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us, but let us hope that we shall find as merry a gathering on the next occasion, in the establishment of our compatriots, Messrs. Monaco, who contribute so much towards making the event a real success, and whose presence at the banquet is always so pleasing to the Ticinesi.

No special mention having been made before it may be just as well to say that the idea to give a donation of £1,000 to the Fonds Dimier originated with our President, Mr. Notari, who brought it forward at a Committee meeting last September. Everyone was in favour of it and the suggestion was again unanimously confirmed by the Committee at the end of February, when an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society was called and the resolution passed unanimously and enthusiastically. O.B.

#### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

Miss T. Fröhlicher, Solothurn: "Maria Waser." Mr. M. Chaponnier, Nyon: "Nero." Mr. W. Hürlimann, Bâretswil: "Antwerp." Miss H. Baumann, Zurich: "The Queen of the Adriatic." Mr. H. Steiger, Uster: "The Abolition of Slavery." Mr. F. Wespil, Illnau: "Free Trade and Protection." Mr. J. Fischer, St. Gallen: "A Short Road to Wealth." Mr. Kaltbrunner, Zurich: "The Psychological Moment in a Circular Letter." Mr. E. Dietschi, Zurich: "A Holiday on the Riviera."

The debating classes dealt with the following subject:—

"Should Women have Careers?" Affirmative: Mr. A. Staub. Negative: Mr. J. Niggli.

The School was honoured on Friday March 14th when Mr. W. J. Pincombe, J.P., lectured on "The Unseen Rulers of London." The lecturer who has been a member of the London County Council for a number of years, with special experience on the Education Committee of that body, was introduced by Mr. A. Levy, the Headmaster.

The whole of the lecture was listened to with rapt attention and students suggested that Mr. Pincombe should be invited again to lecture to them.

In a short but able speech Mr. Zeller, one of the Students, proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer to which the students responded with hearty acclamation.

#### UNION HELVETIA, GLASGOW.

##### "SUCRHUT ABIG."

After the very successful whist drive and dance which was held in December last year, the always active committee of the Union Helvetia under the chairmanship of our compatriot Monsieur Joseph Scherer arranged a "Surchrut Abig" which took place on 13th March at the Globe Restaurant in West Nile Street.

The Glasgow Section of the Union Helvetia is the youngest in Great Britain, but as regards activity and real companionship our fellow-countrymen in the North need not be ashamed, since the cup which is won by the section having the biggest increase in membership during the preceding year, is now in their possession.

After the "Surchrut, Frankfurterli und Gnagi" were enjoyed by everybody—even by some ladies who thought this was a certain sort of barbarian food—a well deserved tribute was paid by the president to Monsieur Ammacher, chef of the Grand Hotel, to Mrs. Ferrari, the proprietress of the restaurant and Mr. Grotz, who were responsible for the catering.

Afterwards Mrs. Voegeli, the very efficient entertainment manageress announced the date of the next whist drive.

Then Monsieur Max Graf who is in charge of the consulate in Glasgow addressed the community, thanking the committee for their kind invitation to be present at this very happy event. He also expressed his appreciation for the untiring activity of the committee and specially of its propaganda member Monsieur Giuseppe Negrini, who spared no trouble until this very satisfactory increase in membership was reached. Monsieur Graf further hoped that the good start with the Union Helvetia might help to bring the Swiss Colony here more and more together and was seconded in this desire by Monsieur Ammacher.

After a farewell speech of Monsieur Hans Balmer, Monsieur Grotz, the secretary asked the party to join the toast in honour of the representative of the government.

The second part of this friendly and homely gathering was dedicated to Jass and whist.—M.G.

#### SWISS FROTH BLOWERS' ANNUAL BANQUET.

Mr. Wyss of the Swiss Hotel, Old Compton Street, kindly sent us the following report which appeared in last Sunday's *Referee* of the Annual Banquet and Ball of the Swiss Vat of the "Ancient Order of Froth Blowers" held last

week. Part of the collection made goes to the Fonds de Secours Suisse.

"Great praise is due to Monsoon Wyss, to his 'better half' Tornado Mrs. Wyss, and to all the Swiss Vat officials for their recent perfectly staged evening's entertainment. . . . The fare provided attained so high a standard of excellence that Chairman Jack Haes, otherwise 'known to his intimates' as the Cloudburst, insisted upon the Chef being escorted by Vat officers to the top table where he was accorded musical honours by the whole assembly, and space alone prevents a detailed description of this affaire de gourmets. At the express wish of All Concerned 'no speeches' was the order of the evening, and no 'fining' in the usual A.O.F.B. interpretation of the word. But the Cloudburst and the Grand Scrounger had a genial set-to fining each other in turn, although this did not account for the splendid total of £33 discovered in the Oast Box at the end of the festivities.

Prior to the interval, the Vat officials marched round the room with a huge tablecloth spread out for the gathering in of 'Alms' and, after a hefty barrage of coppers had rained down, a steady shell-fire of Whizz-Bangs in the form of half-crowns and similar pieces of eight continued for some time, thereby accounting for the above-mentioned wonderful total. . . .

The dinner terminated with a display of indoor fireworks, after which Fairy Belle Alvina led off with a burst of community singing which nearly raised the roof. Following the repast, Miss Carlotta Mossetti with her well-trained A.O.F.B. cabaret party consisting of ten delicious damsels delighted an audience which would willingly have asked for more of their charming dancing. Vat Minstrel Stoddon's orchestra of forty instrumentalists then took the dance floor, their rendering of "The Meistersingers" overture being exceedingly well done, while a paraphrase, "A.O.F.B." written and composed by Vat Minstrel Stoddon himself, was received with tremendous cheering. Towards the end a unique dance number was played upon an instrument resembling an enormous mouth-organ (soloist, our good friend John Korten), and one eminently suited to the Swiss dances which terminated the entertainment. The last thoughtful act of Monsoon Wyss was to provide a huge bowl of soupe à l'oignon just as the tired but cheerful throng were preparing to catch not the last but the first trams home!

#### UNE BONNE NOUVELLE.

Toute la Colonie sera heureuse d'apprendre qu'à sa dernière séance, le Comité de la "Fête Suisse" a décidé de célébrer la soirée de cette année dans la grande et magnifique salle du Central Hall, Westminster. C'était devenu une nécessité absolue! Même la belle salle de Caxton Hall ne suffisait plus. Eh, quoi! Jamais affluence pareille ne s'y était entassée. A notre corps défendant, il avait fallu même renvoyer du monde! Preuve que la "Fête Suisse" est toujours plus appréciée de nos compatriotes.

Au Central Hall, nous n'aurons pas à craindre de difficultés semblables; il y aura 1300 places assises. Tout le monde sera donc confortablement installé et la carte ne coûtera pas davantage (seulement 1/6).

Il est vrai qu'à quelque chose malheur est bon: les recettes extraordinaires de l'année dernière avaient permis de verser 15 guinées au Fonds de Secours. Cette année, malgré les risques d'une location de plus du double et d'imprévus inévitables, quand on loue de nouveaux locaux, le Comité a décidé de verser le profit net à cette oeuvre de bienfaisance, certain que la Colonie appréciera le geste et viendra en nombre encore plus considérable à sa traditionnelle fête annuelle. Ce sera la 61e, et elle aura lieu jeudi 19 juin à 7 heures. Que chacun en prenne note dès à présent. Le Secrétaire,

R. HOFFMANN-DE VISME.

#### Home News—(Continued)

##### FRIBOURG.

The death is announced of Mr. Paul Morard, who was a member of the Grand Council since 1915 and of the National Council for the last ten years. T.G.

##### GENEVA.

The Police Authorities have refused an application made by the Geneva taxi drivers to charge an additional franc for journeys between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. As a protest a meeting of taxi drivers has decided on a General strike between the hours of 10 p.m. and midnight.

##### TICINO.

The "Tribune de Genève" reports that four veterans who took part in the construction of the Gotthard tunnel are still living at Bellinzona. One of them, Merlini Giovanni, was the engine driver of the little machine which transported the remains of Louis Favre and of the locomotive which pulled the first train through the tunnel. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary the four men received messages of congratulation from the authorities.

## SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

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Saturday, March 22nd, at 7 p.m.

Tickets at 12/6 (incl. Snapper), may be obtained from  
Members of the Committee.

#### Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762),  
(Langue française.)

Temporairement: 83, Endell Street, au 2e étage du  
bâtiment d'école.

Dimanche 23 Mars 11 h.—"La vie avec abondance."  
Jean X, 10, M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.  
3 à 6 h au Foyer—Club Missionnaire. Mr. Christol:  
"Au Zambèze" avec projections lumineuses.  
6.30 h.—M. M. Pradervand et Réunion de prière.

Conférences M. F. Durrleman, directeur de la 'Cause.'

Jeu 27 Mars, à 8 h., au Foyer Suisse, (pour dames et  
jeunes filles).  
Vendredi 28 Mars à la même heure et à la même  
adresse (pour jeunes gens et messieurs).

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux,  
etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102,  
Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Archway 1798).  
Heure de réception à l'église: le mercredi de 10.30 h  
à midi.

#### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

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

Sonntag, den 23. März 1930.

11 Uhr vorm.: Gottesdienst und Sonntagschule.  
7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst und Chorprobe.

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen und Religions-  
unterricht sind erbeten an Pfr. C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick  
Lane, W.4. Telefon: Chiswick 4156. Sprechstunden:  
Dienstag 12-1 Uhr in der Kirche. Mittwoch 5-6 Uhr im  
"Foyer Suisse."

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, March 25th, at 9 p.m.—SWISS RIFLE  
ASSOCIATION: Annual General Meeting at  
Union Helvetia, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Wednesday, April 2nd, at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIÉTÉ DE  
SECOURS MUTUELS: Annual General Meeting  
at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Saturday, May 24th.—SWISS SPORTS at Herne  
Hill Athletic Grounds.

Thursday, June 19th, at 7 p.m.—FÊTE SUISSE at  
Central Hall, Westminster, S.W.1.

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