

Swiss musical evening at Watford

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SWISS Y.M.C.A. (Annual Report).

In reviewing the activities of the Swiss Y.M.C.A., 12 Bateman Street, W.1., during the past year, it is appropriate to emphasize that our motto has been:— "Render service to the young man from abroad", — a service which of necessity is very manifold.

Our meetings were held weekly on Thursday evenings, when lectures were given on a variety of subjects, and were followed by active discussions. Mr. B. Segall also offered his services by giving English lessons from 5 to 6 p.m. Among the many interesting talks which were given we should like to mention those on travels; some historic and scientific lectures dealt with the History and the Museums of London. The talks on Faith and Practice brought us in line with the main object of our meetings, namely to strengthen our faith in God, as we felt that this was the best preparation for the tests of life which a young man has to meet sooner or later.

We kept in touch with the English Y.M.C.A. centre which offers such opportunities as swimming and athletics. Our work is connected with the Swiss Churches as far as the spiritual side is concerned. The Annual Conference of old members of the Y.M.C.A.'s of London and Paris took place on the last Sunday in August in Zurich, and was well attended.

The work of the Y.M.C.A. in its social and world-wide aspect is known and need not be emphasized specially. However, the spiritual purpose of the movement is not always realised. We have found that a study of the Bible is essential to a knowledge of God. Dr. A. T. Schofield, a well known Harley Street specialist, once mentioned that a man's life was too short to exhaust the Bible. He was then 70 years old. It is true that this search after the truth requires a mind free from prejudice, but to know what God has to say about our life is of paramount importance. This is perhaps the most important difference between Christianity and all other religions, that in Christianity God is revealed to us not as a static thing, but a dynamic, pulsating activity, a life centred in the person of Jesus Christ. A true knowledge of God inevitably leads to a stronger, quieter and more radiant life.

In closing this report we wish to thank our donors at home and abroad for their support, and to those in Switzerland who read these lines we would say: "Make the Y.M.C.A. known" among those who go abroad".

The Committee.

SWISS MUSICAL EVENING AT WATFORD.

The Swiss Male Choir under its conductor Mr. E. P. Dick and the Swiss Accordion Club under its leader Mr. A. L. Gandon were invited by the Watford Languages Club to pay them a visit and treat them to a Swiss Musical Evening at Watford's International Centre on Thursday, the 11th of March last.

The company left head quarters in Charlotte Street at 6.30 p.m. by motor coach. During the journey the accordionists Mr. Gandon, Miss Zupinger, Mr. Delaloye and Mr. Ott treated us to fine and lively music all the way. Upon arrival we were met by the Secretary of the Languages Club, Mr. Lilliman, himself a linguist, who informed us that, prior to our performance, he would like us to mingle with the audience and have a chat. This proved most amusing and one could hear many languages spoken including Schwyzerdütsch. Thus we introduced ourselves to the audience and found a most congenial, happy and friendly atmosphere; it was something we had never done before.

At 8.30 p.m. we started our concert and entertained a lively audience to Accordion music, Swiss songs in French and German and various yodels. The audience was most responsive, but when Mr. Luterbacher in his inimitable style accompanying himself at the piano sang "Dr. Brienzer Buurli Yodel" and Miss Zupinger, accompanied by the Accordionists and the Choir, the "Rigiyodel", the audience was aroused to heights of rapture and applause which literally "brought the house down".

Much too soon came 10 o'clock and the warning that we were "miles from home", so to a close came an evening equally enjoyed by the audience and the performers. However, the Swiss spirit lived on and continued to make itself heard untiringly in song and music all the way back to London. It was a grand night from every point of view.

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