huber."

Mountaineering was not less cultivated by him as a sport, and he was well acquainted with the whole alpine range. Many an alpine climb or tramp did he plan out for the writer as long as forty or more years ago.

Mr. Huber never married, but his geniality, generosity and hospitality made him a general favourite in every circle he entered—a true friend to all who appreciated his sterling qualities.

J. R. G.

O. E. SPENCER †

We also sincerely regret to report the death of Mr. O. E. Spencer, of 3, Grosvenor Court, The Leas, Westcliff-on-Sea, and Managing Director of Orga, Ltd., 42, Holborn Viaduct, E.C. 1.

Mr. O. E. Schneider, to give him his patronymic, was well known in the London Colony. He was a member of the City Swiss Club and the Swiss Mercantile Society, of which latter he was, not so very many years ago, the Hon. Secretary, and his thoroughness and strong personality contributed in a large measure to the progress and success of the S.M.S. Mr. Spencer became naturalized, for business reasons, in February, 1922, and married last August. He was a comparatively young man, but has been ailing for the last few years. He was buried last Wednesday, the 2nd inst., at Westcliff-on-Sea.

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Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

l'Assemblée Générale Annuelle

aura lieu le MARDI 8 AVRIL au Restaurant
GATTI et sera précédée d'un souper familial à
6.45 h. (sh. 5/6 par couvert).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4. (Téléphone: City 4603).

Ordre du Jour.

Procès-verbal.

Admissions.

Démotions.

Rapport des Vérificateurs des Comptes.

Election du Comité.

Divers.

EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C. 2.

Dimanche, 6 Avril, 11h.—Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Vismé.
6.30.—Pfr. H. Urner.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, April 5th, at 7 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball at the Midland Hotel.

Tuesday, April 8th, at 6.30.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual General Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Gatti's Restaurant, Strand, W.C.

Tuesday, April 8th, at 7.30.—UNIONE TICINESE: Benedizione vessillo e serata in onore Comitato Donne Ticinesi. Swiss Club, 74, Charlotte Street, W. 1.

Thursday, April 10th, at 7.30.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Dinner at Pagani's, 42-48, Great Portland Street, W.

Saturday, April 12th, at 2 p.m.—SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Official Opening of the Shooting Range at Hendon by the Swiss Minister.

Wednesday, Apr. 16, at 7.30.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Council Meeting at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C. 1.

Friday, April 25th, at 8.30.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Lecture, entitled "The Psychology of Unrest," by T. W. Dunn, Esq., B.Sc.

Saturday, May 31st, at 2.30 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.

Every Saturday, 3 to 5 p.m.—SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Miniature Rifle Shooting Practice at Regent Street Polytechnic, W. 1.

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