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39th SWISS CHILDREN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE PARTY.

On Saturday, 4th January 1958, 160 children of the Swiss Colony, ranging from two to fourteen years of age, found their way to Victoria Hall, London, on the occasion of the 39th Swiss Children's Christmas Tree Party. To the younger ones it was their first visit, to others it was yet another party; but the Committee had worked hard in trying to get together an attractive programme with not too much repetition.

Father Christmas welcomed the children on their arrival, and this year it was the turn of the children of the Swiss German Sunday School to open the programme with the old, yet always new, story of Christmas, and told by children who, though they sometimes forget their words or get a little mixed up, give the story its simple yet timeless message.

Then followed the Puppet Show, which always seems to hold the children's attention. The most popular scene, I think, was the circus, and the children were amused to see the seals perform their usual tricks and the horse jumping through the ring, all to the sound of music, bringing all the thrills of the circus on to a miniature stage. Mr. Gandon, together with a colleague accordionist, and his young son, who yodelled beautifully, entertained us in the true Swiss manner with tunes from the homeland. Following the musical interlude we had the films, two

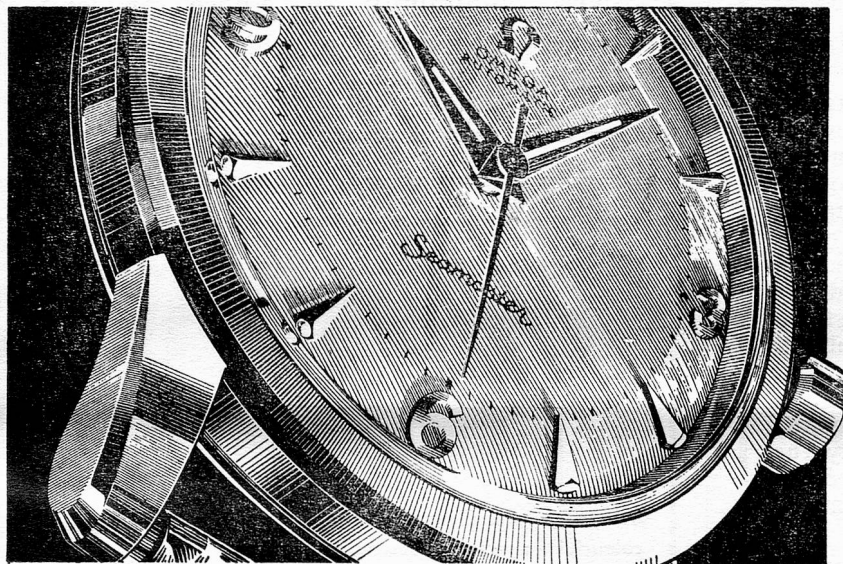
wonderful films, bringing to the children the colour and beauty of their parents' country and the wholesome life out there. To some children it recalled their holidays.

A party is incomplete without the refreshments, and so all the children filed into the next hall and settled down to their tea, waiting anxiously for Father Christmas to reappear. He did, and, with not too much delay, told them a little story, and then all the eager boys and girls collected the carrier bags containing their presents. The carriers contained as usual a present, an orange, an apple, chocolates, a honey cake and a Swiss Calendar.

Our thanks must go to all those who contribute to making this party such a success, those who give generously to enable us to buy the presents, and the fruit; to Mme. Daeniker who graciously gave the chocolates and the honey cakes (much liked by the children), and to Mme. Bessire who patiently year after year makes each one of those lovely Swiss Calendars. The children do appreciate their gifts and enjoy the party and this I am sure pleases those who support us and makes them feel that their donations are well spent in bringing happiness to the children of the Swiss Colony. Our grateful thanks go to M. and Mme. Daeniker and to M. and Mme. Dupraz, who were present, and they too, I am sure, will agree that the amount of time and work that was put into the preparation of the 39th Swiss Children's Christmas Tree Party was very well worth while.

E.B.

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