

A delightful treat for our colony

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A DELIGHTFUL TREAT FOR OUR COLONY.



ELSIE ATTENHOFER.
Foremost Swiss Diseuse and Chansonnière.

With the support of all Swiss societies in London perhaps the finest Swiss artiste, Elsie Attenhofer, will give a performance in our Colony on Thursday, 27th March, at the "Institut Français" whose lovely little theatre has kindly been put at our disposal for this event. Elsie Attenhofer has made her name at the famous Zürich cabaret "Cornichon". But she has out-grown the narrow frame of mere cabaret to become an artiste *sui generis*, giving solo-performances of infinite variety, full of fun and charm, often provocative but never overstepping the mark. She may be likened to a music-hall artiste capable of captivating the largest audiences, yet retaining that delicate and intimate touch of the cabaret.

In her songs and sketches she parodies the world around her, mimicks character after character, now humorous and malicious, now serious and full of human sympathy. She presents folk-songs from all parts of Switzerland in all national languages and dialects, and not less masterly in English. Her sketches make good-natured fun of the world's tribulations. In one of them she holds delightfully funny conversations on the telephone as secretary of United Europe with all the great and would-be great of our Continent.

The delegates at the last Journée des Suisses à l'étranger were entertained for an hour and a half by Elsie Attenhofer so delightfully that she was overwhelmed with requests to visit their Colonies. She has been to the Swiss in Italy and Germany, and now we have secured her for ourselves. She will give her performance free of charge. The tickets are priced to

cover the necessarily heavy expenses only involved in our invitation to Elsie Attenhofer, her pianist and her companion-assistant to come here free of any expense to themselves. This is one of those rare occasions when we can invite also our English friends feeling certain that they will enjoy the performance as much as we ourselves, although her appeal is so very Swiss or rather just because she interprets the spirit of our homeland so perfectly, so humorously and yet so delicately.

Full details regarding the performances are advertised in this and subsequent issues of the "Swiss Observer". One word of warning should not be disregarded: there are only 400 seats for sale. They will be sold out in no time. Don't miss your chance.

Dr. E.

The Swiss Press writes on Elsie Attenhofer:

"This artiste does not take her audiences by storm — she enters their hearts by the humanity of her art and natural character, free from any false pathos. When she smiles she means it, when she is serious she equally is genuine. When she renders a folk-song of the Jura, say "Jaques de Courtion", she is la chansonnière from tip to toe, naughty, mockingly coquettish. But when she presents the masterly dialogue between "The Drummer and The Cook" an English counterpart to the Appenzeller ditty about the "Henneli uf em Stängeli" with her inimitable characterisation, she becomes the virtuoso exponent of "The Song" in voice, gesture and expression almost ironically the real thing. In her "Gallina di mamma Lindora" Elsie reveals herself a Canzonetta ticinese born and bred so warm hearted and enchanting. And again in her dialect songs she is her homely self of infinite variety, now saucy, now demure, now merry, now sadly resigned . . ."

(Neue Zürcher Zeitung.)

"Elsie Attenhofer a vu du monde, l'œil ouvert et le cœur sensible. On l'éprouve lorsqu'elle nous chante la berceuse successivement de la mère italienne, allemande, chinoise et russe. Une légère inclinaison du torse, une ombre sur le timbre de la voix, et voilà une tout autre personnalité. Alternativement gaie et sérieuse, spirituelle toujours, Elsie Attenhofer aime la chanson populaire, à laquelle elle donne son sens actuel, soit dans la parodie, soit dans la simple interprétation. Elle préfère le politicien faisant de la peinture (Winston) au peintre faisant de la politique (Adolf).

(Journal de Genève.)

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