

An interesting evening at Londonderry house

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1952)**

Heft 1181

PDF erstellt am: **10.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-689989>

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AN INTERESTING EVENING AT LONDONDERRY HOUSE.

It is a thousand pities that so few of our compatriots attended the lecture by Mary Buchanan, authoress of "The Children's Village", who spoke on the Pestalozzi Village at Trogen, at the Meeting of the Anglo-Swiss Society, on Friday, May 2nd, 1952.

One would have thought, that the name alone of Heinrich Pestalozzi — this great Swiss humanitarian and educationist — would attract a large number of his countrymen to hear about this village which bears his name, and where orphans from Europe's war ridden countries are finding a new home.

The time old adage "that a prophet is without honour in his own country" seems to be true; if the Swiss were conspicuous by their absence, our English friends and members turned up in full force.

It was some three years ago, that I had the pleasure of visiting, together with my wife, the Pestalozzi village at Trogen, a visit which impressed us greatly. It was thus a special enjoyment to listen to Mary Buchanan, who gave us an excellent description of this little haven of Peace. About two hundred children, mostly orphans of both sexes and from the following countries: France, Poland, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Germany, Finland, Greece and Great Britain, who, after having been emotionally shattered, mentally shaken and their physical strength undermined, find here a home of their own, in a village of their own to which they can always return to for holidays in after life.

Space unfortunately does not allow me to give a more detailed commentary of the lecturer's really outstanding description of the daily life and routine work in the village, but those of my readers, who are interested in this great humanitarian work, I would warmly recommend them to read her book, "The Children's Village" recently published and reviewed in the "Swiss Observer" by my colleague J.J.F.S., it can be obtained from the Bannisdals Press, 46-7, Chancery Lane, W.C.2, at the cost of 6/-. This attractive and interesting book shows a practical way to the creation of international tolerance and understanding and the proceeds go towards the upkeep of the village.

Colonel St. Townend, who was in the Chair, warmly thanked the lecturer for her enjoyable *compte rendu* asking for a vote of thanks, which was accorded to her with spontaneity, after having been seconded by Mr. W. Meier.

A number of fine Swiss films were then shown, and this pleasant evening came to a close shortly before 10 o'clock.

ST.

EASTER SERVICE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SWISS CATHOLICS.

Sunday, April 27th, 1952.

The usual, annual Easter Tide Service of the Swiss Catholics was held at St. Peter's Church, Palace Street, on Sunday afternoon, at 4.30 p.m. There was a good attendance of young and old and it was particularly pleasing to see so many Swiss of both sexes attending.

The Chaplain, Fr. Lanfranchi, in his sermon in English and in German dwelt on the day's Gospel, "the Good Shepherd". His well chosen words both about the meaning of Easter, the Good Shepherd and our obligations and graces as good Catholics and Swiss went surely to the heart of all present.

Solemn Benediction was given by Pater S. Kühne, S.M.B., assisted by Pater Anastasius, a Capucin Monk, both Swiss missionaries at present studying English. The choir sang "O Sacrum Convivium" by Tarrant, and "Haec Dies" by Ett, besides the usual Hymns for Benediction, and the whole congregation joined in heartily singing the Swiss Anthem.

The Annual General Meeting following the Church Service at St. Peter's Hall was presided over by Mr. C. Berti, and he was supported by a gathering of approximately 300 compatriots. In his welcome the Chairman dwelt on the importance of the Chaplain's mission, the necessity of support from young and old, whilst Mr. Boos, the Hon. Secretary, paid special thanks to the Chaplain for his work and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. Steinmann, for collecting the funds.

The Report and Accounts of 1951, which were circulated, on the proposal of Messrs. M. Diviani and F. Bassi were approved and adopted and the Committee given discharge. The Chairman then announced that Colonel Bon had, owing to departure from England, resigned as President and that Mr. Schumacher, who had been Chairman and a Member of the Committee from 1942, also tendered his resignation. He also stated that Mr. Boos, who had been the Committee's Hon. Secretary from the foundation, could not carry on and asked to be released from his duties, although he would remain a member of the Committee.

Mr. Berti and the Chaplain expressed thanks to the retiring members which was endorsed by long applause from the meeting.

Before proposing the election of the New Committee, Mr. Huber, Swiss Consul, brought the Swiss Minister's greetings and wishes and also expressed his thanks to the Chaplain and the Committee for the work that has been done over the last ten years. Mr. Broglie seconded Mr. Huber's proposal and all previous members, in addition to Mr. M. Diviani and Mr. E. R. Cottet were duly elected for 1952/3.

The rest of the evening was spent in seeing some of the latest Swiss colour films and a few happy hours in songs and dancing brought this year's successful meeting to a close. J.B.

EXHIBITION OF SET AND COSTUME DESIGNS.

We wish to inform our readers that an Exhibition of Set and Costume Designs is being held at the Watergate Theatre, 29, Buckingham Street, W.C.2, by our compatriot, Vittorio Speich. The exhibition will be open until 2nd June, 1952.

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