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ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting and Reception

The Annual General Meeting of the Anglo-Swiss Society took place at the Swiss Ambassador's Residence in Upper Brook Street on 5th December. Members attending showed lively interest in the aims and objects, and in future activities. It was agreed that a special drive for new members should be started, especially since a few interesting functions would be arranged in the near future.

The President, the Earl of Selkirk, the other officers and the Council were re-elected for another year.

Following the A.G.M., a Cocktail Reception took place at the kind and generous invitation of the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Olivier Long.

Any Swiss nationals or British friends of Switzerland may join the Society. For information, please apply to the Honorary Secretary, Swiss Embassy, 77-81 Gloucester Place, W.1.

SINGING WITH THE SWISS CLUB

"Schweizerbund's" Christmas Dinner

When the Swiss Club had to give up their premises in Charlotte Street, many thought that its days were numbered. If ever pessimists have been proved wrong it was on Friday, 15th December, when the Club held its Annual Christmas Dinner at the hospitable Montana Hotel in Gloucester Road. For the customary numbers of participants were very nearly doubled, and "overflow dining" had to be arranged in the Restaurant. Another encouraging sign was the large group of young people, many of them from the Embassy, who took part in the *Fondue Bourguignonne* and above all in the hearty community singing which followed the excellent dinner.

The champion accordionist, Miss Phyllis Gillingham, gave one of her expert performances, and she was greatly cheered for her skill and the special trouble she always takes to play Swiss songs and folk tunes. She has performed many times, especially at the First of August Celebrations, and she never fails to astound her audience by her nimble fingers and versatile virtuosity.

But the party was of high spirits throughout the evening, and even before the artist's appearance Swiss songs in many languages were rendered spontaneously. It must have warmed the heart of an old-timer like Mr. E. Luterbacher whose yodelling reached professional standard, to hear that the singing tradition in the Swiss Club had by no means died. In fact, the Editor of the "Swiss Observer" who attended both as a member in her own right and as a guest of the Club, remembers many of the "Schweizerbund's" singsongs in the course of the years, and she ventures to say that few had been as lusty and exhilarating as the one on 15th December.

The evening was further enhanced by the surprise visit of two old and trusted friends of the Club, Mr. and Mrs. Fernand Delaloye. It was Mrs. Delaloye's 80th birthday, and members appreciated it greatly that the Delaloye Family came on to the Swiss Club at the end of their birthday celebration.

A great success that evening was, and Mr. V. Berti, who was in the chair, and his fellow-officers (Messrs. J. Schmid and R. Asch) are to be congratulated on keeping the flag flying so valiantly.

MM

CHARLES VOEGELI 70

It has just come to our notice that another old subscriber of the "Swiss Observer" recently celebrated his 70th birthday, Mr. Charles Voegeli, of 21, Seidenstrasse, Winterthur, well remembered by many from his stay in London after the war. He had been in England for a short time already in 1918, but then left for Karachi to be with Volkart Brothers whose Manager he became. In August 1946, Mr. Voegeli came back to London where he was Volkart's Manager for 12 years. After his retirement in 1958, he stayed on for a few more years and then returned to Switzerland.

Whilst in London, Mr. and Mrs. Voegeli were well-known in the Swiss Community although they lived in the country, at Upper Beeding near Steyning in Sussex. Mr. Voegeli was a Trustee and later an Honorary Member of the Swiss Mercantile Society, a member of the Swiss Economic Council and of several other Swiss organisations. Wherever he served, he did it with conscientious devotion and quiet efficiency.

We wish Mr. Voegeli many happy returns of his birthday which was on 16th October and regret that our good wishes come with such delay. We hope that he and his wife and their two sons spent a memorable day and wish them many more years of happy retirement.

BIRTHDAYS

The following amongst our subscribers will be celebrating their birthdays within the next two weeks: Mr. T. D. Richardson, O.B.E., will be 81 and Mrs. Helene Tschuy 67 on 16th January. Mr. Ernest Luterbacher will be 81 on 26th January. To these friends and any others whose birthdays will take place presently, we wish many happy returns of the day.

TWO RETIREMENTS

Mr. George Baumberger, chief receptionist at the Swiss Embassy, retired on 31st December 1967 after thirty years of devoted service.

As a dual national, Mr. Baumberger spent three years in the British Army during the last war. When he originally joined the then Swiss Legation in London, the Minister was Monsieur Paravicini, and Mr. Baumberger served under all his successors. Throughout those years all the Heads of Missions had cause to be deeply grateful for his invaluable services and for his inexhaustible goodwill and never-failing loyalty.

Mr. and Mrs. Baumberger will be leaving London to live at Clacton-on-Sea, and we wish them a happy retirement.

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Mr. Pierre Vallotton, who was in charge of the Visa Section at the Swiss Embassy, retired on 31st December 1967.

Until the beginning of the last war, Mr. Vallotton worked in the City. From 1941 to the end of 1950, he was responsible for the security of the Legation buildings, and from 1951 he was an established member of the Chancery staff. For many years, Mr. Vallotton worked in one of the busiest sections of the Embassy, where about 10,000 visas are issued annually, and he devoted himself to his duties selflessly and most conscientiously. To him, too, we wish a happy retirement.