

Personal

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bers perform this little ceremony at the bidding of their President, and this delightful custom is accepted as a token of respect and admiration, a small compensation for the many hours wives have to be without their husbands owing to the many meetings necessitated in an active society like the SMS. A difficulty arises only when, as in my case, the member is also a woman and this year even a guest. As I had always done, I rose as a member, drank the health of my sisters and my fellow guests and hoped that this would not look in any way discourteous towards my hosts.

The Toast of the Swiss Mercantile Society and the College was proposed by the Swiss Ambassador, who had made his first official appearance in the Swiss Colony at the SMS Banquet eight years ago. He brought greetings from Madame Daeniker and then handed over the Charter of the Swiss National Exhibition in 1964, expressing on behalf of the Organising Committee their desire to see as many compatriots as possible amongst the millions of people who are expected to go to Lausanne next year. Monsieur Daeniker, in his capacity as official representative of Switzerland, then thanked the Society for all the work done with so much devotion and competence. He expressed his regrets at Mr. Chappuis's retirement from the presidency and commented on the high standard of the College. "It is of great importance", the Ambassador continued, "that no efforts should be spared to ensure that the younger generation grow up with a wide intellectual horizon and be given the necessary armour to preserve and foster the links between our country and the rest of the world. The comparatively short period which your students spend at the College may be of lasting significance for their later life and decisive for the careers of many of them."

The Ambassador then turned to Switzerland's burning problems of over-employment, foreign labour and inflation (reported on page 408). He regretted to introduce a gloomy note into the evening which should be given up to gaiety. But knowing of the interest taken by the members in national matters and being aware of their patriotic sentiments and their alertness to all questions affecting the well-being of their homeland, he wanted to mention these subjects to those whom he considered to be the present and the future tycoons in the Swiss Colony.

The Ambassador's words were received with lively interest and the sombre tone of his address did not deflect from the evening's gaiety. It was a social event in the best SMS tradition. A friendly welcome, pleasant company of old and new friends, excellent food (the *consommé*, the sole with scampi, the *entrecôte*, the ice cream and strawberry sweet made a choice meal), good speeches — not too long, yet with some substance, good dancing with short but sweet rounds allowing for plenty of change, a few pleasing compliments (the Chairman said in his speech that the pleasure of having us around was worth at least twice the price of the ticket!), and above all, the happy, intimate atmosphere which has always been a sterling hallmark of any SMS gathering.

Mariann.

PERSONAL

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. E. P. Dick, of Flat 4, 15 St. Winifreds Road, Bournemouth. An obituary will appear in the next issue.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Every Sunday 7 to 11 p.m. — The Swiss Catholic Youth Club — Social at Westminster Cathedral School, 48 Great Peter Street, S.W.1.

* * *

Every Thursday, from 6 to 7.30 p.m. — Discussion Circle in English — Young men specially invited. Tea from 6 to 6.15 p.m. Swiss Y.M.C.A., London Central Y.M.C.A. Building, Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

* * *

Every Thursday from 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. — Unione Ticinese — meets at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, N.W.3. All Ticinese welcome. The "Corale" rehearses from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

* * *

Every 1st Wednesday at 7 p.m. — Swiss Social Meeting at 2 Sussex Place, Widcombe, Bath.

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Every 1st Wednesday in the month — Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres — meeting at Swiss House, 35 Fitzroy Square, W.1, at 7 p.m.

* * *

Friday, 8th February 1963 — London Swiss Philatelic Society — Annual Dinner — Montana Hotel, S.W.7.

* * *

Tuesday, 19th February — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — TALK ON TUNISIA (with slides) by Monsieur W. Roch — 7.45 p.m. — Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, N.W.3. (See advertisement.)

* * *

Tuesday, 19th February — 8.30 p.m. — Charity Gala Performance in aid of French Hospital of French film "La Guerre des Boutons" — Institut Français, Queensberry Place, S.W.7. Tickets (1 Gn.) from Hon. Treasurer, Flat 6, 1 Bryanston Square, W.1, only.

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Wednesday, 20th February, 7.15 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Swiss House, 34/35 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

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Wednesday, 20th February, 8.15 p.m. — Charity Performance in aid of French Hospital of "La Guerre des Boutons" — Institut Français, S.W.7. Tickets (5/-) from Hon Treasurer, Flat 6, 1 Bryanston Square, W.1, only.

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Tuesday, 19th March — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — Swiss Hostel for Girls. (Particulars to follow).

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Wednesday, 8th May — FETE SUISSE at Central Hall, Westminster.

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Saturday, 19th October — Swiss Mercantile Society — 75th ANNIVERSARY DINNER — Dorchester Hotel. (Particulars to follow.)