

News from the Embassy

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CITY SWISS CLUB. Soirée Familiale.

Faithful to a promise made — some time ago — by the committee of the City Swiss Club to let the ladies take part in the social life of the Club to a greater extent than hitherto, a "Soirée Familiale" was arranged, which took place at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, on Wednesday, 17th September, about a hundred persons being present.

Owing to the absence abroad of the President, Mr. H. Knoll, the Vice-President, Mr. X. Speckert, took the Chair. After an excellent dinner, which was much enjoyed, the Chairman extended a cordial welcome to the company, singling out Monsieur Armin Daeniker (Swiss Ambassador), Sir Arnold Lunn (the guest of the evening), Monsieur J. J. de Tribolet (1st Counsellor of Embassy), Monsieur M. Vogelbacher (Secretary of Embassy), and Consul E. Ribi and Madame Ribi, not forgetting the ladies. He voiced his pleasure at again seeing Mr. Louis Chapuis in our midst after a prolonged absence due to two accidents.

Turning to Sir Arnold, Mr. Speckert expressed his own and the members' pleasure at having him as a guest of the Club. "We owe you", he said, "much gratitude for the long and sincere friendship you have always extend to our country, a friendship which has also been recognised and duly rewarded at home, the University of Zurich having bestowed on you the degree of *doctor honoris causa*."

The Chairman then referred to the many outstanding services our guest had rendered, as a pioneer, to the sports community in Switzerland, especially in the field of skiing.

Sir Arnold, who received a spontaneous reception, then addressed his audience on the subject of "Sport and Politics", referring in particular to the Olympic Games prior to the last war and since. He voiced his regrets that politics have become the dominating feature in these International sports events, and that amateur status — hitherto strictly adhered to — has become almost a farce since the totalitarian states have been admitted, where pure amateur status does not exist.

"The Swiss", he said, "are the least professional." Sir Arnold complimented the Swiss Olympic committee on having refused to take part in the last Olympic Games after the Hungarian affair.

After a short discussion in which a number of members took part, the Chairman closed the meeting by thanking Sir Arnold for his interesting and witty *exposé*.

It was a most enjoyable evening, due in no small way to the Chairman, Mr. X. Speckert, who so efficiently conducted the meeting. *ST.*

NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY.

The Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur A. Daeniker, gave a cocktail party at the Embassy, on Tuesday, 7th October, to meet the following members of the Office Vaudois du Tourisme at present in this country: Messieurs H. Guhl, Ch. Delapraz, G. Jenny, H. Jacob, and R. A. Ablay.

The Swiss Ambassador, and Madame Daeniker, gave a cocktail party on Tuesday, 14th October, at the Embassy to meet Federal Councillor G. Lepori, and Madame Lepori.

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