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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION. "Grümpelschiesset" Evening.

Can one wish for anything better than a good dinner, excellent wines and jolly company?

All this was enjoyed at the "Grümpelschiesset" dinner of the Swiss Rifle Association, on Friday, November 30th, 1951, at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.1.

I need hardly stress the fact, that rifle shooting is perhaps the most popular sport in Switzerland, and all those, who attended at one time or another, one of the famous Federal Shooting competitions in our country, will have witnessed with what enthusiasm the entire population takes part in such a festival.

Skill deserves reward in whatever domain it is exercised, and one, if not the principal reason of this gathering of our London Swiss "Sharpshooters" was, to receive prizes for their performance of marksmanship at the Bisley shooting range.

The prizes which were exhibited at the "Gabenfisch" over which the two flags of the Association were placed, were far from "Grümpel", there were Ladies handbags, cigars, cigarettes, baskets of fruit and game, and a grand collection of wines and spirits, most acceptable for the Xmas season, etc., etc.

It goes without saying, that a dinner at the "Glendower" is always an event, and this particular one was as good as ever.

After the loyal toasts were proposed by the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, in his capacity as Hon. President of the Association, Mr. A. Schmid, President, extended a hearty welcome to the Minister, to Major A. Talbot Smith, representing the Surrey Rifle Association and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer".

Monsieur de Torrenté expressed his pleasure at being once more in the company of the members of the S.R.A. which he called, and rightly so, one of the most popular Societies in the colony, and a shining example of what solidarity and good comradeship can achieve. He warmly congratulated the President, Mr. A. Schmid, for the efficient way in which he presides over the Association. Major A. Talbot Smith and the Editor of the "Swiss Observer" thanked for the invitation.

Previous to the distribution of Prizes, the Swiss Minister was presented with an imposing basket of eggs, specially laid for this occasion by selected *Poules* of the President's famous poultry farm. Bottles of Sherry were also presented to the two other guests, which goes to prove, that the members of the Association are a most generous fraternity.

Mr. J. C. Wetter, Vice-President of the S.R.A., in a very witty speech, thanked Mr. F. Magnin, the untiring Secretary for his efficient handling of the Society's affairs and presented him, amidst acclamation, with a handsome Lady's bag for his wife. The latter, very much touched by this friendly token of appreciation, thanked the members for this *beau geste*.

Mr. Magnin then proceeded with the prize distribution, announcing the following results:

Open Competition:

Mr. F. Ernst, 54 points; Mr. W. Fischer 50 pts.;
Mr. F. Suter, 50 pts.; Mr. E. E. Brullhard 49 pts.

Handicap:

Mr. E. Burgazzi, total 60 points; Mr. H. Moser, 59 pts.; Mr. J. C. Wetter, 54 pts.; Mr. F. Suter, 54 pts.

The best score of the year was shot by the President, Mr. A. Schmid, who made 56 points, and the best year average was attained by Mr. W. Fischer with 49 points.

Someone has to be first, that goes without saying, but somebody has also to be last, which is only logical. Whilst the top scorer is named and honoured, the last

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one is, rightly so, ignored, but I will let you into a secret, he is the writer of this report, who, slow like a Bernese, has only just learned that, when shooting, one has only to close *one* eye, whereas in his innocence he had closed both, trusting to luck, hence the "booby prize." He has now decided to give up this "one eyed" job and stick to writing.


This very enjoyable evening, where good comradeship reigned supreme, came to a close soon after 11 o'clock and everyone left the Glendower Hotel with the happy feeling of having spent an enjoyable time amidst genial company.

ST.

PFARRER BLUM'S
"ABSCHIEDS GOTTESDIENST".

A large congregation assembled on Sunday, December 9th, at the Lecture Hall, Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C.2, to take leave and to show their appreciation to him and his wife for the great services they have rendered to the Swiss Church in particular and the Colony in general during their six year's stay in the Metropolis. The Swiss Minister, was represented by Dr. and Mrs. E. Bernath, Counsellor of Legation.

We are wishing Herr Pfarrer Blum and his wife God's blessing in their new sphere of activity at Wiesendangen.



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