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CITY SWISS CLUB. Christmas Dinner.

Christmas, 1956, has passed; Father Christmas has vanished up the chimney, and the candles on the Christmas tree have burnt out. There remains nothing but memories; amongst these is the Christmas Dinner of the City Swiss Club which took place on Tuesday, December 18th, at The Dorchester, Park Lane, W.1.

Two facts have, no doubt, contributed to the exceptionally large attendance of nearly 130 members and guests; firstly, three members of the May, 1956, Swiss expedition who successfully climbed Lhotse and Everest were the guests of honour of the Club on this occasion, and, secondly, remembrances of the recent Centenary Banquet and Ball were still very vivid, and thus induced members to come along showing renewed interest in the doings of the Club.

After cocktails had been served in the ante-room, the company adjourned to the Orchid room for dinner, which as usual was excellent, consisting amongst other things of Turkey, Christmas Pudding and Mince Pies. The table decorations — always a feature at The Dorchester — included holly and branches of pine tree. There was no Christmas tree, nor was there any mistletoe (as no ladies were present), but nevertheless the Christmas spirit was much in evidence.

The usual Toasts having been proposed and duly honoured, the President, Mr. Ch. Gysin, extended a hearty welcome to the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Armin Daeniker, to Dr. Albert Eggler, leader of the Lhotse and Everest expeditions, and his colleagues Mr. Fritz Luchsinger and Dr. Rudolf von Gunten.

The President in introducing the three principal guests gave a short *résumé* of the history of former climbing attempts in the Himalayan territory. Referring to the recent expedition he mentioned that Messrs. Ernst Reiss and Fritz Luchsinger climbed to the top of Lhotse (27,890 ft.), which had been hitherto regarded as the highest unclimbed peak in the world, on 18th May, Messrs Ernst Schmidt and Jurg Marmet went to the top of Everest (29,002 ft.) on 23rd May, and Messrs. Adolf Reist and Dr. Rudolf von Gunten also reached the top of Everest on 24th May, 1956.

After the lights were turned out, Dr. Eggler, leader of the expedition, gave an extensive *compte rendu* of the preparations which preceded the expedition, illustrating it with beautiful coloured slides; he was followed by Mr. Luchsinger and Dr. von Gunten who described in their turn their experiences, also illustrating with slides. (A concise report of a lecture given by the above-mentioned gentlemen at the Royal Geographical Society is published in this issue, and, as it is identical with the one given at the City Swiss Club, I refer my readers to this report.)

When the lights were switched on, the three *conferenciers* received a hearty and well deserved ovation. They had described their experiences — no doubt full of hardship, requiring courage and almost superhuman efforts and endurance — very modestly, avoiding any self-glorification. The many slides which were shown were of great beauty and were much admired by the audience.

Mr. Gysin extended heartiest congratulations to the lecturers on their successful expedition, saying that their achievements have evoked the admiration of all mountain lovers throughout the world, and that by those achievements they have not only honoured themselves but also our country. He warmly thanked them, on behalf of the company, for having given us such an interesting and wonderful evening.

Before closing the proceedings, the President wished all the members, guests, and their families a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

The Meeting unanimously elected the following members, who completed fifty years of membership, as *Honorary Members of the Club*: E. F. Sommer, F. Dannmeyer, H. Huber, and J. G. Bachmann.

ST.

MONSIEUR SALVADOR de MADARIAGA AT THE CITY SWISS CLUB.

Members of the City Swiss Club are reminded that Monsieur Salvador de Madariaga, Diplomat, Academician, Historian, Broadcaster and Journalist, will be the guest of honour at the next Monthly Meeting, on January 15th, at The Dorchester. (See advertisement.)

On this occasion Monsieur Salvador de Madariaga will address the members on "The part played by Switzerland in International life". The committee hopes that many members will make it convenient to attend and hear this eminent speaker.

Press Reporter, City Swiss Club.



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