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City Swiss Club –

IT'S THINKING WOMAN'S LIB!

The City Swiss Club's determination to enliven its activities by occasional innovations as opportunity arises was carried further at both its December and January meetings. The Christmas dinner, held on 12th December – hitherto purely and sometimes quite raucously a stags' party – was an obvious occasion for following the new rule of enabling members to bring along their ladies more often than in the past. The resulting attendance of about 70 people was a modest improvement on some former functions.

Doubtless it would have been even larger had it been known what delightful further innovation was in store for those attending: the arrival of one of London's finest group of church singers, the choir of St. Bride's in Fleet Street, to contribute its beautiful rendering of carols. It concluded its English programme in French with "Minuit, chrétiens, c'est l'heure solennelle" and in German with "Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht" heartily supported in both languages by the whole company present joining in.

The other innovation decided on for the January meeting on the 12th was of a completely different kind, not a bad idea as such but for the astronomic cost which resulted in an attendance of only 18. It was a "Soirée gastronomique César Ritz" with seven courses, vintage wines, champagne and cognac – all fastidiously selected by Mr. Eugene Käufeler, maître-chef at the Dorchester and club-member of long standing. The chief delights of the menu were scampi flambés, quail in a pâté and saddle of veal with exquisitely braised vegetables. It goes without saying that every one of the courses was prepared with supreme mastery under the supervision of another countryman in the Dorchester kitchen, Mr. Mosimann, who joined the company towards the end of the feast. It was not at all, as might be thought, a gluttons' excess, but a real gourmets' joy composed so cleverly that no one felt overfed at the end.

To round off the pleasant evening the occasion was utilised by the president, Mr Roger Suess, to present to Mr. Käufeler an illuminated address as a token of appreciation of the club in the following apt wording:

The Members pay tribute to
EUGENE KÄUFELER
Maître Chef de Cuisine

on the occasion of
Soirée Gastronomique César Ritz
which he has prepared for the Club at the
Dorchester Hotel.
This is a testimonial to the excellence of
the fare which he has always provided
since 1954 and which has contributed so
much to the enjoyment of the Members
and their Guests.

HWE

DON'T THE SWISS TRUST THEIR OWN WATCHES?

Statistics show that the average Swiss is as cautious as he is punctual! Otherwise how is it possible to explain that in the country known all over the world for its timekeeping precision the speaking clock is dialled 50 million times a year and the telephone waking service 16 million times?

A survey carried out by the Swiss General Post Office shows that 43,300 subscribers are woken daily by telephone. On certain occasions, this number may amount to as much as 50,000. Since the introduction of the automatic waking service, three-quarters of all orders are carried out fully automatically without the assistance of any telephone operator.

About 8,000 waking orders, mostly regular, are handled semi-automatically, while only 5% are still handled entirely by operators. The number of daily orders placed is continually increasing and it is expected that by the end of the next two years 50,000 orders will be handled every day, and some 60,000 by 1981.

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