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CHRISTMAS WITH THE TICINESE

Following the Annual Requiem Mass for the deceased members of the Unione Ticinese on Sunday, 6th November, a Film Show and *Castagnata* were held a week later. The former took place at the new Chapel of the Swiss Churches at the John Southworth Centre in Great Peter Street, and the latter at the old home of the Unione at the Swiss Hostel for Girls in Hampstead.

And then came the turn of the Annual Christmas Dinner on Saturday, 3rd December. This year it was held at the Gloucester Suite of the Royal Lancaster Hotel in Bayswater. There were rather fewer members and friends than other years, but it was a very happy gathering. After the first-class meal, the President, Mr. Frank De Maria, welcomed the guests who included the Swiss Minister and Madame Karl Fritschi and Vice-Consul R. Rodé and his wife. He also greeted an old friend and member of the Society in the person of Mrs. Mariann Meier, President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, who, Mr. De Maria said, represented them all on the Commission of the Swiss Abroad. He also congratulated the organisers on the excellent catering arrangements and wished everyone a happy evening and the compliments of the season.

Monsieur le Ministre Fritschi then brought greetings from the Ambassador

and Madame Thalmann, and in a humorous speech he mentioned his various close ties with the Ticinesi, especially since his wife hailed from that sunny part of Switzerland. He expressed appreciation of the Society's work and

wished them a happy and successful new year.

That brought the speeches to a close, but the party went on for quite some time afterwards in a very happy and congenial atmosphere.



Mr. Louis Nart (left) Swissair's general manager for U.K. and Ireland, presenting farewell gifts to Mr. Walter Steinmann on the occasion of his retirement. Full story on page 3.

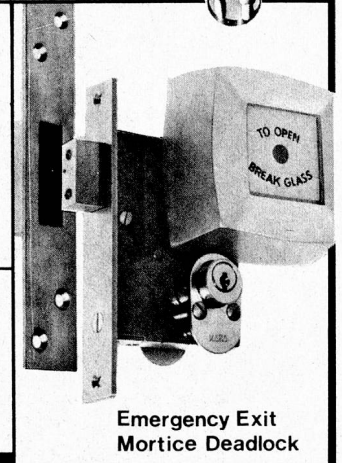
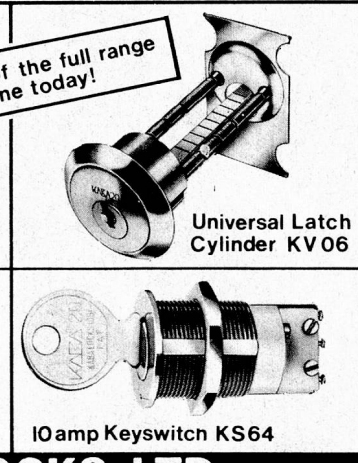
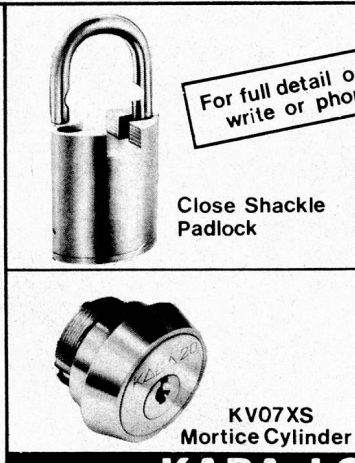
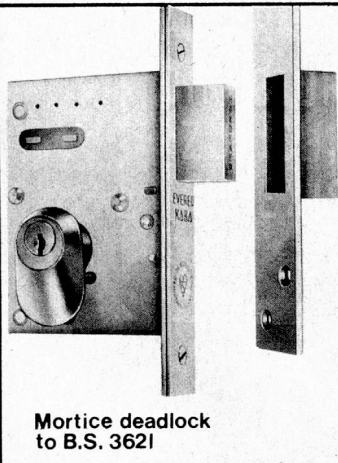
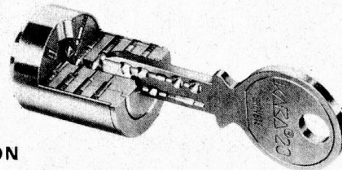
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