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SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER.

"The Philippines: the land and its people."

On Saturday, 8th December, a gathering of seventy, mostly our compatriots with a sprinkling of English friends, had the privilege of listening to a "causerie", illustrated by coloured slides, by our Consul, Mr. Oscar Schneider, on "The Philippines — the land and its people".

A display of some native handicraft, such as hand-woven tissues, embroidery and lace, straw nettings, etc., and the playing of a popular Filipino song "Planting Rice", a tune of marked rhythm which is sung by native women to the accompaniment of a guitar while planting rice, all this lent a touch of Filipino atmosphere to the proceedings.

Mr. Schneider first recalled his surprise at the knowledge which Filipino school children generally showed about Switzerland — they know of our neutrality and of Pestalozzi, as also of Swiss Chocolate and Condensed milk — and he expressed the hope that the lecture would be not only entertaining but also instructive and that it would lead to a better knowledge of the far away land where he spent six happy years prior to his coming to Manchester.

In his introductory remarks he explained the geographical position of the Archipelago, consisting of some 7,000 isles with a total area of about 115,000 square miles; he spoke of the climate, tropical and humid, and of the seasons; he mentioned that the aborigines, of Negrito type, small and shy people of dark brown colour and curly hair, living a nomadic life in the mountains, are gradually dying out, that the majority of the Filipino people are of Malay extraction mixed with other races of the South-east Pacific, but with a strong Chinese influence, and he gave a brief survey of the history of the now independent Republic.

A wide selection of coloured lantern slides covered practically every sphere of the life and of the country and its charming and hospitable people. Beautiful coastal scenes were followed by pictures of lakes and rivers, of mountains and volcanoes. Photographs of children and adults gave rise to a description of the characteristics and distinctive cultures of the inhabitants. Firstly the Christians (mostly Catholics since this land was under Spanish domination for centuries), then Mohamedans (Moros) and of other non-Christian sections. Picturesque native costumes were shown and were of special interest to the ladies in the audience. Churches of Spanish-colonial style, festivals and processions on land and on the lakes conveyed an idea of the religious and cultural influence of Spain, while very modern architectural trends prevailed in buildings of schools, colleges, universities and other public buildings.

The economy of the Islands was given prominence in the second part of the "causerie". Photographs of rice fields and terraces, of coconut groves, of sugar, hemp and pineapple plantations and of fruit trees, illustrated the agricultural structure of the country, while lovers of flowers and gardens found delight in some pictures of parks and private gardens, some adjoining the homes of our own compatriots. The causerie also touched upon such subjects as animal and bird life, transportation and various industries, with special emphasis on mining, since the Philippines are rich in copper, silver, chromite, manganese and gold.

Our President, Mr. Berner, called on Mr. Madörin

to move a vote of thanks, and this was applauded with great emphasis by the audience.

The lecture was followed by an intimate tea, after which arrangements were made for dancing and for a game of Jass, thus appealing to all tastes.

H.M.

* * *

Christmas Party 1951.

This is an event which the Manchester Swiss Club have organised now for nearly 100 years and will most decidedly continue to do so as long as there is a Swiss Club in Manchester.

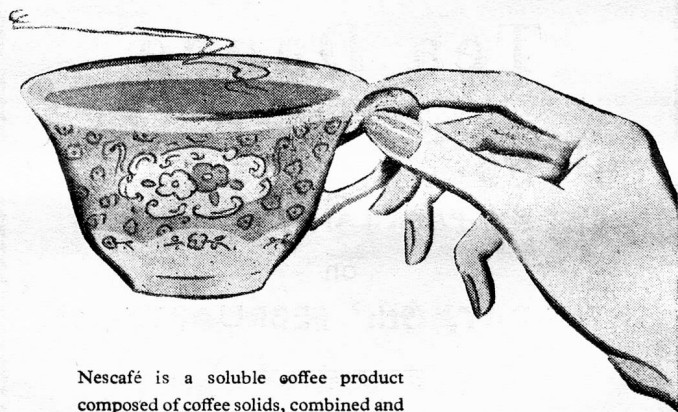
The people responsible for the organisation are always fully gratified that their efforts are not in vain when one recalls the joy in the children's faces, their expectations and pure delight when they enter the darkened room to behold the beautifully decorated and lit-up Christmas Tree, around which were piled all the presents, Father Christmas, heavily laden, enters the room. A lovable character both in his red cloak and white whiskers, as also out of this garb, becomes the "Friend" of all the children. There were approx. fifty there.

Their recitations — songs — were very nicely rendered — some with deliberation, others with a sense of trepidation or shyness where a loudspeaker would have assisted them. Let it be said here that the grown-ups became in mind children again. It must have brought back very pleasant memories.

And every child received a suitable gift which, apart therefrom must have given them an additional

There's always time for

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joy to receive it from the hands of the charming Lady who undertook this part of the ceremony.

Mr. Berner, our President, spoke a few words, most appropriate for the occasion, which gave the party a good send-off.

The tea was excellent and as much enjoyed by the children, as the later part of the evening. Games finished off the Party and gradually the attendance thinned out. In all there were about 120 people present.

The arrangements, left in the hands of the Midland Hotel were, as usual, first rate, to whom the Committee express their sentiments of appreciation.

R.G.

SWISS CLUB DUNFERMLINE.

Members and Friends of our Club met on Friday, 30th November, for a Whist Drive at Castleblair Canteen.

After an official welcome by our President, Mr. Frick, he expressed his satisfaction at the full turn out to this function. He was confident that all present would enjoy the few hours we were together. For those Members who did not consider themselves "experts" in card playing there were other games available. Wishing everyone the best of luck with the cards, he handed over the Chair to our Mr. Vogel who always conducts our whist Drives so well. Twenty times we heard his Commander-like voice to "move on" for better fortune.

The lucky winners were presented with some lovely prizes donated by Members for this occasion. We wish to thank Mrs. Frick who handed over the prizes with a hearty handshake.

A delicious supper awaited us afterwards, which we always enjoy so much at our gatherings. Miss Hunter and her Kitchen Staff were accorded a special vote of thanks by our President for the lovely table they had prepared for us.

We shall have further social evenings during the winter. Let us hope that all of them will be crowned with the same success.

B.

SWISS MALE CHOIR.

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Male Choir, took place on December 7th, 1951, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

After the reading of the minutes and presentation of the accounts, Mr. F. G. Sommer, President, reported on the activities of the Choir during the last twelve months, according to his report, the Choir took part at the following functions: December 17th, 1950, Xmas Festival at Swiss Church, January 2nd, 1951, Memorial Service for the late J. J. Pfaendler, Swiss Church, February 23rd, "Gemütlicher Abend", April 13th, Entertained "Adult Fellowship" at St. Andrews Church Hall, Edgware, April 20th, Participated at "Schweizerbund" evening in aid of avalanche fund, June 14th, Fête Suisse, Central Hall, Westminster, July 28th, First of August Celebration, Central Hall, Westminster, November 8th, Entertained audience at a Variety Quiz Concert, given by Interborough Quiz League at Fulham Town Hall.

The new Committee for the year 1952 was elected as follows:— F. G. Sommer, President, L. Jobin, Vice-President, E. P. Dick, Hon. Secretary, H. Mock, Hon. Treasurer, W. Anguish, Librarian, E. P. Dick, Conductor.

SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB)

74, CHARLOTTE STREET :: W.1.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

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