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CITY SWISS CLUB

87th Annual Banquet and Ball

at the
DORCHESTER HOTEL, PARK LANE, LONDON, W.1

on
FRIDAY, 21st NOVEMBER, 1952.

In the Chair : THE SWISS MINISTER, MONSIEUR HENRY DE TORRENTÉ

Had it not been for the two last wars, when social functions were restricted or dispensed with, the Annual Banquet and Ball of the City Swiss Club, which was held at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1., on Friday, November 21st, would have been the 96th of its kind, and so slowly but surely, this well-known Club is creeping nearer to its first century.

Having reported in this paper at least twenty-five of these annual events, I find it increasingly difficult to strike a new note when writing about this function.

If I compare the post war Banquets with some pre war ones, I must admit, that they have become a little less pretentious and more simple. The list of invited guests, which in the past often reached the number of between sixty and eighty, has, for economy reasons, been drastically curtailed, thus giving it a less brilliant appearance.

However, what is lost in one way is gained in another, and I feel sure, that the many, who have during the last few years, attended the Banquets of the Club, will agree with me, that they have become more intimate and more homely.

This last Banquet, at which nearly 300 members and guests were present, was a very jolly and friendly affair, and the outstanding features were, an excellent dinner, short speeches and a fine dance band, as well as the surprisingly large attendance of the younger generation of the Colony.

* * *

Previous to the dinner, the Swiss Minister, accompanied by Madame de Torrenté, and Mr. C. A. Seinet, President of the City Swiss Club, and Madame Seinet, received the members and guests, and after cocktails having been served, the company adjourned to the attractive ball-room, which was as always beautifully decorated with flowers.

Towards the end of the dinner, which, as mentioned above, was an excellent one in every respect, the loyal toasts were given and duly honoured. The red-coated toast master then announced, that the President of the Club would address the company. Mr. Seinet referred in his introduction to the two occasions each year when the Swiss Colony in London gets together to speak of and testify their love of their country,



General View of the Banqueting Hall.

mentioning the "Fête Suisse", and the 1st of August celebration; he continued by saying:

"But on this occasion, when the members of the City Swiss Club invite their families and friends here, our thoughts also wander to the Fatherland to which we are so deeply attached. We think of our beautiful mountains and lakes, the flowers which cover our hills in the summer, the deep snow which gives exhilaration to all who can enjoy our winter sports. And here, I am sure, we are at one with our English guests who, we hope, have also brought back happy memories from their holidays. On such an evening we send a thought of gratitude to our country and greetings and wishes to our Federal authorities."

He then expressed his pleasure at seeing in our midst the Swiss Minister, in his capacity as Honorary President of the City Swiss Club, and Madame de Torrenté, thanking him for the constant interest he is taking in the activities of the Club.

The President mentioned that it gave him special pleasure in greeting the Guest of Honour, Sir Malcolm Trustram-Eve, Q.C. accompanied by Lady Trustram-Eve, saying:

"I know, Sir, how much you like our country and the many holidays you have spent there. But we are also very appreciative of all you are doing as President of the Ski Club of Great Britain, to foster that wonderful sport among English people, and of your efforts to send as many of them as possible to Switzerland, despite the present very small travelling allowance, which we all hope will soon be increased or done away with." (*Applause*).

He also welcomed Lady Kelly, whose husband, Sir David Kelly, was British Minister in Berne during the second world war, and a great friend of our country, regretting the unavoidable absence of Sir David, owing to an important conference on the continent.

In conclusion the President said:

"The list of friends of the Club, who, we are pleased to say, attend this function regularly, would not be complete without the representative of the Alpine Club in the person of Dr. R. Greene and Mrs. Greene; of the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club in the person of Mr. and Mrs. Amphlett, and of the Anglo-Swiss Society in the person of Lt. Colonel St. Townend and Mrs. Townend. From the Swiss Legation we greet: Dr. and Mrs. Umbricht, Lt. Colonel Gygli and Mrs. Gygli, Dr. Lindt and Miss Lindt, M. and Mme. Lepori, M. and Mme R. J. Keller and M. and Mme. Miesch. We welcome the representatives of our Swiss churches, M. le Pasteur and Mme. Reverdin, M. le Pasteur and Mme. Spoerri and Father Lanfranchi, and, of course the Editor of the Colony's newspaper, Mr. and Mrs. Stauffer. We greet all the guests of the Club who are here, but certainly, and above all, we are pleased to see so many ladies. Such an occasion would be dreary indeed if it was not graced by your charming presence, and we wish you all a very happy evening." (*Applause*).

The honour of saying "Thank you!", on behalf of the guests was accorded to Sir Malcolm Trustram-Eve, Q.C., who very wittily referred to the picture on the front page of the Menu, depicting a lion with protruding tongue, saying, that without a doubt, this noble animal was showing its disapproval at the miserly tourist allowance.

Sir Malcolm mentioned the recent Golden Jubilee of the Ski Club of Great Britain, of which he is its

distinguished President, and took this opportunity of thanking Switzerland, on behalf of the Ski Club, for all it had done for its members during a great number of years, especially for the friendly reception accorded to them immediately after the conclusion of the last war. (*Long applause*).

The last Toast on the programme was reserved for "La Charité", to be proposed by Mr. R. de Cintra. Unfortunately the latter was, owing to illness, prevented from doing so, and it was left to our old friend Mr. Louis Chapuis, to appeal to the generosity of the company.

He accomplished his task in his usual charming manner; with simple and sincere words he appealed to the gathering to help our brethren, who, often through no fault of their own, fall on evil days. That his appeal did not fall on deaf ears was proved by the splendid result, no less than £123. 10.0 having been collected.

The official part of the evening thus came to its close, and dancing started after a short interval, interrupted only by a tombola, where most attractive prizes were handed over to the lucky winners.

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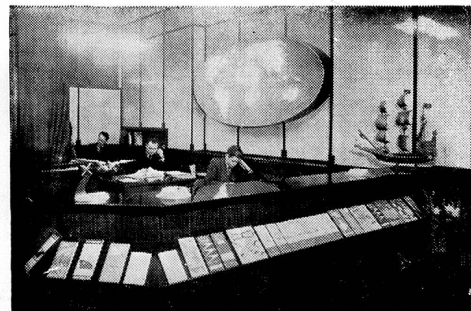
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At 1.30 a.m. this really enjoyable function came to an end, with the singing :

“Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And days of auld lang Sine?”

ST.

1st OF AUGUST COMMITTEE.

The Annual Meeting of the 1st of August Committee took place on Monday, December 1st, at “Swiss House”, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

The following committee for the ensuing year has been elected: President: R. Dupraz; Vice-President: C. Berti; Hon. Secretary: J. Eusebio; Hon. Treasurer: F. Streit; Hon. Assistant Secretary: Miss S. Morosi.

EINEM ALTEN FREUND.

Es müht mich, ich kann's nicht begreifen
Dass wir uns nicht mehr versteh'n
Und auf einmal unsere Wege
So weit auseinander geh'n.

Still leuchtet aus alten Zeiten
Das Märchen der Jugend so klar,
Of möcht' man dem “Heute” entgleiten
In die Zeit, die, die “Gute” war.

Das Leben schlägt viele Wunden
Bricht heilige Bänder entzwei,
Doch Freundschaft wird stets gesunden,
An dem Firnlicht des Lebens Mai.

H.F.

PERSONAL.

Dr. T. H. C. Lewis and Dr. P. Martin.

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of the late Sir Thomas Lewis, C.B.E., F.R.S. and of Lady Lewis, of Clearburn, Loudwater, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, and Philippa, youngest daughter of Mr. E. K. Martin and Mr. Philippa Martin, of 97, Dorset House, N.W.1.

CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that the next **MONTHLY MEETING**

will take place on **Tuesday, January 6th, 1953** at **6.30 p.m.** for **7 p.m.** at **Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1.**

The Dinner will be followed by a game of Jass, Bridge or Canasta.

Members wishing to be present should send their card to the Manager of Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1, to reach him not later than, January 5th, 1953.

Ch. GYSIN,
Hon. Secretary.

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