

# News from the colony

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# NEWS FROM THE COLONY

## SURREY OUTING OF THE CITY SWISS CLUB

To bring some diversion from the ordinary monthly and card-playing meetings at the Dorchester Hotel, the committee of the City Swiss Club invited its members to an "Informal Dinner Dance" on Friday, 5th July.

As on the last four occasions, "Great Fosters", the famous and historical place at Egham (Surrey), was the venue chosen for this outing. The building, with its mellow Tudor brick façade and beautiful gardens, is an ideal place in which to spend a few happy hours away from the hurly-burly of town life.

Although the weather was passable, it was, however, not good enough to have cocktails served on the garden-terrace, which was a pity. However, many of the party took the opportunity of strolling through the grounds, admiring the rose gardens, the lawns and flower beds. The azure blue swimming pool was deserted though, its only occupants being a few rubber ducks.

That by now the Egham venue is enjoying great popularity amongst the members of the Club was proved by the attendance which again well surpassed the hundred mark. The younger generation was perhaps slightly in preponderance, but it is with pleasure that it can be reported that the older members were well represented. Amongst the company were noticed H.E. the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker, as well as two former presidents of the Club, Messrs. H. Knoll and X Speckert, with their ladies.

It was past 8 p.m. before the company could be induced to leave the cocktail lounge to proceed to the baronial hall, where an excellent dinner was served consisting of Melon Frappé, Fillet of Plaise Meunière, Entrecôte Steak Garni, Braised Celery, Garden Peas, French Fried Potatoes, Strawberries and Cream, and Coffee.

True to the previously announced promise that no speeches were to be made, the president, Mr. M. A. Keller, shortly after coffee was served, proposed the Toasts to H.M. the Queen and "La Suisse". Whilst the former Toast was accorded musical accompaniment, the new Swiss National Anthem was not played after the latter Toast, as, no doubt, the band had no score. It was, of course, easier when in the past the two National Anthems shared the same tune!

During dinner the eight-piece dance band played appropriate "Tafelmusik".

Then dancing commenced and the opportunity occurred to admire some of the attractive ladies' gay "toilettes". The dances varied from old time waltzes, one- and two-steps, polkas, laendlers, Paul Jones, etc., to twist, cha-cha-cha and charleston. A "dreamy fox-trot" announced, looked quite out of place in that exciting category.

It was particularly noticed that the "à la Harlem" dances were mostly executed by the younger members of the party, the twisting and twirling proving too strenuous for the "over-fifties". What, we wonder, would the ancestors who once occupied these quarters have had to say to these dancing acrobatics? In fact the dancing got so "hot" that various articles were announced as having been found on the dance floor, amongst them a lady's diamond brooch and a belt(!).

The time rapidly passed, midnight struck, and still the party in all its gaiety was in full swing,

and it was only shortly before 1 a.m. when the last waltz was played.

To sum up, one can say without hesitation that this outing, which went with such gusto from beginning to end, was a great success, and the committee of the Club is to be congratulated on having once again given the members an opportunity to meet in such happy circumstances. Special thanks are due to Mr. L. F. Jobin, who, as usual, so efficiently arranged this party.

ST.

Press Reporter, City Swiss Club.

## A DEPARTURE

In recent months the London Swiss Colony has lost a good many members, either from departing to those unknown shores from which there is no return, or having gone back — many after a long *séjour* in this hospitable country — to the land of their birth. Amongst the latter, we have to bid farewell and God-speed to Mr. and Mrs. W. Beckmann, who have recently left London.

Mr. W. Beckmann was born in Zurich in 1891, where he received part of his education at the primary school in Zurich — Flantern, and at the secondary school in Zurich — Hottingen. When his parents moved to Basle, he continued his schooling at the Obere Realschule of that town, where he also took his final exams (Abiturienten-examen).

After a few months of military service (Rekrutenschule und Unteroffiziersschule), he obtained a position with a Basle firm, but soon the "Wanderlust" got hold of him, and in September 1912, he packed his bundle and departed for London. There he obtained a job with an engineering firm, where he remained for 3½ years, followed by a position with the World Transport Company Ltd., a position which he held for fifteen years.

In 1931, Mr. Beckmann started his own business under the name of Cosmos Freightways Agency Ltd., which concern, by hard work and ability, he brought to great success. After thirty-two years as owner and manager, he has recently sold the business to his co-director, Mr. A. Strittmatter, a compatriot of ours.

Although a busy man, he took a keen interest in the doings of the Colony. Being an ardent patriot, he was a member of the one-time Swiss Institute, the City Swiss Club, Swiss Mercantile Society, and Nouvelle Société Helvétique. He and his charming wife (a vaudoise) were often seen at many of the various functions held in the Swiss community.

We wish them both a happy eventide in their new home in Lausanne, thanking them for the never-ending interest and loyalty they have always shown whilst amongst us.

ST.

## CITY SWISS CLUB

Will Members please note that  
NO MONTHLY MEETINGS  
will be held until September.

## MISS ANNETTE WEISBROD

Through the kind hospitality of Dr. and Mrs. Obrist, in Bradford, the writer was privileged to spend a most enjoyable evening at their home on 23rd March, the occasion being a pianoforte recital by Miss Annette Weisbrod. This young lady, of Swiss nationality, is in the early years of her career as a concert pianist and one can foresee her advancement to the forefront of her profession. Her programme was a varied one and one calculated to reveal her very well developed technique.

The opening number was the Italian Concerto by Bach and it was the first time she had performed it in public. The writer is by nature a confirmed romantic and is not moved by much of the music of this composer to anything like the extent that he is affected by that of others of a different type, but there can be no doubt that the works of Bach demand a degree of accurate clarity greater than that of many of the later composers. In this, Miss Weisbrod was equal to all demands, every note was given its true value, and if there can be any criticism it is that the technical accuracy was at times a shade too much the predominant interest.

The second item might be termed the "pièce de resistance" of the whole programme, the well-known and well-loved "Carnival" by Schumann. This, with its varying moods and varying difficulty is a happy hunting ground for pianists of more than ordinary ability, and it can be said at once that Miss Weisbrod took it in her stride. One could have wished for a little more tenderness in the "Eusebius" section, for it represents Schumann the Critic in his more mellow mood, but there was no doubt about the denunciatory "Florestan". The brilliant technique of Miss Weisbrod was never more in evidence than in the extremely difficult "Paganini", which was for the most part played with a clarity which was a joy to hear. And so in due course we came to that wonderful march, in the unusual  $\frac{3}{4}$  time, which is the finale of the work. There is no doubt that Miss Weisbrod enjoys it to the full and with her we rejoiced in the utter rout of the Philistines. In every way a happy ending to a fine experience.

After a short interval we had two pieces by Ravel, "Alborado del gracioso" and "Oiseaux Tristes". These called for a technique of an outstanding quality, particularly the first with its resemblance in places to that work by Ravel's compatriot, Debussy, the "Golliwog's Cake-walk". Suffice it to say that both were admirably played, as was also the following item by Debussy, "L'île Joyeuse". One could not help feeling as one listened that this was indeed a happy island.

The programme ended with three works by Chopin, two Etudes, Nos. 9 and 10 of Opus 10, and the popular Ballade in A flat major. As would be expected from a pianist of Miss Weisbrod's ability, they presented no difficulty, notwithstanding the difficult stretches in the right hand of No. 10, and were played with complete confidence, though possibly with a shade less delicacy of touch than one could have wished.

The Ballade could almost be described as a classical rendering, and Miss Weisbrod was obviously playing well within herself. This fortunate listener felt that this fine performance would have been even finer if she had been a trifle less restrained towards the end. But in fairness, it must be said that this is an individual preference and cannot be considered a criticism of a performance which was outstandingly good.

As an encore Miss Weisbrod gave a charming rendering of a Chopin Mazurka in A minor, and the writer is very thankful to her for giving him such an enjoyable evening.

(From Bradford.)

## YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

The Chairman of the Presidents' Assembly of the Swiss Societies in Great Britain, Mr. V. Berti, has informed us that the new representatives of the Swiss Colony on the Commission of the Swiss Abroad are Mrs. Mariann Meier with Mr. E. Bonvin as her deputy (for the South) and Dr. H. B. Knuchel with Mr. J. P. Christen as his deputy (for the North). The next meeting of the Commission will take place on 16th August at St. Moritz on the occasion of the Assembly of the Swiss Abroad.

## SWISS NATIONAL DAY CHURCH SERVICES

There will be two special church services in London, one for the Protestant and one for the Roman Catholic community.

On Sunday, 28th July, at 11 a.m., a bilingual service is to take place at the Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, when the two German- and French-speaking communities will meet together in common worship.

On Sunday, 4th August, at 7 p.m., a special service will take place at St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1, when the Roman Catholic community will have a Sung Mass and Sermon.

## PERSONAL

We wish to congratulate Marlene Schmid, the fourteen-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Schmid, of Norfolk Court Hotel, W.2, on winning a challenge cup as a zither player in a music festival at St. Pancras Town Hall. Her elder sister Melanie (16) carried off a trophy in the same competition last year. Marlene is believed to be the youngest player of this ancient instrument in this country.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations in addition to their subscription: Mrs. A. Renou, Mrs. M. Stafford-Solomon, at present in Basle, Monsieur le Ministre Clottu, Colombier, and Messrs. F. Conrad, P. Lambert, E. Schaerer, M. Werder. We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

## OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 9th August. We shall be glad to receive manuscripts and reports not later than Wednesday, 31st July, and short news items by 2nd August. It would be much appreciated if these dates could be strictly adhered to as the Editor will be leaving for her holiday early in August.

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