

# Editor's postbag

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of Debussy and Honegger (unfortunately the only Swiss composer represented!), two songs of Cairati and a number of Spanish compositions by Granados and de Falla. The latter songs were unquestionably the most successful in the programme, where the singer's personality and emotions came to the fore with a greater certainty and warmth than in some other parts. We discovered after the concert that Madame Hagmann, though of purely Swiss descent, grew up in Spain. That, of course, helps to explain the intimacy of understanding of the peculiar terse yet resonant quality of these Spanish composers and the sure triumphant touch of interpretation exhibited by Madame Hagmann. But her excellence is in no way confined to the milieu of her youth. Almost equally successful, in our opinion, was her rendering of the cycle of Alban Berg songs, may be because this modernist composer has a quality of tenseness a little akin to the Spanish air, although he chooses the most lovely lyrics for his compositions. The Schubert songs which require quite different tonal qualities, above all a sustained vocal resonance to fill the emotion-laden notes, seemed to come off least satisfactory. Schubert tends to tire the modern audience a little by the longeurs of some of his lyrical ecstasies. To overcome this danger the singer needs a personality and sure mastery of interpretation as well as technique, such as perhaps only long experience and maturity can assure. Irma Schächet's accompaniment was admirable.

We reproduce two notices of the concert which appeared in the English press. They are in our opinion both very complimentary just because they combine some apt critical observations with a sense of appreciation.

Dr. E.

The "Sunday Times" writes:

Grotian Hall: Miss Carmen Hagmann. This singer is a stylist. Moreover, recognition of the niceties of vocal control brought a pleasure all too uncommon. The natural tone may not have all the limpidity ideal for Scarlatti, but becoming shades of colour were deftly used in Schubert and Debussy songs. What was sung was meant, and the meanings won acceptance. Irma Schächet's accompaniments were judiciously regulated.

The "Daily Telegraph" writes:

A NEW SWISS SINGER.

A Swiss singer, Carmen Hagmann, had made an unacknowledged choice of music for her first appearance here at Grotian Hall on Thursday. Beginning with some unfamiliar Scarlatti (arranged by Cairati, who was also represented by a couple of thoughtful lyrics in Straussian vein), she went on to Schubert, Debussy, Alban Berg, and two groups of modern Spanish songs.

It was a programme calling for qualities of a more positive kind than the singer had always at her command. A stronger rhythmic pulse would have done much to tauten a vocal line apt to sag when attention was divided between the conflicting claims of technique and interpretation. At the moment, Miss Hagmann is too much concerned with surmounting problems of production to allow much scope for personal comments on moods and manners. Irma Schächet accompanied.

C. D. G.

#### PERSONAL.

The many friends of Mr. Ferdinand Huber, late Managing Director of Messrs. Georges Meyer & Co., Ltd., will regret to hear of his death at Ruschlikon at the age of 67. Mr. Huber resided in this country for over 30 years and was a member of the City Swiss Club. — He returned to his native Switzerland in 1927.

#### EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

16th November, 1936.

The Editor of the Swiss Observer,  
23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

May I be allowed to refer to an exceptionally good article on mountaineering in Switzerland in the Christmas number of the Geographical Magazine.

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Zeller (director of the Swiss Alpine Museum) gives a most fascinating and enlightening account entitled "The Development of 'Alpinism' in Switzerland." This is a careful survey of historical and literary interest, enriched by a selection of very charming 18th century colour prints and engravings.

Perhaps some of your readers may like to turn their thoughts on this delightful subject, if they get to hear of it.

Yours respectfully,

T. H. Finsler.

Drink delicious "Ovaltine"  
at every meal—for Health!

#### EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

London, 17th November, 1936.

The Editor,  
Swiss Observer.

Dear Sir,

As you may know I have for many years been advocating Winter Sports in Switzerland. After my lectures, I have often been requested to organise parties, and the present rate of exchange makes it exceptionally favourable this season.

I have therefore arranged to take a private party to *Adelboden* for two weeks. We start on the 26th December, travelling via Folkestone-Boulogne-Laon-Berne, and I have already reserved suitable accommodation at this Winter Sport resort. There are still a few vacancies, and it is possible that some of the readers of the Swiss Observer might be interested. If so, they should apply to me at 114, Fore Street, E.C.2, for further details. (Telephone No. Met.4027).

Yours faithfully,

C. BERTSCHINGER.

#### FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESTRICTIONS.

The Swiss Bank Corporation, 99, Gresham Street, E.C.2, has prepared a fifth edition of its most useful publication describing the foreign exchange restrictions existing in various countries.

This survey of the position fulfils a valuable service in providing those who have occasion to deal with foreign countries with some general indication of the conditions which govern business there. It has been found possible to include brief references to the clearing and similar agreements which exist between various countries, though the nature of these agreements varies considerably and it has not been possible to draw a careful distinction between one type and another.

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42, Great Portland Street, W.1. et sera précédée  
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#### ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.	Divers.
Admissions.	Démissions.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, les participants  
sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt  
auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard  
Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595)

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#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Friday, November 27th — City Swiss Club — Annual Banquet and Ball — at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

Thursday, December 10th, at 8.15 p.m. — Concert — followed by dancing till 1 a.m., at Pagani's Restaurant, 42, Great Portland Street, W.1 (tickets 2/6). (The proceeds will be devoted to the Society of Swiss Poor in London).

Friday, December 18th, from 7 p.m.-2 a.m. — Students (S.M.S.) Christmas Banquet and Ball, at the Princes Galleries, Piccadilly, W.1.

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l'invisible?! — 2 Cor. 4. 18. — M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

11h. — Ecole du Dimanche.

6h.30 — Prédication. M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

7h.30 — Choeur mixte.

#### MARIAGES.

William Worpe de Sonceboz (Berne) et Marta Schatzmann de Windisch (Argovie) le 14 Nov. 1936.

James André Vuille-Bille de Tramelan (Berne) et Irène Aimée Roulet, de la Sagne (Neuchâtel) le 14 Nov. 1936.

M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme reçoit à l'église, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2, le mercredi de 11h. à 12h.30 et sur rendez-vous à son domicile, 102, Hornsey Lane, Highgate, N.6. S'adresser à lui (téléphone: ARChway 1798) pour tous renseignements concernant les instructions religieuses, les mariages et autres actes

#### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

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

Sonntag, den 22. November 1936. Totensonntag.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

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