

# Swiss Mercantile Society

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rue du Montblanc gleicht nun einer sehr verdorbenen Sackgasse. Herr Flegenheimer hat sich mit diesem Bau niemandem zu Dank verpflichtet und noch weniger die Commission, die so etwas zugelassen hat. Banal ist dieses sehr zweifelhafte Erzeugnis eines gänzlich uninspirierten Mannes. Sehr interessant ist ein Artikel über "Graubündner Baumeister und Stukkatoren in deutschen Landen zur Barock- und Rokokozeit." Er zeigt uns, dass die Schweiz in jener Zeit nicht arm an Künstlern war. Das Septemberheft ist sehr reichhaltig und sehr zu empfehlen.

**THE EDITOR'S POST-BAG.**

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer*.

Dear Sir,—Will you allow me, as an Englishman, who is reading and enjoying the *Swiss Observer*, to thank you for the touching tribute which your "Kyburg" has paid to our gallant men of R.101?

I could feel that these beautiful words were written with the greatest sympathy and sincerity, and I can assure your Kyburg that they have gone straight to the heart. Yours truly, R.P. Wimbledon.

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer*.

Dear Sir,—In Kyburg's gleanings there appears an article culled from *The Sphere* of 27th September entitled "The Matterhorn takes its revenge."

This article contains many statements which a mountaineer will readily endorse.

For instance there is the statement that guides seldom speak disparagingly of the mountains: they know that many a peak which has the name of being an easy mountain may on occasion destroy a climber's party.

And I believe that it was such an easy mountain, the Breithorn, on which Hermann Perren lost his life, and *not* the Matterhorn.

And again the route to the Bergli where Alexander Burgener and several of his party were swept to death is not in itself a difficult route, but Alexander apparently misjudged the condition of the snow and paid the supreme penalty.

Talking of the Matterhorn and of Alexander Burgener together (I knew not Hermann Perren) I remember an ascent with him of Mont Blanc when another climber on the mountain spoke belittlingly of the Matterhorn, and Alexander was hurt and indignant. Perhaps he enjoyed a slight revenge on that day because he and his Herr reached the top and the other party failed on account of one member going sick.

The loss in the Alps of two such leaders among guides as Hermann Perren and Alexander Burgener may be cited as confirmation of the saying "Die besten Führer bleiben in der Bergen," but it is not a saying with overwhelming truth behind it, because many a great guide has died in his bed (Pollinger, Anderegg, Knubel, Almer, Klucker and others almost equally well-known), like an ordinary mortal. I do not know how the saying originated.

*The Sphere* is less on safe ground when it states that a guide's one desire is to die in the mountains, but what is true of the great guides, is, that they love their mountains and Alexander Burgener for one was bemoaning to the writer the time when he would no longer be able to follow his calling, and he was vehemently opposed to the spoliation of the Matterhorn by a railway then under discussion.

One guide, I remember, Joseph Tabin of Zinal, was passionately fond of the peaks: he stroked a particularly nasty rock gendarme on the "Besso" admonishingly and tenderly "es-tu gentil aujourd'hui?" He was young and he would have been a great guide in time but he perished on the Zinal Rothorn.

Forgive me if I finish with a truism: There are guides good and bad just as in every calling, but they are, as *The Sphere* says, a sturdy and stalwart race of which our Switzerland is immensely proud. Yours, etc., J. J. EBERLE.

**URCHIGI SCHWYZERWITZE.**

Der Fuxer. Ein Knabe bringt aus der Schule im Rechnen eine schlechte Note heim. Um die Ursache befragt, sagt er seinem Vater, dass ihn der Lehrer immer-fuxe, und es auf ihn abgesehen habe. Der Vater will sich vom wahren Grunde der schlechten Zensur selbst überzeugen und geht in die Schule. Man gibt Rechnen. Der Lehrer prüft gerechterweise einen nach dem andern und kommt schliesslich auch zu dem betreffenden Knaben und fragt ihn, wieviel 13 mal 13 ausmache.

Knabe (zum Vater): "G'sesich jetz Vater, jetz fod er scho wieder a."

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**SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.**

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

Miss E. Graf, Dietikon: "Question of an Unified Diet and its Development." Mr. E. Annaheim, "European Union." Mr. P. Bertschmann, Riehen: "The League of Nations." Miss A. Sauter, St. Gallen: "A few thoughts on the question: 'What is Real Happiness?'" Mr. R. Naef, Zurich: "My Visit to a Coal Mine." Miss A. Zurcher, Basle: "Some Ideas."

The debating classes dealt with the following subject:—

"Are you in favour of Free Trade?" Proposer: Mr. Seiler. Opposer: Mr. Gurtner.

On Saturday, October 11th, the students, under the leadership of Mr. J. W. Klein, visited the Natural History Museum. On their way to the Museum they passed through Hyde Park and admired Epstein's Rima statue, the Peter Pan statue and the Albert Memorial.

**SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.**

Like last year, the above Society is opening the festive season of the Colony with its Annual Banquet and Ball, which will take place on Friday, November 7th, at the First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn, W.C.1, and we understand that the committee of this enterprising Society has left nothing undone, in order to ensure for their members, guests, visitors and friends an enjoyable evening.

We feel it our duty to especially draw our reader's attention to this event, both because it is bound to give great pleasure to those who can manage to go there, and also because we think it is due to our colony to support this extremely obliging Society, which has time after time given its services willingly to its various sister societies. Here is, at last, an opportunity to show due appreciation, and surely never before has the saying that "one good turn deserves another" become more appropriate than in this case.

We hope, therefore, that the Swiss Choral Society will get the support they so richly deserve. That it will be one of the most enjoyable functions of the season, we have no doubt.

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"Vemir se ne dee gith tra' miei Meschini," Dante. Inferno. C. xxvii.

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Dimanche 19 Octobre 11 h. et 6.30 h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

BAPTÊMES.

Eric Willy FISCHER, né le 27 Juillet 1930, fils de Willy et de Wilna née Benziger, le 11 Octobre 1930.

Yolande Antoinette Rose JOHN, née le 30 Mai 1930, fille de Léon et de Marie-Clotilde née Bessire, le 11 Octobre 1930.

**SCHWEIZERKIRCHE**  
*(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)*  
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Sonntag, den 19. Oktober 1930.  
11 Uhr vorm: Gottesdienst u. Sonntagsschule.  
7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst.

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen u. Religions-bzw. Konfirmandenunterricht sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4. (Telephone: Chiswick 4156).

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS.**

Saturday, November 1st from 7 to 12 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, N.W.1.

Wednesday, November 5th, at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIÉTÉ DE SECOURS MUTUELS: Monthly Meeting, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Friday, November 7th.—SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball at the First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, November 8th, at 2.30 and 4 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Film Show, at King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.1. "WITH THE SWISS MOUNTAIN TROOPS IN THE ALPS."

Wednesday, November 12th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting, at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, November 28th.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual Banquet and Ball, at May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Shooting Practice every Saturday and Sunday at the Range (see advert).

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