

British Red Cross Society celebrates Red Cross Centenary

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longed applause than to anyone else. Handel's "Harmonious Blacksmith" Variations, the Rhapsody op. 79 No. 2 and the Capriccio op. 116 No. 7 by Brahms, as well as Chopin's C Minor Nocturne (op. 48 No. 1) were included in the programme. Mr. Ferber contributed greatly to the success of the evening and it was a pity time did not allow him an encore.

The interval has always been one of the important aspects of the Fête Suisse, a chance to meet old friends. And with the introduction of picnic bags one was free to roam at random and chat to one's heart's content.

The second part was slow to start but the three members of the "Cabaret Rüeblihaft and their excellent pianist brought life and a fresh breeze with them at once. They were at their best when making fun of our Swiss institutions and characteristics. There was the naïvely conceited Zurichier who showed an American tourist the attractions of Zurich's own night life. The Swiss respect for money came under scrutiny, the Swiss love of insurance and clumsy handling of the German language. Perhaps the best items were the pantomime "Kuhhandel" at the "Landsgemeinde" and the musical skit in which a couple of "Vereinsmeier" remembered their society's outing to Milan. It was appreciated that the Cabaret introduced two numbers in French, but they were obviously not of the same standard as those in "Schwyzerdütsch". The artists, Miss Vera Furrer and Messrs. Alfred Bruggmann and Oskar Hoby, as well as the pianist, Lutz Harteck, gave an excellent performance on the whole, and if they go on improving as they have done since their last appearance in London in 1954 they should soon be second to none.

The Corale of the Unione Ticinese under their popular conductor, Mr. L. Bruni, brought the cheerful songs of the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland. In their colourful costumes, accompanied by accordions, violin and piano, they entertained us in their own special way with the attractive tunes. It is gratifying to know that their numbers have recently been increased and we hope that this group of enthusiastic young Swiss will survive for many a year to come and not suffer the same fate as the Swiss Male Choir, who once upon a time also used to contribute to the Fête Suisse.

The 1963 Festival of the Swiss is over. Many are the happy memories we harbour. The Committee has tried hard and the Colony has responded, and there is no doubt that there is a real demand for continuing the Fête. It is the custom to mention the President of an organisation, but Mr. Thomas would be the first to agree that without some extremely hard-working members of his committee no function could be organised, and it is to him and them all that our thanks go. The late President, Mr. Alfred Renou, would, I am sure, have been pleased with the way his ideas for this jubilee have been carried out. Two previous Presidents were amongst the audience, Mr. A. F. Suter and Mr. C. Chapuis, and whilst they may have had some nostalgic regrets that things were no longer the same, they, too, must have applauded whole-heartedly the efforts made and the results achieved.

Mariann.

**CITY SWISS CLUB
SWISS ECONOMIC COUNCIL**

Reports of their Annual General Meetings will appear in the next issue.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY CELEBRATES RED CROSS CENTENARY

On 8th May the British Red Cross Society celebrated the Centenary of the Red Cross in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen. The Royal Festival Hall provided a magnificent background for this event. It was the particular wish of the organisers that the Männerchor Zürich should participate by singing Swiss folk-songs. As a special tribute to Switzerland, where Henri Dunant founded the Red Cross in 1863, the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker were invited to attend the celebration — the only members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Court of St. James's. The choice of date for the celebration, the anniversary of the birth of Henri Dunant, was a special mark of respect to the great Swiss compatriot who, as the Ambassador mentioned in his speech at the Fête Suisse earlier the same evening, "gave us all an example of what a man of great faith and breadth of vision can accomplish in a lifetime".

The celebration at the Royal Festival Hall opened with music by Handel, followed by the Colour Parties from fifty-five branches of the British Red Cross taking their positions on the stage. Henry Purcell's Trumpet Sonata heralded the arrival of Her Majesty and His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who were received by H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, Chairman of the Council of the British Red Cross Society. Her Majesty, accompanied by the Duke and T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and H.R.H. the Princess Royal, Commandant-in-Chief of the B.R.C.S., inspected a Guard of Honour of ninety cadets, each of whom was carrying a National flag of one of the countries with a recognised society of the Red Cross, Red Crescent or Red Lion and Sun.

To the sound of a fanfare Her Majesty and the Royal Party then entered the Royal Box, and the National Anthem was played.

The Countess of Limerick, G.B.E., Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee, British Red Cross Society, and of the League of Red Cross Societies, made the introductory speech, followed by Monsieur Martin Bodmer, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who presented the Centenary Medal to the B.R.C.S.

The Colour Parties then withdrew and the Guard of Honour entered with the National Flags, a very moving spectacle indeed.

Next came the showing of the film "Across the Street, Across the World", and the Foreign Secretary, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Home, P.C., gave the main address. The Celebration finished with the performance by the Männerchor Zürich, who sang the Beresinalied, Karl Attenhofer's "Mein Schweizerland" and Baumgartner's "O Mein Heimatland". They finished with "Reveille" by Rosenmund, and the National Anthem brought the impressive Celebration to a close.

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The next day the Ambassador and Madame Daeniker gave a reception to the Männerchor at the Embassy, at which the Ambassador was handed the deed of his Honorary Membership of the choir. Their Golden Book, which was started by Gottfried Keller and contains famous names like C. F. Meyer, Karl Spitteler, Clémenceau and King Alfonso of Spain, was handed round with great pride, for Her Majesty had graciously agreed to sign it the previous evening.