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that most likely political rights will be granted in the near future. But members regretted that if the draft law is accepted and Swiss resident abroad are permitted to take part in federal plebiscites provided they are in Switzerland at the time, three classes of Swiss abroad would be created, viz those who have the time and the money to travel to Switzerland in order to vote, those who live near Switzerland's frontiers and the "have-nots" whose circumstances would never or only rarely permit them to take part in a plebiscite. The meeting was of the opinion that, in the interest of equity and equality voting by post should be possible. Naturally an effort would have to be made, and previous registration with the Swiss Embassy or Consulate would be essential.

The meeting expressed concern about absolutely impartial and neutral information regarding federal plebiscites. It was taken for granted that all information should be brought to the communities by the "Review", in Great Britain the four special numbers of the "Swiss Observer". A great deal of responsibility will fall on the Swiss editorial committee to ensure impartial information.

Members were also unanimous that on no account must Swiss communities abroad be used for political agitation and party-political propaganda.

The discussion was followed by a short report on the Assembly in St. Gall, given by the two London delegates to the Commission, Mrs. M. Meier and Father P. Bossard.

MM

## YORKSHIRE ACTIVITIES

The Yorkshire Swiss Club inaugurated the year 1974 with a traditional family gathering at the Leeds Council House and Social Centre in St. Mark's Avenue, Leeds, on the evening of Tuesday, the 8th January. Members and friends flocked together in good numbers at this very friendly and hospitable place - made for this occasion even more inviting, thanks to very tasteful decorations provided by some members, the main theme being "Switzerland". All this was much appreciated by those of our members who had to drive a long way over storm and rain swept moors.

Our Ladies made their entrance, all heavily-laden with food-stuffs, savouries, cakes and sweets, some Swiss specialities attracting special attention, and soon the large buffet-table presented a most impressive sight. Some discreet music, in particular the well-liked laendlers, yodlers and other home-tunes contributed greatly to a friendly and congenial atmosphere.

Before starting on our basic treat consisting of pairs of large-size "Wuerstel" accompanied by potato-salad, our President welcomed everybody present, in particular our immediate past President Professor J. P. Inebnit and Mr. Paul Lerch - the latter back from a long illness and particularly happy to be again amongst us. We were also pleased to be

able to congratulate Dr. Colette Inebnit and her fiance, both very much touched by our sincere and warm feelings.

During the evening our members were reminded of our Annual General Meeting to be convened for Tuesday, the 5th February, 1974, and especially of our Dinner-Dance, a new venture, to be held at the Mansion Hotel, Roundhey Park, Leeds, on Saturday, the 2nd March, 1974.

Alas, this evening had to come to a close and we gradually left with good-byes and au-revoirs all round, with a feeling of thankfulness for the great effort of our Ladies who had made this function such an agreeable affair. Indeed a good beginning for what we all hope to be a truly "Happy New Year".

E.B.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**UNIONE TICINESE:** The Centenary Celebration, which had originally been planned for Sunday, 17th February, has been postponed and will be announced later.

**SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH:** Tuesday, 26th February, beer evening at the Ski Lodge Lounge, Hillburn Roadhouse, Biggar Road, Fairmilehead. 8 p.m.

**CITY SWISS CLUB:** Tuesday, 19th February. Dorchester Hotel. 6.30 for 7 p.m. Card Evening.

**NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE:** Thursday, 21st February. 7 p.m. Swiss Embassy, 16-18 Montagu Place. Filmshow.

Thursday, 28th March. Annual General Meeting and Dinner.

**SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Friday, 22nd February. Annual Dinner at the Dorchester Hotel.

**SWISS BENEVOLENT FUND OF SCOTLAND:** AGM on Saturday, 2nd March, at 112 Hanover Street, Edinburgh, at 7 p.m.

**SWISS CLUB LIVERPOOL:** Card evening on 1st Friday of the month at the Dresden Hotel, New Chester Road, Bromborough, Wirral.

## CULTURAL EVENTS

Tuesday, 5th February, Royal Festival Hall, 8 p.m. *Martha Argerich* plays Ravel's Piano Concerto in G with the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Andrew Davis.

Wednesday, 6th February; Saturday, 9th February; Monday, 11th February; Friday, 15th February; Tuesday, 19th February; Thursday, 21st February; Tuesday, 26th February. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 7.30 p.m. *Silvio Varviso* conducts performances of *La Bohème* (new production).

Tuesday, 19th February, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 p.m. Symphony No. 4 (*Deliciae Basilienses*) by *Honegger* is one of the works performed by

the Bournemouth Sinfonietta under Theodor Guschlbauer.

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## CHRISTMAS AT LIVERPOOL

The Committee of the Liverpool Swiss Club under its new President, Mr. Stierlin, and with the expert support of its Honorary Secretary held a very enjoyable Christmas Dinner reuniting many Swiss scattered around Merseyside. This yearly event took place as usual at the Devon Doorway.

We had a happy and successful evening, enjoying as always the excellent Swiss wines. Old and new members mingled to exchange memories of days gone by. We talked of our dear homeland and its present problems. The pretty room had a real Christmassy look thanks to the lovely table decorations made by Mrs. Moor. We dined in style by red candlelight in a most congenial atmosphere. We were all pleased to be honoured by the visit of our Consul General and his wife, the genial Mr. R. Born, who were welcomed like old and valued friends.

But we were all stunned when Mr. Born mentioned in his speech that he would be transferred shortly to Chicago! There were many expressions of genuine regret at losing such a kindly Consul who had taken a deep human interest in all of us and was always ready to listen to the problems one had.

We all expressed to Mr. Born our sincere sadness at such an unexpected parting of our ways and with our gratitude wished him and his wife plenty of good luck and fruitful achievements in their long journey to the USA. We thanked him for his interest and kindness to each and all of us. He always seemed to bring a breath of our homeland whenever he arrived in our midst. We also tendered our thanks to the Committee whose efforts had made this happy meeting possible.

A big thanks is also due to our former President and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. H. Vollers, who so generously offered us hospitality of their large home for our meetings in the last few years. This has certainly helped to revive our club and brought many of our scattered members along. We are all grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Vollers to give us the opportunities to spend such friendly evenings together.

LM

## SWISS CHILDREN ENJOY A VERY SUCCESSFUL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The hundred children who took part in the Christmas Party some devoted members of the Colony had staged for them on Saturday, 5th January, showed by their glee and their laughter that the coal crisis didn't worry them in the least, and also that the efforts spent on organising the annual *Fête des enfants de la Colonie* were appreciated. Attendants at the various Swiss functions are reminded of this institution towards