

# A binge at the "St. Moritz"

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many cases are already much higher than the incomes of the guests, mostly Pensioners.

I find that the many people who take advantage of this scheme are of a very good class, and my chief trouble is that we make too many friends each year and that we are supposed to keep up correspondence with them.

I may also mention that the hotel owners who have arrangements with the Hotelplan are very satisfied with this scheme, for they are assured of a number of guests during the early and later part of the season, and they may be full-up early on, while other hotels not forming part of this scheme only have a sprinkling of guests.

*Walter Stettbacher*

### A BINGE AT THE "ST. MORITZ"

Mr. Armin Loetscher, owner of the "St. Moritz" discotheque in Wardour Street, invited a selection of Swiss and British friends to celebrate the inauguration of the newly furnished "Chresta Cellar" of his establishment. Armin Loetscher is not only well known and liked by a wide circle of compatriots in London, he is most appreciated by the organisers of the 1st August Fête at Wimbledon Town Hall and by the Swiss Riflemen who come to the yearly *Waldfest* for his copious supply of Wardeck beer, a quality ale for which he has the sole agency in Great Britain. I also believe that the St. Moritz Club is the only establishment where Wardeck can actually be found. But this of course is not the only reason why this excellent haven of pleasure should be recommended for all young people from seven to seventy. Mr. Loetscher has made his way. He came over nine years ago in the great capital city and worked as a deckhand in the St. Moritz club before becoming its manager. He has recently bought the place from his former boss and refurbished it with his own hands. It is indeed a top notch discotheque with a variety of cellars and taverns, each glowing with an intimate shadowy light and heavy wooden benches. There is an alcove equipped with a table and a bench for two in which lovers can conspicuously use to be by themselves. One of the cellars has a honky-tonk piano, another is reserved for dancing and petting. The blare of

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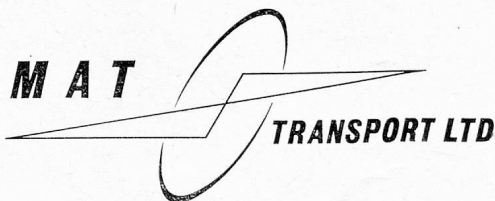


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pop music strictly precludes conversation. This is not, after all, what the young want.

What is most specifically Swiss in the St. Moritz — besides the beer and the costumes of its waitresses — is a vast oak table which makes an ideal *Stammtich*. The members of *Stammtich* on this opening day of the Chresta Cellar included Father Bossard, Mr. Alfred Schmid, Dr. Walter Gunthard, and many other Swiss bon vivants. Mr. Loetscher had even invited Scotland Yard, and two valiant representatives of the Soho anti-gang squad were consuming impressive quantities of War-teck beer. The party rode high well into the early hours of the morning. All those who were present are now looking forward to when Mr. Loetscher will redecorate another of the St. Moritz's many recesses and celebrate in a similar manner again.

(PMB)

### CHRISTMAS DINNER OF THE NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

The tables of the banqueting room of the Glendower Hotel were romantically illuminated by candles as a good sixty members and friends of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique entered with goggling eyes. Fortunately, the candles were not due to the power cuts, although everything had been prepared for this eventuality. It was the warm setting designed to bid us to a friendly and a familiar evening.

This annual function didn't take place at the Swiss Hostel for Girls as usual. As a result of extensive renovations the Hostel was not equipped to accommodate us, but we of course lost nothing by going to the Glendower and by being expertly looked after by Mrs. Schmid and her family.

Our President, Mrs. Meier, made her customary speech and welcomed our Amabassador and Madame René Keller. She also welcomed Dr. and Madame Jürg Iselin and Dr. H. R. Bolliger, who had kindly supported the Society by coming expressly from Manchester to be among us. As Mrs. Meier pointed out, Dr. Bolliger was a member of the London group of the NSH. It was also disclosed to us that Dr. Bolliger was to be the next President of the

Manchester Swiss Club, in succession of Mr. Bernhard Simon. This news was greeted by a unanimous applause of congratulation. Mrs. Meier evoked the forthcoming departure of Monsieur and Madame Keller but would not dwell on this distressing coming event, as it had already been mentioned at other Swiss gatherings in London and elsewhere. She nonetheless thanked Monsieur and Madame Keller for their friendship and support to the Colony.

Monsieur Keller said a few words and evoked his attachment to the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. It dated from his war days in Prague, when one of his duties as a young vice-consul was to take care of the activities of the tiny expatriate NSH group. Monsieur Keller told us that his successor would be a Basler, but would not give more details as the nomination of the new ambassador had not yet become official news.

Dr. Bolliger then added the greetings and memories of the Swiss of the North to Mrs. Meier's good wishes to us all.

The speeches by no means marked the end of the evening. Our President suggested that all the men move three places to their right. This social reshuffle only increased the pace of conversations which were to continue for another two hours.

(PMB)

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 14th January. 7.45 p.m. at Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9-11 Belsize Grove, N.W.3. OPEN MEETING of Nouvelle Société Helvétique. FAITH and FERMENT: The Rev. M. Dietler will give a talk in English on his journey in the Soviet Union, illustrated by slides and recordings.

Wednesday, 20th January, 7.30 for 8 p.m. Orchid Suite, Dorchester Hotel. Farewell Dinner in honour of Monsieur René Keller.

Tuesday, 26th January. Card Evening at the City Swiss Club.

Tuesday, 26th January. Swiss Club Edinburgh. Fondue Evening and Sing-Song at 112 Hanover St.

Friday, January 29th. AGM and Cup Competition of the London Swiss Philatelic Society.

Saturday, 30th January. Annual Dinner and Dance of the Swiss Mercantile Society. Orchid Room, Dorchester Hotel, 6.30 for 7 p.m.

### PERSONAL

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Oscar F. Boehringer, of 55 Woodstock Road, London, N.W.11, who will be celebrating their Silver Wedding on 2nd February. We send them warm wishes and hope for many returns of the day.

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