

# Swiss Societies, institutions and Clubs in the London Colony

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it is wise to have a gathering of this sort, where friends can meet, where we can dance and laugh — where we can smile.

I wish you all a happy evening and ask you, Ladies and Gentlemen, to raise your glasses and drink to the Swiss Mercantile Society, its trustees, its council and its members, coupled with the wish that, however dark the sky may be, they may not forget to smile."

The address of the Minister was acknowledged with long and loud applause.

The task to say "THANK YOU!", on behalf of the guests, was entrusted to Colonel Anton Bon, President of the Swiss Benevolent Society. He referred in his address to the conditions regarding the emigration of young Swiss people which prevailed many years ago, when no permit for accepting work was necessary, no passports required or other irksome restrictions in force. He sympathised with our young people at home, who were anxious and yet unable to come to this country not only to learn the language but also to study English culture and customs.

In concluding, Colonel Bon expressed the hope, that these barriers, so detrimental to our youngsters, might in the near future be relaxed or lifted so as to allow a free and unfettered intercourse between friendly nations. (Applause.)

The official part of the evening thus came to an end, and dancing followed almost immediately.

Contrary to former occasions, no Cabaret entertainment was given, and I am sure hardly anybody missed it. We have seen, at some of the functions of Swiss Societies, most harrowing scenes enacted, when young ladies were thrown about "all over the place" and ladies of riper age, gave a generous exhibition of some parts of their anatomy which could have remained better hidden, or a would be Primadonna "who shrieked the house down."

In these days, when none wants to grow old, and one can get pills, tablets and injections for keeping perpetual youth, when even Grandma' wears shorts, instead of a bonnet, everybody, young and old enjoys a "hop", so why waste time? Judging from all the smiling faces everyone indeed enjoyed the many dances, new and ancient ones, which followed each other in rapid succession.

During one of the intervals, it was whispered around, that the following members of the Swiss Trade Delegation, then in this country, had arrived: Mr. H. Schaffner, Head of the Delegation, Mr. H. Bühler, of the Commercial Section of the Swiss Foreign Office, Mr. Pfenninger, Director of the Swiss National Bank and Professor W. Hunziker, Director of the "Schweizer Verkehrs Verband". They were warmly greeted by the members of the Society, and their appearance, on the eve of their departure for Switzerland, was a compliment to the Swiss Mercantile Society, which was much appreciated.

On Big Ben striking midnight, this very successful evening came to a close, an evening during which old friendships were renewed and new one's made, and there remains the pleasant duty for me to congratulate the organisers of this function for the efficient arrangements they had made, and to thank the Swiss Mercantile Society for their generous hospitality and for the very pleasant hours spent amongst congenial friends.

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## SWISS SOCIETIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CLUBS IN THE LONDON COLONY.

- SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY (FONDS DE SECOURS),  
31, Conway Street, Fitzroy Square, W.1.
- SECOURS MUTUELS DES SUISSES À LONDRES,  
74, Charlotte Street, W.1.
- CITY SWISS CLUB, Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1.
- UNIONE TICINESE,  
"Swiss House," 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.
- UNIONE TICINESE (SEZIONE FEMINILE),  
"Swiss House," 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.
- SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY,  
"Swiss House," 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.
- UNION HELVETIA, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.
- SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB),  
74, Charlotte Street, W.1.
- NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE,  
"Swiss House," 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.
- SWISS Y.M.C.A., 12, Bateman Street, W.1.
- SWISS MALE CHOIR, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.
- SWISS ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.
- LONDON-SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY,  
"Swiss House," 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.
- THE RÜTLI CLUB, 74, Carleton Road, N.7.
- ALPENROSEN-CLUB, St. Peter's Hall,  
Westminster Cathedral, Ashley Gardens, S.W.1.
- EGLISE SUISSE,  
Endell Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2.
- SCHWEIZERKIRCHE,  
"Oak Room," Kingsway Hall, W.C.2.
- SWISS YOUTH CLUB, 86, Duke Street, W.1.

### Nouvelle Société Helvétique (LONDON GROUP)

#### OPEN MEETING

on Tuesday, February 14th, at 7 p.m.  
at the Vienna Café,  
Berkeley Arcade, Opposite Baker St. Station.

Dr. phil. PIUS EGGENSTEIN  
will give a talk (in German) on  
"Present Day Swiss Literature",  
introduced by Mr. Th. Haller.

All Swiss and Friends are heartily invited.