

Cabaret Rueblisaft

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CABARET RUEBLISAFT.

By inviting the Cabaret Rüeblisaft from Switzerland to give a single performance in London the N.S.H. has provided the Colony with a most delightful entertainment. It duly took place on October 20th at the French Institute. It proved a great success. It was like a breath of fresh air from home, mixed with a strong dose of laughing gas. In the best tradition of the Cornichon and the "Fédéral" this small group of four artistes made fun of everything and everyone in Switzerland and even in our Colony — clean and healthy fun, though saucy and provocative, well-meaning and good natured fun, though perforce passing judgements so superficial at times that their very absurdity evoked the biggest applause.

Such as when one of our most respected societies was lampooned as a "Jass-Club" interested only in English celebrities, or when a particular publication was commended as a soporific! Little did the Rüeblisaft know of the stirring battles that rage occasionally between the giants or pigmies of our Colony in the pages of that very publication or of the pungent admonitions from the editorial chair. But no one minded, each target took the malicious dart like a man — as did a particularly high personage when the Rüeblisaft discussed the possibility of settling down permanently in cheap premises in a certain Square of West London.

But the main part of the programme was of course devoted to poking fun at high and low in Switzerland, starting with a doleful song of the "Gemischter Chor Edelschweiss" in the style of the "Männerchor of Stäffisburg". A chance conversation in the gallery of the Nationalrat acquainted us with some of the domestic scandals and squabbles of our Federal Parliament. A drunken peasant on a spree at the "Olma", short for the Ostschweizerische Landwirtschafts-und Maschinenausstellung, let us into the secret of what these endemic exhibitions really are organised for year in year out all over Switzerland: to provide a holiday from dull home-life. The Swiss Press at home and abroad came in for some very crude buffetings at a news-stall "Im eidgenössischen Blätterwald" kept by the prettiest and pertest news-girl, who in another number gives a touching rendering of the infatuation of a pupil

at a Lehrerseminar for her teacher and her sorrowful resignation at the thought that scores of others adore him no less. La jeunesse dorée is represented with satirical zest, dressed à la Montparnasse, wisecracking at a bar, brilliant aping of imitation existentialists! Incomprehensible modern art was revealed to the delight of us all, laymen and low-brows, as hollow pretence and bits and pieces that are better eaten and drunk than stuck to a canvas in symbolic triteness. The proverbial "Feschtedner" mouthing patriotic clap-trap transported his audience back home in a trice, and the mechanisation of our "Fremdenindustrie" could not have been ironised more tellingly than by the experiences of a very bored and very long in the tooth English couple on the first day of arrival, getting all the advertised delights of restful Switzerland forced down their throats — except the one thing they pathetically yearn for — a cup of tea.

Those of us who have lived long enough in this country to appreciate its quiet sense of humour and its capacity to laugh at itself, at its alleged or real foibles and absurdities, were particularly delighted to discover at the performance of the Rüeblisaft that something very much akin has taken root in Switzerland since we have been away from home. The initiators of this entertainment in London, the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, assuredly deserve our thanks as well as the four artistes and their four helping companions who have not shunned the fatigue and discomfort of the long journey in three ancient cars laden with stage-props and luggage, here and back to Baden, with an additional trip to Manchester for a highly successful performance there thrown in as well. It

Xmas Greetings

Following former years' practice we propose to publish again in our December issue a collective greeting.

The high costs of Xmas cards, should induce many of our subscribers to make use of this facility to extend to their friends the compliments of the season.

Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Friday, November 26th, 1954, together with remittance for 6/-.

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would be invidious to single out any particular artiste or number as having pleased more than any other. They were all supremely good: Alfred Bruggmann and Oskar Hoby, the versatile male impersonators, Regine Brandt und Stierli, the pretty young ladies, who proved so triumphantly that subtle artistry and charm can well dispense with sexy vulgarity to succeed. Be it mentioned in passing that Mr. Bruggmann has written most of the numbers, that Miss Stierli is a new discovery for the stage, having been a post-office clerk until two months ago, and that the difficult piano accompaniment was played by a young student of engineering, Mr. Dubler.

Our Minister, Monsieur de Torrenté, who attended the performance with Madame de Torrenté, was kind enough to offer the visiting company from Switzerland a cocktail reception, and Dr. Fässler, commercial attaché, kindly opened his near-by flat for a joint reception with the organisers after the performance. In London as well as in Manchester a number of Swiss families volunteered to give hospitality to the members of the Rüeblisaft, thus helping to keep the costs of their visit down to a miraculous minimum. If nevertheless a small deficit remains to be shouldered by the N.S.H., it is due to a marked lack of support from some quarters standing apart. All the same the Colony at large supported the venture magnificently and seems to have enjoyed it immensely.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique and Anglo-Swiss Society

LECTURE

JEREMIAS GOTTHELF

on the 100th anniversary of his death

given by

PROF. H. M. WAIDSON

of Hull University, author of a recent book on the eminent Swiss Novelist.

on Monday, 1st November, 1954, 7 p.m.
at Londonderry House, 19, Park Lane, W.1.

(Bus stop near Piccadilly end in Park Lane)

Admission free of charge

All members and friends are cordially invited.

CABARET RUEBLISAFT IN MANCHESTER.

Late in the evening of Friday, four young actors and actresses of the "Cabaret Rueblisaft" accompanied by their pianist and an escort of kindly helpers arrived in our Industrial City of Manchester after a long and tedious car journey from London.

They received a very hearty welcome from some of our members who gave them hospitality within the warmth and comfort of their families during their whole stay. This well earned rest enabled them to prepare for what must have been an ordeal, quite understandable, as it was their first performance abroad, far away from the protecting frontiers of our Homeland, and the audiences they know.

I do not want to enter into many particulars, but I am certain all of us considered this Cabaret evening to be a full success, an evening attended by more than 200 well wishers (members with their families and friends).

If the technical arrangements were not all that our friends would have wished, this was compensated with a very friendly and cosy atmosphere, and certainly they must have enjoyed the evening as much as we did. The various numbers were given with great gusto and brilliance, and were greeted with repeated applause by the audience who enjoyed this fresh, clean and youthful acting, showing a bright and numerous side of daily life in Switzerland.

Before leaving for their next engagement a few of our members arranged a Sunday outing into the lovely countryside of Cheshire and the capital City of Chester, well known for the Cathedral, its old unspoiled houses, and for its richness in historical and cultural interest.

We do hope that our friends of the "Cabaret Rueblisaft" will remember the few days spent with their compatriots in the North.

E.B.



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