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CITY SWISS CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER at the Dorchester.

The candles on the Christmas tree have burned out, the singing of carols has ceased, all the rich Christmas "cheer" has been digested, the bells have rung in the New Year, and there remain only memories.

Amongst these is the Christmas dinner of the City Swiss Club, which took place on Tuesday, December 13th, at the Dorchester.

If during the last few months the club meetings were none too well frequented, this time over eighty members attended the traditional dinner, which heralded in the festive season.

True enough there was no Father Christmas handing out presents, nor was there any Christmas tree, no mistletoe was placed above the doors, and no stockings were hung up, and yet the Christmas spirit was there all the same.

After a rather prolonged cocktail party, the company adjourned to the Orchid Room, which has recently received a "new look", and in its new garb looked very attractive.

The dinner was, as usual, excellent, and it goes without saying that the *pièce de résistance* was turkey, mince pies and Christmas pudding, fine vintage wines stimulated the revellers, and even café Kirsch was not missing.

After the usual Toast to H.M. the Queen, and to "La Suisse" had been proposed by the President, Mr. Ch. Gysin, and very heartily responded to, the latter extended a cordial welcome to all and sundry, singling out Monsieur E. Bernath, 1st Counsellor of Legation, Consul J. Huber and Mr. W. Baumgartner, Head of the Employment Department of the S.K.V., Zurich, who was on a visit to this country.

Mr. Gysin mentioned that no less than seven former Presidents of the Club were present, namely Messrs. A. Rueff, L. Jobin, Louis Chapuis, Carlo Chapuis, R. Dupraz, C. Seinet, and R. Pfenninger. In addition the names of two members who will shortly celebrate their 50 years of membership were

recalled, namely Mr. F. Zogg, and Mr. Carlo Chapuis.

A short meeting followed during which a last homage was paid to the recently deceased member, Mr. G. Jenne. The President very tactfully urged the members to take a more active interest in the doings of the Club, by attending some of the lectures and social gatherings. Three new members were elected.

Mr. Gysin then acquainted the meeting with the news, that Mr. R. Pfenninger, Manager of the London Office of the Swiss Bank Corporation, and a former President of the Club, has been nominated one of the General Managers at the Head Office in Basle, and is succeeded by Mr. H. Knoll, hitherto Deputy Manager, also a member of the City Swiss Club. As both gentlemen were present, the President, on behalf of the members, extended to them heartiest congratulations on their promotions (Applause).

Mr. Pfenninger expressed his appreciation for the cordial way in which the President's announcement was greeted, wishing the Club a bright and prosperous future.

CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that the next
MONTHLY MEETING

will take place on **Tuesday, January 17th, 1956**, at **6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.** at the **Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1 (Stanhope Room)**.

The Dinner will be followed by a game of Jass, Bridge or Canasta.

Members wishing to be present should send their card to the Manager of the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, to reach him not later than Monday, January 16th, 1956.

THE COMMITTEE.

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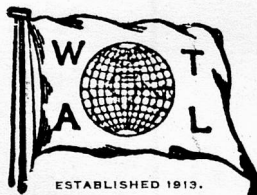
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Mr. Baumgartner gave vent to his pleasure at having been afforded an opportunity of being for the first time in the midst of the members of the City Swiss Club.

This finished the official part of the evening, and was followed by community singing. Mr. Gandon with his accordeon started playing a medley of Swiss melodies in which everybody lustily joined in, songs in French, Italian, English and Schwyzerdütsch were sung with much gusto, perhaps not always quite in tune, but the spirit was willing — and working. From martial tunes like "Lasst hören aus alter Zeiten", "Roulez Tambours" and "Adio la caserma" the singers switched over, most appropriately, to a number of Christmas songs like "Silent Night, Holy Night", "O Tannenbaum", etc., etc., finishing up with some of the old folklore "Lieder", such as "Teure Heimat", "O Blüemli mi" and the "Ranz des vaches", which in many hearts evoked nostalgic memories, of times when we sang them in that land, which we call so affectionately "La Patrie". It was a real orgy of songs and laughter, in short, what one may call a happy and carefree evening.

Before the President closed the proceedings, he wished all the members and their families a happy Christmas, and a prosperous New Year, not forgetting to thank Mr. J. A. Ronus, the Manager of The Dorchester, for the excellent fare provided, and Mr. A. Gandon for his lively playing, which added to the success of a really fine and enjoyable evening.

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

Annual Dinner and Dance.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to the forthcoming Annual Dinner and Dance of the Swiss Mercantile Society, which will take place on Saturday, January 28th, 1956, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

This Society, which is one of the most active ones in the London Colony, does not often indulge in festivities, being too busy otherwise, but once a year they wish to summon their members, old and young, to spend an evening together *en famille*.

In the past this annual festival has always been a most enjoyable affair, and we have no doubt, that the coming dinner and dance will be as happy as ever. The Swiss Minister, and Madame Daeniker have kindly promised to be present.

We warmly recommend our readers, and especially the members of the Society, to support this gathering, and by their attendance show their appreciation for the good work the Society is doing in our colony.

Accommodation is somewhat limited, and applications may have to be cut. The committee has decided, in order to avoid overcrowding, to allot tickets to applicants as they come in, in other words "first come, first served", it is, therefore, advisable to order tickets as early as possible.

We have not the slightest doubt that the evening on the 28th of this month will be a jolly one, and we hope that the Swiss Mercantile Society will get the support they so richly deserve.

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