

1st August at the ACSE

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1st AUGUST AT THE ACSE

Arriving too early at the "Anglo Continental School of English" in Bournemouth for its National Day Celebration, I spent a leisurely hour on the terrace of the central building, together with lingering students speaking every language of Europe. This garden school is pleasantly located on Wimborne Road, not far from the centre of the cosy resort of Bournemouth.

The improvised quartet that was to bring music to the evening was warming up inside the building and we could hear its rhythm and the blare of its trumpet. Students were arriving in little groups. Most of them were entering the lieu of the celebration, so I followed them and took my seat in the refectory, converted in a music-hall for the occasion.

The lively bustle from the student audience subsided and gave way to applause as Mr. F. Schilling, principal director and founder of the school, arrived with his honourable guests, M. Fritz Adams, Swiss Consul in London, and the Lord Mayor of Bournemouth, together with their respective wives.

We were abruptly transported to Switzerland by four delightful maidens in Swiss traditional dress, who welcomed us in the four national languages. A student, garbed as a mountain peasant and wearing a black netted beard read us the story of the foundation of Switzerland with a distinctly *schwitzerdütsch* accent. A yodelling trio then made us gain altitude with their airy performance. The ACSE choir, composed of a good thirty voicy volunteers, sang the "Vigneron" and from Wales, "The Ash Grove".

Music was interrupted by Mr. Schilling's welcome address. He greeted Mr. Adams and the Lord Mayor with two unwieldy flower baskets carried to them by two Heidi-like maids.

The choir, which had been standing on the stage behind Mr. Schilling, took the cue with "Mir Senne hei's lustig". Mr. Adams then delivered a patriotic address in which he conveyed a message by the Ambassador to the Swiss youth present, urging them to be "ambassadors for Switzerland". Illustrating his point with the agronomical simile of scientifically developed strains of sisal producing abundant but flimsy strands, Mr. Adams said that facility and effortless life could not make for a strong generation, capable of coping with the future problems of our country.

The Mayor, in his turn, had nice things to say for Switzerland and recalled the happy holidays he had spent there. He stressed on the role played by the ACSE in the fortunes of Bournemouth, the school being one of the first established, and probably the most prominent in making Bourne-

mouth the thriving student-centre it now is. He expressed the wish that his town would benefit everlastingly from the presence of foreign students, whose numbers are never less than two thousand at any one time of the year.

The first part of the evening was closed by the national anthem, which we all sang together, following the choir.

Whilst the students were beginning to rock and to roll, we, the school's guests, were treated to a cocktail. This was an opportunity for meeting members of the staff and being shown around premises which tender to 8,000 students a year. I visited the language laboratory, the school's pride and joy, which contains 48 booths equipped with both visual and audio appliances.

Back in time for the second part of the programme, we laughed at the cranks of a gifted comedian student. The quartet that had seasoned the show (a band formed only two weeks beforehand by students of the school) had a swing at Glenn Miller. Followed a sketch portraying the vicissitudes (imaginary, I suppose) of students and their Bournemouth landladies. The entertainment ended with an exciting performance by the beaming "ACSE Can-Can Girls" and with the final ullulations of the yodelling trio.

The remaining part of the evening was given to dancing. It must be pointed out that all our entertainers were students who had devoted a number of evenings to make this show, which was primarily a concern of their Swiss-run school, a success. This may indicate that for the youth who participated the 1st August still has meaning, but it surely expresses their attachment to their school.

(P.M.B.)

THE OUTING OF THE SWISS CHURCHES

The 180 participants from the French and German-speaking Protestant parishes and from the Catholic Church gathered at Endell Street on Sunday morning, 3rd August, for the National-day outing conducted by Pastor Dietler. They left at 9 o'clock, with the intention of being present at the 11.30 service at Winchester Cathedral. Three of the four coaches reached Winchester in time, but one of them, the one transporting the *romands* stopped on the way, the chauffeur arguing that he was not allowed to drive for more than two hours without a tea-break. Having enjoyed his mandatory cup of tea, he got lost and only managed to bring his passengers to the Cathedral in time for the last hymn of what was found to be an extremely high-church service. The party then picnicked under an un-

stinting sun, conveniently seated on the old grave stones surrounding the Cathedral. It boarded the coaches at 2 o'clock and made for Beaulieu, south of the New Forest. There, it visited "Palace House", dwelling of the Montagues, where, among other pretty things, some beautiful furniture could be admired. Those who wished could visit the near-by ruins of an old abbey, or see the old-car museum founded by Lord Montague. For the amateurs of fast pleasures, there was the possibility of a drive on a go-cart.

At six o'clock, the party re-assembled and headed back for London. A youth from the French-speaking church later complained to me that the occasion hadn't been devoted to bringing the three parishes nearer together, since the differing linguistic and denominational groups had not mingled sufficiently. This regrettable (but plainly human) circumstance did fortunately not prevent the tippers from having a very enjoyable day.

HURLIMANN MAKES HISTORY

This Swiss family brewery has probably been the first firm ever to sponsor abroad a tennis tournament on the same scale as the one which took place during the week to August 2nd in Eastbourne. The "Hürliman Doubles Week" was moreover the first international doubles tournament ever played under Lawn Tennis Association rules. No such tournament, where every match is a doubles game, had ever been organised apart from the American Doubles Championships.

Hürlimann has been marketing its beers in this country for a year and is making a considerable effort in continuing its penetration in Great-Britain, as attested by the Eastbourne tournaments.

These brought together players as prestigious as Virginia Wade, Margaret Court (who made her last appearance in England at the tournament), Judy Tegart, Graham Stilwell, Mike Sangster and John Clifton.

Rain prevented the men finals from being played. In the women finals, Judy Tegart and Margaret Court beat the Truman sisters in three sets. The Duke of Devonshire, accompanied the Swiss Ambassador, Mr. René Keller, presented the finalists with their prize and congratulated them.

CITY SWISS CLUB

Will Members please note that
NO MONTHLY MEETINGS
will be held until 23rd September