

# XIV annual report of the Foyer suisse

Autor(en): **Bertschinger, C.**

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**Egg and Spoon Race:**

Heat 1.—1st. P. Dupraz, 2nd. E. Guye.  
Heat 2.—1st. L. Jaeggi, 2nd. R. Charnaux.  
Heat 3.—1st. D. Archer, 2nd. A. Streuli.  
Heat 4.—1st. J. Raw, 2nd. M. Fuchs.

**Three Legged Race:**

Heat 1.—1st. Miss D. Hauswith and Mr. Pianca.  
2nd. Miss L. Jaeggi and Master Jaeggi.  
Heat 2.—1st. Miss Leon and Mr. Potter, 2nd.  
Miss McKeyon and Mr. McKeyon.  
Heat 3.—1st. Miss Wirz and Mr. Deubelbeiss, 2nd.  
Miss Lillywhite and Mr. Mayer.

**NEWS FROM THE COLONY.****XIV ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FOYER SUISSE.**

The Annual Meeting of the Foyer Suisse was held on Friday, 27th May, 1932, at 15 Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1. In the absence of the Swiss Minister, the Hon President of the Trust, M. de Jenner, Councillor of the Swiss Legation was in the chair.

The agenda consisted of the ordinary statutory business: Annual report Financial report, Election of the Council of Management and Auditors.

The accounts were presented by Mr. R. J. Dixon, F.C.J.S., F.L.A.A., F.C.W.A., and passed unanimously.

The following gentlemen were elected to manage the affairs of the Trust for the ensuing year: Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, President; Mr. G. Hafner, Vice-President; H. Barth, Treasurer; C. Bertschinger, Secretary; Rev. C. T. Hahn, H. Joss, A. Müller F. G. Sommer and J. Weber. Mr. R. J. Dixon being also re-elected auditor for 1931/32.

The annual report prepared by the secretary (printed below) was read, fully discussed and also approved unanimously.

The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman.

**XIV ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FOYER SUISSE.**

Most men will agree that we are living in very exceptional times, and, as an eminent journalist wrote a few days ago:

"These are days of change, days of disillusionment and even confusion. As we look abroad we find whole nations bankrupt in money, leaders of men bankrupt in ideas, captains of industry and finance revealed by the test of adversity in very unflattering colours..."

Meeting under these conditions of world crisis I trust, gentlemen, you will find it a refreshing experience to attend at the Foyer Suisse this afternoon. Our income is only slightly lower than the previous year, although for the first time since the institution was opened it has proved difficult to have a full house all the year round. Besides the crisis this is due to several causes, among them the Paris exhibition of 1931, which attracted practically every Swiss seeking a Summer holiday abroad.

The total number of guests staying with us was 1,093, of which 625 were of Swiss nationality. The visitors' list shows a good majority of young men of Swiss nationality.

The Council of Management has met 4 times to receive the report of the House Committee and manage the affairs in general.

Our charity expenditure for the year stands at £433 2s. 0d. If you will kindly add a moderate amount for services rendered in our social department at No. 15, Upper Bedford Place, you will get a total of £780. Will it be too much to hope that such a contribution be entirely for the good of men and for the Glory of God?

Messrs. Goodman, Mellor & Co., continue to be the solicitors of the Foyer Suisse.

The thanks of the Trust are due to Mr. R. J. Dixon, our accountant, and Mr. F. Ineichen who assists him in that department, our manager, Mr. W. Meyer, our chef, Mr. F. Koelliker, and our housekeeper, Mrs. F. Koelliker and staff.

**Social Section:**

It may be necessary to again emphasize the fact to-day, that the activities under this headline are really the raison d'être of the Trust. Nobody who reads the Articles & Memorandum of Association of the Foyer Suisse as laid down by the Consistoire of the Eglise Suisse in 1917 can ever have any doubts on this matter. The all too apparent commercialism of the Trust, Gentlemen, is and must remain the means to an end.

Looking thus at the actual Life in the Foyer Suisse, one must state that the feminine sections are still showing a great preponderance, for the simple reason that practically only girls are allowed to take employment in this Country "Der Zug nach England" has never been so much in the fashion in our homeland as it is to-day, and we are glad to state that our organisation is wonderfully adaptable and elastic and enables us to launch out and give additional help, where we see it necessary. This is our duty, and the pro-

gress of the Trust demands it. You may rest assured that everything possible is being done to receive the great number of Swiss girls and to supply the needs of the ever changing crowds.

The chief meetings here in this hall are Réunion de Jeunes filles every Thursday, directed by M. Hoffmann and M. Pradervand.

Schwyzerkraenzli every Wednesday, directed by Pfr. Hahn,

The Swiss Girls At Home, every Sunday afternoon till now directed by your Secretary.

The two first named meetings are held in the French and German languages, while the Sundays are particularly intended for the cultivation of the English tongue also to bring before the young people certain specific knowledge as needed to-day and generally giving them a wider outlook.

A Musical Afternoon once per month proved also a most attractive feature of the programmes. I wish here to express the very heartiest thanks to these lecturers and helpers, several of whom are members of the Trust; without that help and co-operation, the Sunday gatherings would greatly lack variety.

The aforesaid social activities bring us to the most important item of news of the past year viz: The engagement of a Social Secretary. This matter has been before the C.M. as long as 5 years ago, and has now been realised at last. We have been singularly fortunate in securing the services of Melle de Vargas, late directrice: Home de Jeunes filles de La Gare, Geneva. From the few months experience one must observe that this lady is very capable and has great experience in dealing with girls, and their peculiar needs away from home, and therefore she is bound to be a great help morally and spiritually to all girls who come into contact with her.

To give an idea of the possibilities and scope of such a mission in the Foyer Suisse, allow me to mention that the total number of Swiss girls attending the last Xmas festivals: both Réunion de Jeunes filles and Schwyzerkraenzli exceeded 350.

The record attendance in the Foyer of the past year was, however, the Bazaar of the Sunday School of the Eglise Suisse kindly opened by Mlle Paravicini, the beginning of December last, when a total of 450 entrances were actually paid for.

The Samichlaus childrens party organised by the Schweizerkirche last December, was also a great success and The Old Folks Xmas Luncheon attracted more compatriots over the age of 60 than in any previous year. In the absence of the Swiss Minister, M. de Jenner, Councillor of the Swiss Legation, kindly-presided over the gathering. The most striking feature of this occasion is the evident happiness it brings to such a large number of veterans of the Swiss Community of London.

**The two tenants of the Trust:**

Union chretienne de jeunes gens de langue française and Swiss Y.M.C.A., both continue their good work among young men, and their work is well maintained, although the conditions continue to be most difficult.

The Ecole du Dimanche has met regularly every 4th Sunday in the month.

The Réunion de Couture of the Eglise Suisse the Nöhverein of the Schweizerkirche hold their usual gatherings once per month, and these services to the poor of the Swiss Colony are of the most commendable.

This, Gentlemen brings me to the end of my somewhat lengthy report and looking backwards over another year's life and service, what is uppermost in us, is surely a strong feeling of gratefulness to God for this record of service, and for so many blessings received, and especially those we have passed on in the name of HIM who said: What you have done to the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto me.

C. Bertschinger, Hon Sec.

**IN MORTE DI CECILIA NOTARI.**

Un funebre rintocco ecco percote L'aer tranquillo e il timpano trapassa; si stringe il cor presago, e il duol già passa, Per pianto in sulle gote.

E un angiol che spari, talun risponde; L'eco fedel, che il lento suon imita, Par soggiunga: la morte con la vita,

or certo si confonde.

Oggi accompagnamno le care spoglie di Cecilia Notari alla loro ultima dimora.

Tutti chi l'amaronno e la stimaronno vollero essere con Lei Sino al limitare della sua breve vita quaggiù.

I dolenti genitori, i fratelli, i parenti, amici, conoscenti, rappresentanti delle diverse società svizzere in Londra,

Era l'unica figlia!... la compagna sicura e cara per i genitari nel tramonto della loro vita operosa!

Venga la Fede col suo manto stellato, venga Lei ad asciugare le lagrime loro che scorreranno abbondanti nella loro triste solitudine.

La bara fu coperta di fiori; corone e girlande di bellissimi fiori; un gran ciascuno

rosso e bianco... ultimo omaggio dall' "Unione Ticinese" alla sorella gentile del suo caro e devoto Presidente.

Un tronco d'albero troncato anzi tempo... tutto composto di rari fiori bianchi; in un canto posa una colomba... un mazzolino di viole ai piedi... ricordando così la cara giovine tutti gli impiegati della casa Meschini, che la conobbero fin da bambina!

Fiori e fiori da parenti ed amici...

Bella, immortal, benefica Fede ai trionfi avvezza! tu fa, che tolto lo sguardo dalla mestizia di questo sacro recinto, rivolgiamo per un istante la mente al Cielo, e vi troviamo gli splendori di un'aurora che non finisce; di quell'aurora che dissipa la folta tenebria di cui è avvolta ogni terrena cosa!

La natura d'ogni intorno canta l'epitalamio della vita! Là nella nostra cara Svizzera che Lei tanto amava, i colli ed i prati s'ammantano di vesti pompose ed il maggio s'appresta a fecondare il cespo delle rose!...

Eppure con questo sorriso di cielo, con questa gaiezza di primavera, una tomba si apre per involare una cara giovine, un'amabile creatura sempre sorridente, che poc'anzi era tutta vita, tutta grazia, tutta giovinezza!

D'onde questo mistero?... Gli è che la morte colla vita si confonde, gli è che il tramonto non è che apparente: la vita comincia sul limitare dell'avello... dall'ombra si sprigiona la luce.

M'inchino riverente e mesta e depongo un umile fiore anch'io su questa tomba bianca...  
28 Maggio 1932. T.L.R.

**SOIREE ANNUELLE SUISSE.**

We are close upon the 63rd Soirée Suisse which will be held at Central Hall, Westminster, on June 23rd. It is the intention of this short article to remind every reader of the coming event. There is, after all, only ONE Soirée Suisse each year, and it is the outstanding event for a great number of Swiss, who have never failed to attend it for many years past. To the resident Swiss it is an institution which must not be missed, and to the transient Swiss it is a surprise.

This annual festival fulfils its true function as a NATIONAL DAY to a very high degree. Granted, it does not take place on the 1st of August, but its character and programme are so similar as to make it a most excellent substitute. Besides, the Soirée Suisse has never lost its character from the very first.

The official invitation speaks of the good action of taking tickets, as the Fonds de Secours pour les Suisses pauvres benefit by the nett proceeds. The writer would stress the other side of the matter, namely, that the purchase of a ticket provides such an amount of enjoyment and happiness as will be remembered for a very long time and the purchaser will be sure to become a fast friend and admirer of the Soirée Suisse.

There is a very big Hall to be filled; the programme is as varied and interesting as ever, and every Swiss, whether he bears in mind his poor compatriots in this country or whether he simply expects full fare for his money, is welcome to participate in the pleasure of the SOIREE SUISSE.

**SWISS RALLY TO WHIPNADE.**

Sunday, July 3rd.

We understand that the Swiss Club Birmingham has written to the various Swiss Societies in London about the outing on July 3rd, and we hope that the various committees will occupy themselves with the question of participation. We shall in one of our next numbers refer specially to this event.

**SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.**

Clothing and underclothing for boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 14 are badly needed just now. All parcels addressed to:— Swiss Benevolent Society, Swiss House, 34, Fitzroy Square, W.1, will be very gratefully received and acknowledged.

G.R.

**CHILDREN'S HOME IN THE ALPS.**

The experiment for the treatment in the dry and rarefied air of the Swiss Alps of weakly children, particularly those predisposed to tuberculosis — a scheme which owes its origin to the generosity of Mr. Christian Kunzle, the president of the Birmingham Children's Hospital — is to be inaugurated this week, when a number of patients from the hospital will be sent to Davos Dorf, in the sunny valley of Davos.

The Hospital Committee have had placed at their disposal, Mr. Kunzle's chateau at Davos Dorf, and this week the first batch of children numbering thirty, departed from Snow Hill Station for Switzerland.

The village of Davos Dorf, which is Mr. Kunzle's birthplace, stands in a sheltered spot, and the chateau in which the children are to be