

Swiss Catholics in London

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

CITY SWISS CLUB

CHRISTMAS DINNER

On a former occasion reporting the Christmas Dinner of the Club I wrote: "for some time, and not without some justification, we have been told that the Swiss Colony in this country is slowly dying for want of new blood. One could almost imagine that the majority of the many Societies had already pulled down their shutters and put up the notice "Gone out of business". Without trying to belittle the position, I am glad to say that matters are not as desperate yet as some people wish us to believe. There is still some life and some hope left.

Proof of this is that on the occasion of the 99th Annual Banquet and Ball of the City Swiss Club on the 27th of November 1964, at the Dorchester Hotel, nearly three hundred and fifty members and friends attended, or about a hundred more than the previous year. Again at this year's Christmas Dinner of the Club, also at the Dorchester Hotel, about a hundred members were present. That does not look like "dying", does it?

Christmas Dinners of the City Swiss Club have always been very popular and well attended; the need is felt, that before a new year begins, members should meet to spend a few jolly hours together.

During cocktails a real Christmas *Stimmung* could be felt, and when it was announced that dinner was to be served everyone entered the Orchid Room full of pleasant anticipation. It goes without saying, that the principal fare at a Christmas dinner consists, of course, of turkey, Christmas pudding, mince pies, etc., and the company thoroughly enjoyed these and other delicacies. On coffee being served the president, Mr. M. A. Keller, proposed the Toasts to H.M. the Queen and "La Suisse". He also voiced his pleasure at seeing such a good attendance.

A short business meeting followed at which a new Honorary Member was elected with acclamation in the person of Mr. Jules Zimmermann, who on the 2nd of June this year completed fifty years of membership. Mr. Zimmermann, who was for many years Honorary Secretary of the Club, rendering sterling services to our Society and to the Colony at large richly deserves this honour bestowed on him. There were also some new members elected.

The business part being closed the company vigorously burst into song with the accompaniment of two very energetic accordionists. In between singing and accordion playing some of the members and their friends told some very funny, and mostly "drawing room" stories, and Mr. J. Heimerdinger gave a humorous address in French.

Before leaving the Dorchester Hotel, Mr. Keller wished the members and their families a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. He thanked Mr. G. A. Ronus for the always generous hospitality the Hotel Management extends to the Club. Everyone departed from Park Lane in a joyful spirit having spent a gay and happy evening in congenial company.

ST.
Press Reporter C.S.C.

COMMITTEE OF SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON

The drawing of the prizes for our Christmas Draw 1964 took place on the 15th December 1964. The list of all prize winners has been distributed to the various selling centres and all prize winners have been individually informed of the result of the draw.

Thanks to the generosity and support of all our friends we are very pleased to announce that the sale of tickets and donations received have produced an income of about £300.

On Thursday, 24th December, our very active and flourishing Youth Club held their Christmas Eve celebration at the beautifully decorated Westminster Ball Room, 30 Stratton Ground, S.W.1.

The reading in our three National Languages of the Holy Gospel of Christ's Birth, a beautifully decorated Christmas tree and Cradle, little gift bags, an excellent cold supper created amongst the 150 young compatriots present a really wonderful Swiss "Weihnachtsstimmung", which was greatly enhanced by the singing of our beloved Christmas songs.

Our Special Christmas and New Year Service was held at St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, 27th December 1964. In spite of the very cold weather conditions this service was well attended and was followed by the traditional Christmas and New Year's tea party for children at the Westminster Ball Room, S.W.1. Each child received a very nice present from Father Christmas and a gift bag containing Swiss Christmas cakes and chocolates.

We had the great pleasure to watch a lovely performance of ballet dancing given by two charming young girls, Miss Jacqueline Gallo and Miss Elizabeth Smythe. Little Susanne, Janette and Odette Gaufruid greatly delighted Father Christmas by greeting him with some lovely songs and recitations in "Schwyzerdütsch".

Here again the lovely Christmas tree and the singing in our three National Languages of our cherished Swiss songs gave great pleasure to young and old and was fully appreciated by all present.

This lovely children's party was followed by a Social Evening of our Youth Club.

O GROB
(Chairman).

Nouvelle Société Helvétique London Group

Thursday, 21st January, at 7.45 p.m.
Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9/11 Belsize Grove, N.W.3

ANNUAL FILM SHOW
SELECTED SWISS NEWS REELS 1964
And a Condor Film (Zurich):
"The Hippocratic Oath"

All Swiss and Friends are Welcome