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SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON.

The Christmas Service and Children's Party, organised by the Committee of Swiss Catholics in London, were held on Sunday, 30th December, 1951. The Christmas Service, with Sermon in English and German, by Father Lanfranchi followed by Solemn Benediction, in St. Peter's Church, Palace Street, S.W.1.

The Children's Party, in Westminster Cathedral Hall, was opened by the Catholic Mixed Choir, singing Carols. Then followed entertainment for the Children.

Mr. Gandon, accompanied by his Daughter, played Swiss Popular Music, ably assisted by a young Yodeller. Seasonable Poetry was recited in the National Languages and in English, by children and two Tiny Tots told us all about their "Teddy Bear" and "Little Bo Peep" all with commendable self-assurance which did credit to all the children and their mentors.

The entertainment for the Children was concluded by Mr. Findlay Dunn, ventriloquist and conjuror. Then the moment so eagerly awaited by the Children arrived and Father Christmas in all his Regalia was ushered in, midst shouts of delight from the little ones. The huge Christmas Tree reaching right up to the ceiling of the hall, was brilliantly lit up, and its lights were matched by the lights of eager expectation in the eyes of the tiny tots as they pressed forward to receive their presents from the hands of Father Christmas. Further entertainment followed provided by the Mixed Catholic Choir, the Entertainer, Mr. Findlay Dunn,

Madame Papacini and the Corale of the Unione Ticinese.

Our grateful thanks are due to Father Lanfranchi, who spared no effort, in order to make this Children's Party a success. No doubt he was richly rewarded and encouraged by the wonderful attendance both at the Service in St. Peter's Church, and afterwards at the Party in Westminster Hall. Both attendances constituted records and over 300 people were present.

"Cephas."

ALBERT FERBER RECITAL.

This masterly and assured Pianist played a varied Programme at Wigmore Hall on Friday, 18th January, 1952.

The Recital opened with Mozart's C Minor Fantasy followed by the Beethoven A Major Sonata Op. 101, not very often heard. It is a severe work with only a flash of the lighter Beethoven now and then, and therefore, in spite of Ferber's rendering, difficult to be appreciated and a severe test for the audience. Papillons op. 2 by Schumann played beautifully eased the tension.

The second part of the concert gave us 8 Preludes op. 28 by Chopin in which Ferber showed his genius in rhythm, sonority and tone colour. The Four Etudes by Debussy — Five Fingers, Thirds, Fourths and octaves expounded the outstanding technique of Ferber but it was not merely a presentation of Finger exercises but Etudes with dexterity combined with highest musicianship.

Our sincere thanks to Albert Ferber for giving us as a first performance Alma Brasileira and the Floral Suite by the outstanding Brazilian composer Villa Lobos.

The enthusiastic Audience would not let the artist go until he had played as encores the lovely Elegie by Rachmaninoff and in a captivating manner Impromptu by Fauré.

So ended the Recital of our Swiss compatriot who is going from strength to strength. His intelligent interpretation and technical mastery, rhythm, fortissimo without becoming jarred, his velvety touch in pianissimo without being blurred ranked him amongst the finest pianists and we look forward with impatient anticipation to hearing him again.

The attendance was exceedingly good and we noticed a satisfying sprinkling of compatriots. They were well recompensed by the great and unassuming artist.

P.A.M.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

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followed by a

Tea Dance

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on

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