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A SWISS BANK LUNCHEON

A most delightful function took place at the Bush House Restaurant on 7th December last, when the Managers of the Swiss Bank Corporation in London entertained to lunch a party of 64 of the Pensioners of the London Office. Speaking at the close of the lunch, Mr. H. Knoll expressed his pleasure in the hearty response which had been accorded the invitation, and voiced the regrets of a small number of pensioners who by reason of distance, old age or illness were unable to be present.

This opportunity for the Pensioners to meet and to renew their association with the Bank in which most of them had spent their working lives was greatly appreciated and a cordial expression of thanks was given on behalf of all by one of the retired ladies of the staff.

Mr. Homberger put out a suggestion that ex-members of the Staff who could contribute interesting material to illustrate the personal side of the Bank's activities in London since the opening of the office in July 1898 should get in touch with the Bank, as it was most desirable that these personal records should be collected while many could still recall the earlier days.

ALEC SMITH.

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE (London Group)

The Nouvelle Société Helvétique was particularly fortunate in the choice of its lecturer and theme for the December Meeting. Dr. O. Rhiner, a young philologist from St. Gallen, who is at present in London on the staff of a Swiss Insurance Firm, had chosen a most appropriate and "Christmassy" subject: HISTORICAL REFLECTIONS ON SWISS CHRISTMAS CUSTOM. With the help of selfdrawn maps he explained regional customs, their partially pre-Christian origins and the meaning of some of the time-honoured expressions connected with the St. Nicholas and Christmas cults. His fascinating couserie produced lively comment and assisted greatly in creating a festive atmosphere in the gaily decorated drawing room of the Swiss Hostel for Girls which has grown so dear to the Members of the N.S.H.

The President, Mr. W. Renz, introduced to the audience Dr. H. J. Halbheer, head of the Auslandschweizerwerk in Berne, who, while paying a visit to Wilton Park, had surprised and pleased members by his presence. Dr. Halbheer addressed the audience on a number of subjects of interest to the Swiss Colonies, particularly on the Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad, whose idealistic and at the same time eminently practical use he stressed. He informed members that a special issue of "ECHO" (that excellent but, alas, too-little read monthly) will be devoted to this worthy cause, which deserves the full support of all Swiss.

W.R.

The *1961* Look
for the cake in a chocolate shell



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