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SCHWEIZERBUND.**SWISS CLUB.****ANNUAL DINNER AND BALL.**

The Annual Dinner of the "Schweizerbund" took place last Friday (March 22nd) when the members and their families assembled in the large hall of the Club at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. The chair was taken by M. de Bourg, First Secretary of the Swiss Legation.

The two loyal toasts having been duly proposed and honoured, Mr. Pache, the president of the Club, rose and said that they were celebrating that night the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the "Schweizerbund" Sick Society; he appreciated the distinction which fate had thrown his way in offering everybody a hearty welcome on this auspicious occasion. He deplored the absence of the Swiss Minister, who was then far away in Switzerland, but he felt convinced that the regret of all those present was shared by M. Paravicini himself, who had never missed their annual gatherings unless unavoidably prevented. However, we were fully compensated by the presence of M. de Bourg, whose fine figure and irresistible charm made the success of the evening complete. Mr. Pache then referred to the early history of their society, stating that the club of to-day was really a merger of two societies, the "Schweizerbund Sick Society," founded fifty years ago, and the old Choral Society, which eight years later joined hands, forming the present "Swiss Club"; the latter therefore had another eight years to run before reaching the half-century. Of the original founders very few were left, but it gave him infinite pleasure to greet at least one, their old friend Mr. Conrad Gentsch (Hear, hear) who was the first president of the Sick Society and was again president to-day. He also welcomed two other old members, Messrs. J. Durlwanger and W. Wetter. He would like to wish them all many happy returns of the day, though they only celebrated two such days in a century. Regarding the present activities of the Club, they were steadfast in their task of giving their members and families a real "home from home," and improving the amenities; they had spent last year £172 in general repairs and renovating the large hall. The Committee owed a debt of gratitude to the seven affiliated societies which, by their financial and social support, had contributed so much to its success. In conclusion, he asked the company to drink the health of the chairman and the founders of the Society. (Applause.)

M. de Bourg, in responding, said that the flattering compliments of the President, which in their course seemed to have focussed the eyes of the ladies on his modest physiognomy had caused him considerable uneasiness in a vain attempt to refrain from blushing. He was delighted to be once more with the Schweizerbund on such an important occasion as a fiftieth anniversary; he was sorry that the Minister was prevented from attending as his presence would have enhanced the importance of the event, and he would have wished to pay special tribute to the president and his predecessors for their self-devotion. He could not emulate the achievements of his chief, but he had heard that two years ago, when presiding on the eve of the Grand National, the Minister entrusted them with a tip for that famous race; he feared that the Minister, owing to the pressure of his many engagements, had omitted subsequently to sympathise with the losers. He (M. de Bourg) would now correct that omission by offering official apologies that for once they had been misled by the Legation. (Laughter.)

Mr. Hediger, in proposing the health of the official guests, expressed satisfaction that all the societies were represented; it testified to the goodwill and friendship which prevailed in the whole of the Swiss Colony. He welcomed M. Hiffiker (Chancellor of the Swiss Legation), M. and Mme Martin (Secours Mutuels), M. and Mme Gerig (City Swiss Club), M. Notari and M. Gambazzi (Unione Ticinese), M. and Mme Nef (Union Helvetia), Messrs. J. J. Boos and H. C. Meili (Swiss Mercantile), M. and Mme Weber (Swiss Choral), M. H. Meyer (Swiss Gymnastic Soc.), M. and Mme Rossier (Swiss Rifle Assoc.), Messrs. Wyss and Gattiker (Swiss Club, Birmingham), M. and Mme Boehringer (*Swiss Observer*) and the Rev. and Mrs. Hahn.

Mr. Gerig replied on behalf of the Guests and congratulated the president and the members of the Club on having reached a milestone in the history of their society. The name "Schweizerbund" brought to his mind many happy recollections from his youth, his maternal home being named thus, but it reminded us all of the land of our fathers, where we first saw the light of day and where perchance we would like to rest our weary heads when Father Time should knock at the door. He had read of a famous orator affirming that "the heart of the Swiss Colony in London pulsated at 74, Charlotte Street"; he had been looking forward to this visit and he could say that he had found all the warmth and genial spirit he had anticipated. He was told that no after-dinner speech was complete without a little story and this was his: Once upon a time two malefactors were

standing on the scaffold ready to pay with their heads for their evil deeds. On being asked whether they had anything to say, the first replied: "No, but knowing my accomplice and the length of his after-dinner speeches in our better days, may I beg the favour of being summarily dealt with before you call upon him." Mr. Gerig was glad that the assembly had not been given an opportunity to express their wishes as he felt sure he would have had to address empty chairs.

Mr. Silvani then proposed the health of "The Ladies." He was bent on enumerating, in a humorous strain, the haunts invaded by the fair sex and which had so far been deemed to be exclusively masculine. There was nothing the ladies could not do nowadays; they flew the channel, swam the channel, they smoked our cigarettes, stole our jobs, won the Grand National with a 100 to 1 chance—in fact, the children of the next generation would hardly be able to distinguish between daddy and mammy! He terminated his oration, which was heartily enjoyed by everybody, with the following toast:

Here's to the maiden of blushing fifteen,
Here's to the housewife that's thrifty,
Here's to the flaunting, extravagant queen,
And here's to the widow of fifty.

The remainder of the evening and the early hours of the morning were handed over to the followers of Terpsichore.

This report would not be complete without an expression of appreciation for the excellent arrangements which had been made for the entertainment of the official guests; the Committee members missed no opportunity to cultivate that hospitality which has always been identified with their Club.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.**EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.**

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

F. Voser, Wohlen: "Columbus." O. Viret, Lausanne: "The Centenary of the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race." J. Kuratle, Antwerp: "Poverty." O. Rindlisbacher, Berne: "Island of Capri." Miss G. Frey, Lucerne: "Beethoven." E. Keel, Vernayaz-Valais: "Reflections." Miss E. Ita, Berne: "Schubert." K. Meier, Aermatt: "Early Aviation in Switzerland."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Can a Childless Marriage be Really Happy?" Proposer, F. Hafter; Opposer, F. Voser.

Friday: A Lecture, illustrated by lantern slides, was given by Miss M. Curnock on "Architecture, Ancient and Modern."

Saturday: A party of over 200 students went by private buses to witness the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race at Barnes Bridge. The buses were gaily decorated with the British and Swiss flags and the colours of the University of Cambridge.

PERSONAL.

Our esteemed compatriot Mr. J. Halperin, London Correspondent of the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, has suffered the loss of his father, Dr. Jakob Halperin, a well-known medical practitioner in Zurich. In the name of the Colony we wish to express our deep sympathy.—THE EDITOR.

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL**SWISS SAMPLES FAIR**

will be held at

BÄLE**13th to 23rd April, 1929.**

For Information apply to:

THE COMMERCIAL DIVISION OF
THE SWISS LEGATION,
32, Queen Anne Street, W.1,

or to:

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Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

L'Assemblée Générale Annuelle
aura lieu le **MARDI 9 AVRIL** au Restaurant
PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera
précédée d'un souper à 7 h. (prix 6/6).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C.2 (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

Ordre du Jour:
Procès-verbal. Rapport du Président.
Admissions. Election du Comité.
Démissions. Règlements.
Rapport des Vérificateurs des Comptes. Divers.

Divine Services.**EGLISE SUISSE (1762),**

(Langue française.)

79, Endell Street, near New Oxford St., W.C.3.

Vendredi Saint, 29 Mars.—11h.: Service spécial
suivi de Ste. Cène: "L'Amour du Christ."
M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

Pâques, 31 Mars.—11h.: "Il n'est pas ici" (Marc
16, 6). M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme. Ste.
Cène. Solo de Mme Sophie Wyss.

6.30.: Service liturgique et musical suivi de
Ste. Cène. Le choeur chantera.

Lundi, 1 Avril.—Course à Ranmore Common.
Rendezvous 10h., Platform 5, Waterloo
Station. Cheap day return for Horsley,
2/10.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Karfreitag, den 29. März.—11 Uhr: Gottesdienst
und Feier des Hl. Abendmahls.

Ostersonntag, den 31. März.—11 Uhr: Gottesdienst
und Feier des Hl. Abendmahls.

7 Uhr.: Gottesdienst und Feier des Hl.
Abendmahls.

DEUTSCHE KATHOLISCHE KIRCHE,

47, Adler Street, Commercial Rd. E.1.

Sonntag, den 31. März, morgens hl.—Messen um
9 Uhr, 10 Uhr und 11 Uhr.

Deutsche Predigt um 9 Uhr und 11 Uhr.
Osterkommunion für Männer und Jünglinge
um 9 Uhr.

Abendgottesdienst um 7 Uhr mit deutscher Predigt.

Beichtgelegenheit Samstags und Sonntags und
sonst auf Wunsch durch den Portier. (Tel.:
Bishopsgate 4933).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, April 9th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS
CLUB: Annual General Meeting at Pagani's,
42, Gt. Portland St., W.1. (See Adv.)

Saturday, May 25th, at 2.30.—SWISS SPORTS at
Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.

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