

Editor's Postbag

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CITY SWISS CLUB Annual Banquet and Ball

By the time this issue appears members of the City Swiss Club will have received the circular giving particulars of the Annual Banquet and Ball of the Club, which is being held at the Dorchester Hotel on Friday, 18th November 1960. (See advertisement.)

As mentioned in the previous number of the "Swiss Observer", the committee is anxious that this banquet should be, in the real sense of the words, a "Swiss Evening", and they extend their invitation not only to their members and friends, but to all members of the Swiss Colony in London and the Provinces.

Applications for tickets at £2. 2s. each, inclusive of gratuities, can be sent to the editor of the "Swiss Observer", 23 Leonard Street, London E.C.2, or any member of the committee. (Cheques to be made out to the order of the City Swiss Club.) Reservations should be made as early as possible. The list will be closed on Monday, 14th November 1960.

*Press Reporter,
City Swiss Club.*

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE (London Group)

The first meeting after the summer recess took place on 18th October at the Swiss Hostel for Girls. The President, Mr. W. Renz, welcomed the large number of members and guests present and gave some brief but lively impressions on the "Auslands-Schweizer Feier" held in Berne on 1st August. He then introduced Miss Elisabeth Feller, President of the International Union of Professional and Business Women, who had kindly accepted the N.S.H.'s invitation to give a lecture on "The Position of the Woman of To-day in Switzerland". On several occasions during her interesting talk Miss Feller mentioned the suffrage for women, but her claim always appeared as a logical conclusion of the practical circumstances which she had described. The Swiss women's organisations, their achievements so far, and also their difficulties owing to the often passive attitude of the "gentler sex" towards public matters, were reviewed by Miss Feller, who, to the great satisfaction of her male listeners, admitted that "the Swiss woman was probably the most privileged in the world". Everybody present no doubt agreed when the lecturer pointed out that equality for women should not entail abolition of "galanterie".

A pleasant evening indeed. The writer was converted!

R.B.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

In order to save money and time the Publishers would be much obliged if subscribers who are in arrears with their subscriptions would kindly send their remittance as soon as possible.

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

Bramhall, 21st October 1960.

Mr. Alfred Stauffer,
The Editor,
"Swiss Observer",
London, E.C.2.

Dear Mr. Stauffer,

I would like you to know how sorry I am to read that you are to leave the "Swiss Observer" after more than a generation.

The "Swiss Observer" will never be the same without Fred Stauffer. In fact, it will be hard to imagine it without you at the helm.

In your 32 years you have guided the paper through many difficult times. Under you it has been a rallying point not only for Swiss residents in Britain but also for many Britons who know and love Switzerland.

One of the most important aspects of your work has been the way in which, in your own inimitable style, you have chronicled the activities of the various Swiss societies and reflected the life of the Swiss colony in general, ranging from your memorable light-hearted accounts of social events (in which, being ever gallant, you always make a point of raising your journalistic hat to the ladies!) to your stirring editorials on patriotic occasions. Your efforts, I am sure, have done much to stimulate and encourage the spirit of close friendship that exists between the different Swiss communities in Britain, just as they have helped to strengthen the ties between our Swiss "exiles" and their homeland.

Recently, writing about the 669th anniversary of Switzerland's birth, you said: "We Swiss abroad . . . can serve our country by upholding its prestige, by individual efficiency and industry, by faithful and honest service . . .".

To my mind that, if I may be allowed to say so, helps to sum up some of the qualities that we have all admired in Alfred Stauffer.

But there are many others, as I know from personal experience and from talking with my Swiss friends. Among them are courtesy, helpfulness, understanding.

May I express the hope that, despite your well-deserved retirement, you will still be contributing to the "Swiss Observer" from time to time. For it would indeed be a sad day for the Swiss colony if its devoted historian were to give up his pen altogether.

(Sig.) *DEREK MEAKIN.*

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Montana Hotel, 67, Gloucester Place, London, S.W.7, on Wednesday, 30th November 1960 at 6.15 p.m.

The meeting will be followed by a tasting of Swiss wines, from about 6.35 p.m., when members may be joined by wives, husbands or friends, the charge for attending being 10/- a head. Those who wish to remain for this wine tasting should inform the Honorary Secretary, Mr. E. M. Bircher, 18, Montagu Place, W.1, as soon as possible, and let him have their cheque for themselves and their guests. No formal tickets are being issued for this function.