

# Soirée familiale - City Swiss Club

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## SOIREE FAMILIALE — CITY SWISS CLUB.

Some months ago there appeared in the columns of the "Swiss Observer" a vigorous protest from a Lady, who bitterly complained, that the wives of members of the City Swiss Club and other Societies, have not been asked to attend certain functions of the Colony held under the auspices of the City Swiss Club.

So, as not to gather the wrath of all the charming Ladies of the Colony on the head of the Editor, who was in no way responsible for this omission, it was decided not to start a long polemic in this paper, especially as the assumed "culprits", wisely or unwisely, had kept very quiet. The matter was later on humourously dealt with in our Minister's speech on the occasion of the Annual Banquet of the City Swiss Club.

Nearly twelve months had elapsed before the bad conscience of the organisers of the aforesaid functions began to prick them, and I am happy to say, that they have now nobly atoned for their alleged misdeeds by asking the Ladies to attend the "Soirée Familiale" of the City Swiss Club, on Tuesday, October 7th, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

Announcing it as a family gathering, I can not see how they could have got "out of it" without asking the Ladies, who I imagine belong to the Family, so everything is now alright again, and the Lady who, at the time so bitterly complained and who, by the way, was present, has the satisfaction of knowing that her efforts on behalf of the Ladies had not been in vain.

This gathering at the Dorchester was indeed a very friendly affair, and fixed at a most appropriate date. By then most of the members had returned from their holidays spent in our country, or other parts of the world, and many exciting experiences and happenings were exchanged in an intimate *tête à tête*.

One heard of marvellous meals eaten, both conspicuous in quality and quantity, and of famous vintages served with them — but I am open to a bet, and I am sure I would not lose it, if I say, that the dinner which was served at the Dorchester on that evening could not easily be beaten, and if this gathering was a success it was, in no small manner due to the Management and the Chef of the Dorchester Hotel, and the compliment which was paid by a member to our friend, Mr. Ronus, was well and truly deserved.

After the usual toasts to H.M. the Queen and "La Patrie", Mr. Ch. Seinet, the President, extended a hearty welcome to the members, guests and especially to the Ladies, who by their presence added so much to the gaiety. From all appearance they felt very happy to be in the company of their "hardworked" husbands, and these "hardworked" husbands were equally delighted to have them in their midst.

As one can not very well talk the whole evening, it was arranged with the collaboration and by courtesy of the Swiss Tourist Office, London, to show a number of films. Lovely views, some seen before, but always appreciated, of various parts of our beautiful country were thrown on the screen with the accompaniment of appropriate music and talks.

We were taken to the beautiful Lac Léman, with its sun kissed vineyards, to Winter Sports resorts like Chateau d'Oex and Villars, to the Bernese Oberland depicting the awe inspiring mountain giants. We saw some of the seasonable Festivals at Geneva, Berne and Neuchâtel with richly decorated carriages adorned with

beavies of lovely Ladies and children of tender age, and many a jaded and tired heart began to beat quicker in witnessing so much beauty and loveliness. Famous old houses and streets in the cantons of Valais and Grisons were shown and richly bearded men smiled at the audience.

What an orgy of sweet remembrances these pictures evoked in the company, and one could have gone on for ever, watching, and watching, but all good things come to an end, and when the lights were switched on again, the President expressed the hope, that everyone had enjoyed the performance, and extended hearty thanks to the representative and the Management of the Swiss Tourist Office.

This evening being principally arranged for the Ladies, one would have expected, that a member of this by now stronger sex would have said a few words expressing on behalf of her sisters how delighted they were to participate in a Meeting of the Club, unfortunately none could muster their courage and it was left to our friend Charles Chapuis, to voice, on their behalf, their delighted thanks.

He did it well, but why must a mere man be their spokesman? I expected any moment, that the gathering would burst out in songs with that much hackneyed ditty "For they are jolly good fellows!", meaning, of course, the Ladies, which always puts me in a quandry as to the question of sex, but, thank goodness, we were spared that ordeal.

To sum up, I am glad to say, that this "Soirée Familiale," was a fine and enjoyable affair, homely and friendly, and I for one am looking forward to another evening in company with our Ladies who so richly deserve to be made a "fuss of." ST.

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