

Cercle valaisan

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MUSIC IN SWITZERLAND.

(CONTINUED).

The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were mainly remarkable for the rise of numerous *collegia musica*, amateur musical societies in Switzerland. These were instrumental or choral and formed for the purpose of performing music. Some of them still exist. As there was very little music then written specially for these choirs, their conductors and others were stimulated to write works for them to perform, and so, that distinctively Swiss musical form, the national cantata, was born and Swiss folk music collected to provide themes for it. L. Steiner (1688-1761), was the first to collect Swiss folk airs and write truly Swiss cantatas for these choirs, and he was followed by Jean Schmidli (1722-1772), J. H. Egli (1742-1810), and many others. It is impossible to dismiss the eighteenth century, however, without mentioning J. J. Rousseau (1712-1788), who attempted to improve Protestant church music by writing a psalter and shocked Lausanne and Neuchâtel (where he was for some time a teacher of music) by compositions which showed more originality than mastery of technique.

During the first half of the nineteenth century, Swiss musicians were still training themselves as executants by the formations of choirs and orchestras. Gradually, however, the professional musician was evolved and a very high standard of performance was reached. Nearly all the composers of that period still devoted themselves to the national cantata, a choral work based on Swiss national history and songs. This, in its turn, developed into the *festspiel*, a festival play in which the peasants depict some historic event or national legend by word, dance, or song. The *festspiel* called forth some of the best work of the nineteenth-century composers and has been, and still is, a characteristic Swiss musical form and an important factor in the development of Swiss national music. Instrumental music, however, was not entirely neglected, and several notable composers flourished, including Xaver Schnyder de Wartensee (1786-1868), who wrote a fairy opera, sonatas, symphonies, and lieder, as well as choral works.

One of the first composers to write *festspiele* was Franz Grast (1802-1871), who wrote famous music for the *fête des vigneronns*, at Vevey, in the Canton of Vaud. His other works were mainly based on Swiss material. Another notable composer was Charles Bovy-Lysberg (1821-1873), a celebrated pianist, who experimented in various musical forms and was a friend of Liszt and Chopin. Hugo de Senger (1835-1892), though born in Germany, spent his life in Switzerland and wrote notable music for the *Fête des vigneronns* in 1889. Karl Attenhofer (1837-1914), wrote a great deal of important choral music, including his well-known *Preneur des rats*.

Coming to the second half of the nineteenth century, we find a new group of enthusiastic musicians resolved to make extensive use of the available Swiss native musical material, to establish the essential unity of the national feeling and put Swiss music on a European basis. The leaders of this movement were Hans Huber and Emile Jaques-Dalcroze, whose fame has spread beyond the confines of Switzerland.

Hans Huber (1852-1921), is easily the most important Swiss musician of the second half of the nineteenth century. His musical idiom, though strongly influenced by Brahms, was distinctively Swiss. He made a deep study of Swiss traditional music and used it much in his *festspiele*. The subject of his first symphony was *William Tell*, and his Symphony in D Flat is known as the "Swiss Symphony." He also wrote operas and chamber music. Emile Jaques-Dalcroze (born 1865) is best known as the founder of the famous school of eurhythmics which coordinates music and bodily movements, but he is also a composer of no mean order. Many of his works, including such different aspects of his talent as his *Poème alpestre* and *Rondes enfantines* have proved their international appeal. The majority of his operatic and choral works are Swiss in theme and content.

Other notable musicians of the second half of the nineteenth century include Willy Rehberg (born 1863), a pianist of merit, who has written much excellent solo and chamber music, and Joseph Lauber (born 1864), who has written chamber music *Festspiele*, Opera, and symphonies with a Swiss content.

Among modern Swiss composers, Ernest Bloch and Arthur Honegger both stand internationally in the first rank of contemporary composers. Ernest Bloch (born 1880) was born of Jewish parents at Geneva, and was a pupil of Jaques-Dalcroze. He is a strongly original composer who has managed to express himself in a Jewish idiom more distinctively than any other composer of his race. Among his most notable works for the orchestra are *Trois poèmes juifs*, *Schelomo*, and *Israel*. While he does not actually introduce Jewish traditional music into his compositions, he seeks to express the spirit of his race by free rhythmic and harmonic effects.

Arthur Honegger (born 1892), is often numbered among French composers as the result of his membership of "The Six," the famous group of modernists which includes Milhaud and Poulenc. As André Coeuroy says in his *Panorama de la musique contemporaine*: "It is the same to-day with Arthur Honegger as it was formerly with César Franck. Both belong to the history of French music, but he is as distinctively Swiss by nature as César Franck was Belgian. Honegger is one of the most "solid" of contemporary composers, his style is austere and elaborate and inclined to harshness. Among the best-known and most often broadcast of his works are *King David*, incidental music to a play by the Swiss poet, René Morax, *Pacific No. 231*, an orchestral picture of a steam engine, as well as *Rugby* and *Les Cris du Monde*.

This short article may serve to show that there is a real and vital school of Swiss music in existence. One sometimes wishes that the two big Swiss transmitters, two of the most powerful stations on the ether, would devote more space in their programmes to native composers, though one cannot complain that folk music is neglected. *World Radio.* F.W.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

A SWISS PARLOUR FOR THE Y.W.C.A.

On the 29th of last month, the Duchess of York formally opened the Central Club of the Y.W.C.A., Great Russel Street.

Most of our readers are no doubt aware, that the Swiss Colony, through the untiring efforts of Madame Paravicini, subscribed the generous amount of £1,000, towards this undertaking.—

As the daily Press has fully reported about the opening ceremony, we confine ourselves to a few remarks about the "Swiss Parlour" which was built and furnished out of the donation given by the Colony. It contains a characteristic Lutyens fireplace flanked by book shelves. The decorations were chosen by Madame Paravicini; and the shrimp pink walls, and black curtains patterned in shrimp pink, make a most effective background. — The sofas and chairs are covered in soft beige rep, and green glass bowls filled with flowers placed about on the various tables, make a delightful sitting room.

During the Queen's visit, she commented on the fact, that there were no pictures in the parlour, and the next day there arrived at the Club a set of exquisite French prints from Buckingham Palace.

There is also a reproduction of a picture from the brush of our countryman, Mr. J. Wyss, depicting a beautiful scene of the Urner Lake; the atmosphere of the large parlour is very homely, and we feel sure, that those of our countrywomen who make a stay at this hostel will find there a little cosy corner which will remind them of their homeland.

Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, accompanied by Mlle. Paravicini, Monsieur and Madame de Bourq and their daughter, attended the dedication service, which was conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Other members present from the Swiss Colony were: Pasteur R. Hoffmann-de Visme, Pastor C. Th. Hahn and M. A. Stauffer from the Swiss Observer.

The Duchess of York paid a special visit to the Swiss Parlour, and remarked to Lady Selby-Bigge: "I think it is a perfectly marvellous place, and will bring happiness to hundreds."

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

As reported in our last issue, the Annual Concert of the Swiss Choral Society is taking place on Wednesday next, the 11th of May, at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

We learn that the Society has been fortunate in engaging the following eminent artistes:

Mademoiselle Sophie Wyss, Soprano, Mademoiselle Yvonne Morris, Cello, and M. F. Conrad, tenor, which in itself will guarantee an enjoyable evening. The songs chosen also testify

to the high musical standard which the choir has set itself, and we feel sure, that this concert which is held under the conductorship of M. Eric A. Seymour, F.R.C.O., will prove to be a most enjoyable entertainment.

The charge of admittance has been kept very low, and we hope that this will be a further inducement to go to Conway Hall on Wednesday the 11th of May.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL CONCERT

Under the Patronage of the Swiss Minister,
Monsieur C. R. Paravicini.

Wednesday, the 11th May, 1932

at
CONWAY HALL
RED LION SQUARE,
W.C.1

Start of Concert 8.30 p.m. sharp

Tickets at 2/- (incl. tax) can be obtained from Mr. John Gerber, 99, Gresham Street, E.C.2, or Mr. A. Stauffer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2, (Tel. Clerkenwell 9595) or any other Member of the Choir.

SWISS PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

We hear that a course of two lectures on "The Autonomic Nervous System" will be given at University College, London, (Gower Street, W.C.1.) by Professor W. R. Hess, Professor of Physiology in the University of Zurich, at 5.30 p.m. on May 12th and 13th.

Syllabus.

Lecture I. — The organisation, co-ordination of its functions and its relationships with the Cerebro-spinal System.

Lecture II. — Sleep is a vegetative process by which the Autonomic Nervous System regulates the activity of the higher brain functions.

At the first Lecture the Chair will be taken by Professor C. A. Lovatt Evans, D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. (Jodrell Professor of Physiology in the University).

The Lectures, which will be delivered in English, and illustrated by a cinematograph film, are addressed to students of the University and to others interested in the subject. Admission Free, without ticket.

CERCLE VALAISAN.

When I returned about three weeks ago from the Swiss Rally at Birmingham, I thought that this event would be the last one of the festive season, and I was looking forward to a rest.

There was also now a chance to start my dieting, which I had had to postpone from week to week. I was just comfortably settling down, with joy in my heart, that all was over, and an attack of lumbago in my back, when I received a pressing invitation to attend the Soirée familiale of the Cercle Valaisan. Never before having had the pleasure to be amongst my compatriots from the beautiful canton of Valais, I accepted their kind invitation.

The evening was quite a jolly one, although it was to be regretted that not more members of the Cercle attended this function. I had almost to strain my eyesight to detect them; but the few who were present, made things hum, and about 120 revellers danced to the tune of a very lively band.

M. Sermier, in the absence of the President, combined various offices that evening, he acted as a reception Committee, as M.C. and Announcer.

Les Suisses résidant à l'étranger choisissent de préférence des titres de père de famille. L'éloignement où ils se trouvent les empêche de surveiller leurs titres de façon permanente et de prendre de rapides dispositions. Aussi la sûreté de leur patrimoine est-elle le premier de leurs soucis. Depuis 20 ans, notre Banque est agréée par le Conseil d'Etat du Canton de Zurich pour la conservation de biens de tutelle. Adressez-vous à nous quand vous aurez à faire des placements de tout repos.



SIÈGE PRINCIPAL ZÜRICH • FONDÉE EN 1755

and deprived me thus of his pleasant company, which I regretted for more than one reason, because I wanted to ask him a number of questions about his Society, which is to me, and to many of our compatriots here, quite an unknown factor. I am sorry to say that I am still ignorant, as to the aims, etc., of our friends the Valaisians, and I have to draw my own conclusions, which, should they be wrong will be at once withdrawn, and rectified with sincere apologies. My deductions are that our friends are a happy little family, and they wish to meet each other from time to time in their more intimate circle, without having all the aunts, uncles, cousins and mother-in-laws hanging about, a sort of a family reunion where they can relate to each other their troubles, if they have any, or talk about their homes far away. This time, however, some of the children of this family were absent, and instead of them, the wicked uncles and aunts turned up, and thus, no doubt, robbed the reunion of its intimate and typical character; this does, of course, not mean that the relations did not behave properly, they were very good indeed.

Little silk flags were worn by everybody, depicting the cantonal colours, and here at least I learned something; I never knew before that there are 13 stars in the coat of arms of the canton of Valais (a friend of mine, not a "Walliser," would have it, that it contains 18 stars, because some are half white and some half red, and this statement was made after only two glasses of Johannisberger) nor did I know the reason of the number of stars; after having consulted M. Sermier, and after having been told that each star represented one of the 13 districts of the canton, I hastened to enlighten some of the uncles and aunts, when one naughty little cousin, who swayed through the ballroom, would have it that there were 26 stars, 13 on the front and 13 on the back, as my persuasive powers were not strong enough to convince this member of the outer family, I had to give it up in despair.

Shortly before the company sat down to a supper, which was served at 11.30 p.m., a cabaret performance given by M. and Mlle. Petros, was greatly enjoyed, their acrobatics were indeed remarkable.

LES SUISSES EN EGYPTÉ.

(CONTINUÉ).

par E. COMBE, Directeur de la Bibliothèque d'Alexandrie.
(Le Bulletin Suisse d'Egypte).

Les administrations de l'Etat ont employé des Suisses aux Travaux Publics ou surtout dans les diverses écoles. C'est encore le cas aujourd'hui bien que leur nombre tend à diminuer puisqu'on veut de plus en plus se passer de la collaboration directe de l'étranger. On a fait appel à nos Universités pour remplir certains postes de la Faculté des Sciences de l'Université égyptienne et surtout organiser l'Ecole polytechnique. Enfin, si l'on peut parler de fonctionnaires en songeant aux juges des tribunaux mixtes, deux Suisses y ont une place très honorable, ce qui est d'autant plus à noter que les traités internationaux n'exigeaient pas que la Suisse y eût des représentants.

Plusieurs Suisses ont leur place marquée dans l'histoire particulière de l'Egypte; ce sont surtout, J. L. Burekhardt, de Bâle, mort au Caire en 1817; Ferdinand Perrier, de Fribourg, en 1829-1830 aide de camp d'Ibrahim Pacha, le conquérant de la Syrie; Werner Munzinger Pacha, d'Olten, mort en 1875, gouverneur de l'Afrique Equatoriale Egyptienne; Victor Nourrisson Bey, directeur de la Bibliothèque municipale d'Alexandrie, mort en fonctions en 1916. D'autres ont fait dans ce pays des études si importantes, que leurs noms ne peuvent être séparés de celui de l'Egypte; ainsi, l'Arabisant van Berchem et l'égyptologue Naville, tous deux de Genève. Une partie de l'œuvre du peintre vaudois Gleve ne s'explique que par son séjour en Egypte en 1835; son voyage en Orient est plein d'intérêt, plus particulièrement ses lettres d'Egypte, qui jettent une vive lumière sur ses portraits d'Orientaux et sur quelques unes de ses grandes compositions. De même pour le peintre et dessinateur neuchâtelais K. Girardet, en 1842. Il faudrait aussi rappeler le souvenir des soldats appartenant aux régiments de Roll et de Watterville, du Service étranger, qui participèrent aux luttes anglo-françaises et anglo-turques de 1798, 1801 et 1807; ou l'activité missionnaire d'un Samuel Gobat, apôtre des Abyssins, évêque de Jérusalem (1799-1879).

Bornons-nous aux courtes biographies qui suivent.

Jean-Louis Burekhardt (1784-1817)

Jean-Louis Burekhardt, né à Lausanne en 1784, est le premier des explorateurs suisses du XIX siècle. Après des études en Suisse et en Allemagne, il part pour Londres en 1806 et entre en relations avec la Société Africaine, fondée en 1788 pour favoriser l'exploration de l'intérieur de l'Afrique. Il offre ses services, afin de continuer le voyage de Hornemann, qui n'avait pas réussi à passer de l'Egypte au Niger, à travers la Tripolitaine. Sa proposition acceptée, il se prépare

Dancing went on until 2 o'clock a.m., and afterwards the customary onion soup was served, and an agreeable and enjoyable evening thus came to an end. ST.

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The above Society held its quarterly meeting on the 26th April, at Swiss House, under the Chairmanship of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini.

The accounts presented by the Hon. Treasurer show that £863 were spent in the shape of relief during the first three months of the current year. This is £85 above the figure for the corresponding period of 1931, and comes as a further proof of the increasing burdens put upon the Institution. The total amount spent for relief in 1931 was £3,531 (against £3,073 in 1930) and the hard times which we are now experiencing will undoubtedly bring still more calls upon the Society during the present year. A strong appeal is, therefore, made again to all to contribute as much as possible to the funds of the Society and assist the Council in its heavy task.

As a point of interest, it may be mentioned that the Administrative expenses of the Society are kept remarkably low and amounted during 1931 to 8% only of the total expenditure; these expenses consist mainly of the cost of stationery and printing and the remuneration of a permanent Visiting Lady, whose services are necessitated by the extensive work of the Society.

The Swiss Benevolent Society devotes an important part of its activity to the care of old people in distress. In 1931, £1,427 were spent in relieving 48 pensioners, between the ages of 64 and 88. Help was extended to 574 countrymen, viz., 91 families with 179 children, 37 widows with 56 children, and 113 single persons. 17 Lodging House tickets and 17 food tickets for the London County Council Shelters were distributed amongst single men. 41 persons were sent back to Switzerland under the Society's care.

In recognition of their tireless efforts and very great help to the Society, Mesdames Wm. Beckmann and Edgar Chatelain have been elected as members of the Committee.

It has been found that the increasing volume of work in the Swiss Benevolent Society claims

so much of the attention of the willing collaborators on Monday evenings, that little opportunity arises for that friendly interchange of ideas, which so usefully serve as a stimulant to honorary workers in such an Institution as ours. In order to remedy this defect, most of those present met for supper after the meeting at Diviani's, where the friendly atmosphere created proved a happy diversion from the usual Monday evening routine. T.R.

L'AFFAIRE DES ZONES A LA HAYE.

Nos lecteurs savent combien nous souhaitons de nous abstenir, ici, de toute polémique en ce qui concerne l'affaire des zones. A plusieurs reprises, nous avons eu l'occasion de le dire: quel que soit le résultat du procès pendant devant la Cour internationale de La Haye, la Suisse ne devra ni ne pourra cesser d'entretenir des relations amicales avec sa grande voisine. C'est là une nécessité; c'est, en outre, un bien.

D'autre part, il y a une question de droit à trancher. Il est bien naturel que les deux parties en cause ne l'envisagent pas de la même façon. Personne ne saurait donc trouver mauvais que nous maintenions notre manière de voir et que nous soyons derrière notre avocat, M. Logoz, pour affirmer avec lui et l'obligation pour la Cour de prononcer définitivement sur le fond, et la justesse de la thèse suisse quand elle affirme que le déplacement du cordon douanier fut un acte arbitraire tendant à modifier de façon unilatérale les stipulations des traités et à créer un état de fait contraire à l'équité. Si nous pensions autrement, nous le dirions avec la même franchise. Mais du moment que nos revendications nous semblent légitimes et fondées en droit, nous faillirions à notre devoir en le dissimulant, sous le prétexte de je ne sais quelle opportunité.

Cela dit, nous n'avons pas dessein d'entrer dans le détail des débats qui viennent de se dérouler à La Haye. Ils ont été, certes, empreints de cette courtoisie qui est de règle devant une telle instance; mais cela ne le a point empêchés d'être parfois très vifs et constamment soutenus par la conviction. Si nous en croyons les envoyés spéciaux de nos principaux journaux, la plaidoirie

sentait qu'on le suspectait d'espionnage et de n'être musulman qu'en paroles, car on le sait d'origine, sinon de naissance, anglaise. Une discussion avec les savants de la Mecque les convainc qu'il est non seulement bon musulman, mais fort instruit dans la littérature arabe et toutes les questions de jurisprudence. Le 9 septembre, il arriva à la Mecque, accomplit les rites du pèlerinage et retourna à Djeddah pour compléter son équipement. Revenu à la Mecque, il se logea dans de meilleures conditions que précédemment et se mêla aux pèlerins étrangers, travaillant autant que la fatigue et les privations le lui permettait. Il ne put, à cause des incursions Wahhabites, arriver que le 27 janvier 1815 à Médine, la ville du prophète. Mais il y fut si malade, qu'il perdit même un jour tout espoir de sortir de l'Arabie, soucieux aussi de savoir ce que dirait le Comité de Londres, qu'il eût pris lui-même l'initiative d'un tel voyage. Dès qu'il put se lever il gagna la côte et s'embarqua en mai sur un petit voilier, avec des pèlerins, dans des conditions de malpropreté insupportables. Il se fit déposer au sud de la péninsule du Sinaï, prit un chameau, se reposa dans le désert, dont l'air vivifiant le fortifia, et parvint au Caire en juin. Il ne se rétablit complètement de ses fatigues qu'au bout de quelques mois, en séjourant à Alexandrie, ou dans le delta du Nil, mettant en ordre ses notes de voyage. Sa description de Médine est incomplète, puisqu'il y fut malade; mais celle de la Mecque est fort importante, et les renseignements circonstanciés qu'il nous donne sur les cérémonies du pèlerinage et sur les coutumes des Arabes sont plus exacts que tout ce qu'on avait publié jusqu'alors.

En janvier 1816, il fut la peste et vit dans le Sinaï. Il n'a pas oublié que son but est l'intérieur de l'Afrique. Mais lorsqu'il apprit qu'une caravane partirait en décembre 1817, c'était trop tard; car la dysenterie dont il souffrait l'enleva le 17 octobre.

Tout ce qui a été publié sous son nom le fut, après sa mort, par les soins de la Société de Londres. Ses récits de voyage en Syrie, en Nubie et en Arabie portent la marque du bon sens, de la simplicité et de l'exactitude. Il s'était tellement familiarisé avec la langue arabe et les mœurs orientales, qu'on ne pouvait douter qu'il ne fût musulman. Sa mort fut très sensible à tous ses amis d'Egypte, qui appréciaient la noblesse de son caractère, sa modestie, sa persévérance, son dévouement. Au milieu de ses voyages, il n'oubliait pas la Suisse, comme ses lettres en font foi. Il fut enterré dans le cimetière musulman du Caire, près de la porte appelée Bâb-el Nasr; un tombeau modeste fut élevé sur sa tombe quelques années plus tard, et complètement refait en 1876 par les soins de la Colonie suisse du Caire. Tout n'a pas encore été dit sur cet homme remarquable.

(To be continued.)

aussitôt, étudia l'arabe aussi bien que diverses sciences utiles à un voyageur. Il s'embarqua pour la Syrie sous le nom de Chaykh Ibrahim. Arrivé à Halep, où il sera l'hôte du consul anglais Barker, il fera pendant trois ans des voyages dans le Liban, le Haurân, à Damas ou le long du lac Tibériade, observant le pays et ses habitants, les coutumes et explorant divers sites antiques. Le 18 juin 1812, il quitte Damas pour le Caire, visite des ruines inconnues, reste plus de trois semaines à Kerak, à l'est de la Mer Morte, avant de pouvoir continuer son voyage, puis il vend sa monture et repart, à pied avec un bédouin et sa famille, chacun poussant devant soi quelques moutons. Dès qu'il put se procurer un chameau, il avança plus rapidement et, arrivé à l'est du Sinaï, il se joignit à une caravane qui se rendait au Caire. Le 4 septembre, il arrive en Egypte, dépouillé de tout et ses vêtements en lambeaux.

Mais pendant ces trois ans, Burekhardt avait déjà fait une belle moisson de renseignements, perfectionné sa connaissance purement théorique de l'arabe et des mœurs orientales et visité pour la première fois des lieux inconnus aux Européens. On lui doit la première connaissance du pays entre la Mer Morte et le golfe d'Akaba; celle de l'étendue et de la forme de ce golfe de la conformation topographique et l'étendue de Hauran; du site d'Apamée sur l'Oronte, de Pétra et la structure générale du Sinaï.

Burekhardt, désappointé d'apprendre au Caire qu'il ne pourra exécuter les instructions reçues, car en 1812 les communications par caravanes avec l'intérieur de l'Afrique sont interrompues, décide de continuer ses recherches en Egypte, ou dans le voisinage, comme il l'avait fait en Syrie. En janvier 1813, il part pour la Haute-Egypte, mais ne peut dépasser la 3e cataracte. Il se promène cependant le long du Nil et dans le désert; puis, en 1814, il accompagne une caravane de marchands au Sennar; enfin, avec une autre caravane, il traverse les déserts et atteint le 30 juin Souâkin sur la Mer Rouge. Au cours de ces randonnées, il recueille une foule d'observations sur la Nubie et ses monuments, en particulier sur les anciennes églises chrétiennes.

De Souâkin, Burekhardt passe la mer et débarque le 15 juillet 1814 à Djeddah, le port de la Mecque. Sa santé était délabrée et ses moyens d'existence fort précaires. Il écrivit à Mohammed Aly, qui guerroyait alors contre les Wahhabites et séjourait près de la Mecque. Le vice-roi d'Egypte lui envoya des secours, ainsi qu'un dromadaire. Arrivé en août à taif, résidence de Mohammed Aly, il fut bien reçu; mais il