

Swiss Club Manchester

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

A PROUD ACHIEVEMENT IN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

Swiss Club Manchester visit the Clayton Aniline Work

Sometime ago, members of the Swiss Club, Manchester, were informed of a surprise awaiting them and knowing of the great imagination and drive of our Committee, we waited with some expectation and anxiety for further developments. Eventually we were informed that this was to be a visit to The Clayton Aniline Company Limited by the kind and cordial invitation of its Management.

On the afternoon of Thursday, 17th October, after driving through a part of Manchester which had undergone change and renovation, we arrived at the gates of the Works and it was with feelings of emotion and pride we saw the symbols of our home country and our country of adoption flying side by side, peacefully, in the wind, a good omen and happy introduction to what was to be a most memorable reunion. We could not help but marvel and admire the tremendous setting of this great works and although eminently functional, not lacking in harmony and beauty, not a final product of men's thought and enterprise, but a living and ever developing organisation, a place of work and progress.

In many lands and many places, men have been and are still creating new activities in all spheres of human thought and endeavour, thus serving the ever increasing needs of humanity. In our particular case we were confronted with the work due to the imagination, intelligence and faith of a very few of our compatriots who through decades past, through personal effort and sacrifice, created this great working organisation which grew and is still growing in scope and importance.

Gradually over fifty of us assembled in the very lovely conference-room where we were officially welcomed by the Managing Director, Mr. E. P. Banderet, who introduced us at once to Dr. I. G. Laing, Production Manager, and to Dr. H. R. Bolliger, Manager of the Research and Development Division and our Delegate to the "Ausslandschweizerkommission", then to Mr. K. J. Ayrtton, Company Secretary, and to Mr. J. D. Levick, Public Relations Officer. Mr. Banderet certainly succeeded in putting us very quickly at ease and with the help of some excellent photographic displays and Work-Plans, he was able, in a short but very enlightening way, to explain to us the Company's history, starting from the very humble beginnings in 1876, through periods of progress and expansion, to the vast and costly redevelopment and re-organisation of the period 1957-1965 at a cost of approximately £10,000,000.

All this is sure proof of what hard work, coupled with scientific development and faith in themselves and the future of a firm, can do. He told us also how excellent the relationship was between Management and all levels of personnel, the tradition of long service evidenced by the fact that over the last forty to fifty years the number of gold watches given to employees after completing twenty-five years service totals almost 1,400.

Mr. Banderet explained to us that the dyestuff industry had its origin in 1856 when W. H. Perkin prepared the first synthetic coal tar dye, and twenty years later the ever growing demand for aniline for many of the newly

developed synthetic dyes led to the formation of The Clayton Aniline Company Limited, on 29th May, 1876, by a young chemist from Alsace, Dr. Charles Dreyfus then 28 years of age. During the ensuing years, many famous names have been associated with the development of the Company, Prof. A. G. Green, W. H. Perkin, junior, and Prof. Chaim Weizmann, just to mention a few.

All these years the Company kept in the forefront of development and without entering into any scientific or technological detail for which the writer is certainly not qualified, the products of this firm, intermediates and colours are well known, not only in Great Britain but all over the world, for their quality and reliability. The company is a manufacturing organisation, its distribution taking place through the selling organisations of its shareholders who are CIBA, having the majority interest, GEIGY and SANDOZ, all names of world renown.

Soon we started on the tour of the works and it needed good legs and a strong heart to tackle the wide spaces and the ups and downs of the countless stairs. We were shown the impressive steam turbine and alternators hall with the control room, the enormous and fully automatic boiler-house feeding most economically on low grade coal, the vast warehouses for raw materials, intermediates and finished products, and finally through some of the various processing buildings of which the Azo Dye Manufacturing Plant particularly impressed us. Time running short we were unable to see the Engineering Departments and other subsidiary services but in view of the vastness of the works and its complex equipment it is easy to surmise that these also must be of great size and importance, in other words factories within a factory.

In the very modern Colour Testing Laboratory, Dr. Bolliger, with the help of one of his young assistants, gave us a short illustrated lecture, very educative and interesting, so that at least a few of our group could form some idea of how certain dyestuffs classes would react in different ways if applied on cotton, wool and other fibres. Dr. Laing, during the whole visit, tried very hard to explain to us some of the processes but for many of us it was very difficult to understand the complexities of such a specialised production, nevertheless we are all thankful to him for having tried so hard.



By now the majority of us were quite ready for a rest and again Mr. Banderet, evidently a master of organisation and timing, led us to the works canteen for refreshments. Sitting at individual tables, decorated with the little flags of our Country, we were served excellent and varied food coupled with what was evidently one of the white wines of Switzerland by a very friendly and efficient staff belonging to this establishment, who would have done honour to the famous restaurants in some of our cities.

Towards the end of the evening, our President, Dr. Jaggi, with some appropriate and very moving words, expressed our thanks to our hosts, in particular to Mr. Banderet and his wife who to the very end gave this whole visit a warm and friendly touch. Thanks were also extended to Dr. Laing and Dr. Bolliger, and members of the staff, who all looked after us so well. We were also very happy to see our Consul Brunner and his son amongst us, but we regretted very much the absence of Madame Brunner who was not able to join us, being in Switzerland due to the death of her father. Our thoughts and our deepest sympathy go out to her and her family.

So has come to an end one of the most successful and interesting efforts of our Club, and our host and committee deserve our compliments. We left in a most friendly spirit, with our best wishes for a continuing brilliant future for The Clayton Aniline Company Limited, good health and prosperity to all who work there.

E. Berner.

VISIT OF SWISS AMBASSADOR TO THE S.M.S. COLLEGE

The Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur René Keller, accompanied by Vice-Consul Th. P. Dudli, paid a visit to the College of the Swiss Mercantile Society on Tuesday, 5th November.

After having been received at Swiss House by the Society's President, Mr. A. Jaccard, and the Principal of the College, Mr. C. Slade, M.A., the guests went round some of the classes to see the students at work.

In the presence of the teaching staff and members of the Education Committee, the Principal then formally introduced the Ambassador to the senior students who were assembled in the lecture room.

Extending a cordial welcome to the Ambassador, who had recently accepted the Honorary Presidency of the Swiss Mercantile Society, Mr. Jaccard expressed thanks to him for the keen interest he was showing in the Society and its educational activities.

The President regretted the present state of the premises due to the extensive repairs begun during the summer holidays, but not as yet completed. Whilst the College enjoyed the patronage of the Confederation through an annual subsidy towards the running expenses, for which the Society were truly grateful, Mr. Jaccard pointed out that the building was the sole concern of the S.M.S. which did its best within the limits of the resources available. Even if the accommodation and amenities at Swiss House could hardly be termed sumptuous, he felt that the students were receiving good value for their money, as the Society's efforts were concentrated on giving as good tuition as any other school of a similar type.

In addressing the students, the Ambassador stated that he was impressed by what he had seen and heard. He said, however, that he was not quite a newcomer to Swiss House, having been there before during a previous spell in London as Secretary of Legation in the Economic Section.

Recalling his earlier student days in this country, the Ambassador stated that he had himself been toying with the idea of attending the S.M.S. College prior to the second world war, but that his professional education had taken him elsewhere. Having seen the teachers and classes at work, he envied the students for starting life under such promising auspices by being able to experience at first-hand the remarkable tuition offered at the College.

The Ambassador emphasised that the Swiss official representatives here and the persons responsible for running the College had always worked hand in hand as they had a great mutual interest in having as many young people as possible well trained in English. In a world of fierce competition only the best was good enough and here at the College they were really getting the very best.

Before the Ambassador left Swiss House, members of the Education Committee and the Teaching Staff were introduced to him at a reception held in the Members' Room.

W.B.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we announce the death on November of Mr. Léon Jaeggi, sen., of 26 Woodville Road, Golders Green, N.W.11. An obituary notice will appear in our next issue.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS . . .

. . . to Mr. A. Dreux, Basle (29th November), Mrs. Claire Renz (3rd December), Mr. H. H. Baumann (81 on 6th December), Mr. M. Ehrsam (72 on 14th December), Mr. J. L. Guggenheim (89 on 15th December) and Mrs. Emily Delaloye (81 on 15th December).

We have just heard that Mr. O Gasser was 82 on 4th November.

Many happy returns to these as well as any other readers whose birthdays will fall within the next three weeks!

MISS SELMA VAZ DIAS IN AMERICAN PLAY

Mrs. H. W. Egli, actress Miss Selma Vaz Dias, will play the leading part in a 50-minute play by the American Playwright Rochelle Owens who will come to England for the première on 26th November. The play is called "Homo" and is rather stark and outspoken, possibly somewhat crude, but well worth seeing. It will run daily (except Mondays) as the Ambiance Theatre, 1, Queensway, Bayswater at 1.15 p.m. There are two performances on Saturdays and Sundays (1.15 and 2.15 p.m.).

"SWISS OBSERVER" PUBLICATION DATES

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will be our DOUBLE CHRISTMAS NUMBER and appear on 13th December. We shall be glad to receive all articles and reports not later than Monday, 2nd December. Short news items only can be accepted after that date. For the Christmas Greetings, Monday, 25th November is closing date.

Our next issue but one will be published on Friday, 10th January. All contributions should be to hand by New Year's Eve.