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It is taking a very heavy responsibility to succeed to a man like our regretted Mr. Dimier, and I can assure you that at this moment I feel it more than ever. I feel thoroughly unworthy of this honour, but my first consolation is that I did not apply for this position—it was thrust upon me; and my second consolation is my knowledge that you realise that the cause which I represent is a good one, and that I can rely on your full support.

Our Swiss Benevolent Society is as active as ever, in fact, more active than ever, and our expenses go from record to record. I do not wish to bother you with figures, but whereas during the first nine months of 1923 we had spent £1,374, we have spent during the same period of this year £1,661, or £300 more. Against this, our ordinary subscriptions at £511 show a slight decrease, which will probably be made up by our efforts during the present quarter. If it were not for the special contributions received from the Swiss Authorities, our finances would be in a very sorry plight, and we would have to curtail our expenditure.

This would mean that we would have to reduce our allocations to our poor, which even now are hardly sufficient for their bare necessities. Our present situation is a very dangerous one and is a source of grave anxiety to our Committee, for when the Swiss Authorities decide to stop the remittances made abroad, and which are of a temporary character only, we shall find ourselves, on our present figures, with a deficit of about £800 a year.

(After having thanked the Swiss Minister, the various Swiss Societies and other subscribers and all those who devote their time to the administrative work of the Society, the President continued as follows.)

Surrounded by happiness and comfort, it is very difficult for us to realise that at this moment perhaps some poor fellow—through no fault of his own—is going through the pangs of hunger, and there is nothing more terrible than when to personal privations is added the distracting thought of a wife and children faced with starvation. I could relate to you many sad stories—and many touching ones—which would help you to understand what our charitable institution means to those unfortunate people.

As most of you will have seen from our annual reports, we are not capitalists—the more we receive the more we give; but there is no doubt that in many cases we ought to be able to be much more generous than we are.

It is heartbreaking always to have to give barely enough—just enough to keep body and soul together. It is on you all that we rely to be able to give just that little bit more which will make all the difference in the world to those poor people.

Make that small sacrifice, tender a helping hand, and this day will have been a good one. After having done something for the old pensioners and for the family whose father is laid up or out of work, you will go home with a light heart and the happy feeling that comes to those who have given generously to a good and just cause.

Mr. H. Senn, the busy and successful President of the Entertainment Committee, found very happy words to welcome the Ladies, whose toast he proposed as follows:—

"The most agreeable task tonight has again been allotted to me, that of proposing the toast of 'The Ladies.'"

It is not altogether easy, in this rather prosaic, businesslike twentieth century, to pay fresh compliments to the ladies. They have been eulogised and honoured for so many years in so many different ways; but whereas in earlier days they were onlookers in the game of life, they have now become active players, deserving of more substantial praise than the mere sentimental adulation of former times.

Ladies to-day are found and are successful in every walk of life, and it is indeed difficult to coin new expressions of admiration to suit the progress made by them in the present century. For instance, it must be a matter of great jubilation to the ladies that, since our last banquet, two of their number have occupied ministerial posts in the Government of this country, and we are certainly not going to agree with the Scotchman who married rather late in life, and when asked by someone, "Well, Jock, how are you getting on with your wife?" replied, "Well, no doubt, she is God's handiwork, but she is not just his masterpiece."

This, however, is not the occasion to indulge in contrasts and comparisons. I restrict myself, therefore, to do what is expected of me.

It is my pleasant duty on behalf of the City Swiss Club to extend a cordial welcome to the representatives of the fair sex, and to thank them for having come to our banquet in such large numbers.

We are delighted to welcome them for the distinction their company lends to our gathering, and for the charming atmosphere they never fail to provide.

The presence of the ladies to-night has certainly fulfilled our hope for the complete success of our Banquet and Ball, in appreciation of which, gentlemen, we will raise our glasses to drink the toast of "The Ladies."

Dr. H. L. R. Dent, President of the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club, returned thanks on behalf of the visitors in the following terms:—

Monsieur le Président, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the second time that I have had the honour of responding to the toast of the Guests. Last year I told you how much I admired and loved your beautiful country of Switzerland; I do not intend, to-night, to say any more on this subject; it will suffice to say that this summer I added Volume 28 to my library of Alpine mountain memories—memories which I would not sell for millions.

There is an old English proverb which runs, "After supper walk a mile"; after such a banquet it would be necessary to walk a dozen miles! Now, as a medical man I can agree that exercise after a late meal is an aid to digestion and promotes sleep; but I am not going to follow this prescription myself—no, thanks—not on your life; I am going to take a taxi.

Now, I see, by my invitation card, that you have provided us with much more agreeable exercise; you have asked us also to a bath—an ounce of agreeable exercise is worth a ton of constitutions.

I am sure that the younger members here present (and, I daresay, many of the seniors) will be saying, "Cut the cackle and get on with the dance," and are regarding me much as the criminal on the scaffold looked on his companion in misfortune.

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Once upon a time two criminals were being taken to execution, and on reaching the scaffold, one of them turned to the executioner and said, "Do you mind if I address the multitude?" "By all means," said the executioner. He then turned to his fellow-prisoner and said, "Do you, sir, mind if I make a speech?" "Not at all, not at all but—HANG ME FIRST," replied the other.

Now, there are two sorts of speeches for occasions like this: a short speech and a long speech. I am going to make the long speech, but do not be alarmed, for the short speech is, "Thank you, and the long speech is, "On behalf of the guests and myself, I beg to offer our heartiest thanks to Monsieur Marchand, who proposed the toast, and to you, gentlemen, for the splendid hospitality you have shown us to-night."

Before the company rose, Monsieur Borel communicated various messages received from guests who were unable to be present, and who wished to express their regrets and good wishes. Amongst these were:—Messieurs Borsinger, X. Castelli, R. Duruz, Adrien Rueli, and the Swiss Consuls at Liverpool, Hull and Glasgow.

The brevity of all the speeches was generally appreciated. It was particularly noticed that the usual reference to the economic and commercial developments, of special interest to the members of our Club, was not made in the course of the speeches.

The Entertainment Committee, and especially its devoted President, are to be congratulated on the splendid success they have achieved; everything went without a hitch, the dancing arrangements being certainly a great improvement on last year's experience. For the future the doubling of dancing items and abolition of all encores may recommend themselves. The preparation of such an evening is the source of much worry and work, and the organizers can be sure of the gratitude of everyone present. Thanks are also due to Monsieur Devevney, Manager of the Hotel Victoria, for the excellence and promptitude of the service. By 10 o'clock the dancing hall was ready for the ball to commence, and dancing continued until past 2 o'clock. The large number of the guests, which, apart from the distinguished English friends who honoured the City Swiss Club with their presence, include many of our compatriots from the high banking and commercial world, a distinction which marked the whole of the proceedings; the exquisite taste to be noted in the dresses of the ladies—all this struck a very high note and contributed to a very fine evening, worthy of the traditions of the City Swiss Club.

The company included:—

Captain and Mrs. Andrews, the Misses Baer, Mr., Mrs. and the Misses Barbezat, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Baume, Mr. W. Beckmann, Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Boehringer, Major A. Bon, Miss H. Borel, Mr. and Mrs. Bowers, Mr. Brand, Mr. and Mrs. C. Campart, Mrs. and the Misses Carmine, Mr. and Mrs. C. Chapuis, Mr. and Mrs. L. Chapuis, Mr. R. H. Cornu, Mr. Dapples, Mr. de Bourg, Mr. R. de Gimra, Mr. Dréme, Mr. de Wattenwil, Mr., Mrs. and Miss de Weck, Dr. de Wolf, Dr. and Mrs. H. L. R. Dent, Mr. Despond, sen., Mr. and Miss Devevney, Dr. and Mrs. L. Devevney, Mr. Diener, Rev. W. Dietsche, Mr. M. Dunard, Mr. and Mrs. Dupraz, Dr. Eckenstein, Mr. F. Eggenberger, Mr. Elwert, Mr. G. Forrer, Mr. E. Forster, Mr. and Mrs. Frei, Mr. and Mrs. Frenken, Mr. C. Fuog, Mr. and Mrs. Gamper, Mr. Gattiker, Mr. Geilinger, Mr. E. Guggenheim, Mr. L. Guggenheim, Mr. L. Hardy, Mr. and Mrs. Hafner, Rev. and Mrs. Hoffmann-de Visme, Mr. and Mrs. Hosli, Mr. and Mrs. H. Huber, Mr. and Mrs. A. Indermat, Mr. G. Jenne, Mr. H. Jenne, Mr. and Mrs. L. Jobin, Mr. and Mrs. Joss, Miss Kricke, Mr. Laemli, Mr. Lauchheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Lichtensteiger, Mr. and Miss Lock, Mr. Lorisognol, Mr. and Mrs. Luterbacher, Mr. and Mrs. R. Marchand, Mr. H. Martin, Mr. Meschini, Mr. Monastier, Mr. and Miss A. Muller, Mr. Neuschwander, Mr. E. Neuschwander, Mr. and Miss W. Notari, Mr. and Miss A. Pfaller, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Pfirter, Mr. and Mrs. Quick, Dr. Ramseyer, Mr. and Miss Rappard, Dr. Rast, Dr. Rezzonico, Mr. T. Ritter, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Rohr, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Roost, Mr. and Mrs. Saager, Mr. and Mrs. H. Sandoz, Mr. J. Schad, Mr. and Mrs. A. Schedler, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Scheidegger, Mr. A. Schmid, Mr. and Mrs. Schoenberger, Mr. and Mrs. A. Schuppach, Mr. and Miss Schuppach, Miss Serini, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Servaes, Mr. and Mrs. Sigerist, Dr. and Mrs. Sinclair, Mr. and Mrs. Sommer, Mr. and Mrs. Steiger, Mr. and Mrs. Studer, Mr. and Mrs. Suter, Viscount Templeton, Major Tobler, Mr. Tremolieres, Mr. J. Tresch, Mr. Valon, Mr. Vandendries, Miss Vuffray, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Walchli, Miss D. E. Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Westcott, Mr. Wuthrich, Mr. and Mrs. Zimmermann, Mr. and Mrs. Zogg.

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine

Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le MARDI, 9 DECEMBRE au Restaurant GATTI et sera précédée d'un souper familial à 6.45 h (5/- par couvert).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4. (Téléphone: City 4603).

Ordre du Jour.

Procès-verbal. Admissions. Divers. Démonstrations. Banquet Annuel.

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CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Please send all your old and disused clothes (garments and boots) to Swiss Church, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2, for distribution amongst all poor Swiss. The needs are growing. Many thanks in anticipation.

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(Deutsch-Schweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, 7 Dezember, 11 Uhr vorm.—Gottesdienst.

Pfr. W. Dietsche.

6.30 p.m. (im 'Foyer Suisse') Abendgottesdienst.

Pfr. W. Dietsche.

Die noch ausstehenden Handarbeiten, sowie weitere Natural- und Bargaben für die Weihnachtsbescherung sind auf Dienstag, 16. Dez. nachm. ins 'Foyer Suisse', 15, Upper Bedford Place, erbeten.

Requests for Pastor's visits, Baptisms, Weddings, etc., can be made on Sunday morning after the service, or to the Treasurer, C. Bertschinger, 114, Fore St., London, E.C.2.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, Dec. 6th, at 6.30.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at Midland Hotel, St. Pancras Station, N.W.

Saturday, Dec. 6th, 2 to 10.—GRAND CHRISTMAS BAZAAR, organised by Swiss Children, at 15 Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.

Tuesday, Dec. 9th, at 6.45.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Gatti's Restaurant, Strand, W.C.

Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 8 p.m.—CONSTITUIERENDE GEMEINDEVERSAMMLUNG der SCHWEIZERKIRCHE (Deutschschweiz. Gemeinde) im 'Foyer Suisse', 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.

Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3.15 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Sunday Afternoon Concert at Steinway Hall, Wigmore Street, W. (see adv.).

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