

News from the colony

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

RACLETTE GATHERING IN MANCHESTER

The Raclette Party held on Thursday, 1st February, at the Cottons Hotel at Knutsford was something of a novelty in the social programme of the Swiss Club in Manchester. The event was a huge success, and credit must go to the organising committee who knew so well how to meet the wishes and moods of the compatriots of the North.

Quite in advance of time, members and their friends began to flock into the very homely, hospitable and lovely hotel which by now has become traditional with us, being also the meeting place of our First of August festivities. The attendance, almost 200, must have been very gratifying to this new and young committee, enterprising and fresh in outlook and action. Good and carefree fellowship, exuberant animation held sway the whole evening; it was lovely to greet so many friends from all parts of the North, including a good and faithful contingent from the Yorkshire Swiss Club and last but not least, Mr. Hartman from the Swiss Club of Edinburgh, whose skilled performance on the accordion was one of the main attractions of the evening. He entertained us with a varied programme of music and songs, adding quite considerably to the excellent atmosphere pervading this social get-together. His artistry was well appreciated, and we are sure that the thunderous applause given him over and over again must have been the greatest reward to him.

At the beginning of the proceedings, our President, Dr. Jaggi, welcomed members and guests, and then the raclette-machines, the very centre of our material well-being, became the focus points. It is most difficult to describe it all, and only those present could really understand and appreciate the effort and generosity of the various members of the Committee and our Consul Mr. Brunner, who provided the cheese, whilst our Vice-President regaled us with an imposing quantity of excellent and very much appreciated wine. Six raclette-machines were continuously in operation, very ably attended by some prominent people of our Colony who, stimulated by the invigorating drinks were able to keep up their efforts to the very end. They certainly earned and deserved all the admiration and encouragement from the happy crowd.

As the evening came to a close, the guests drifted away until only the hard core remained to say "au revoir" and return to their homes full of good and happy memories and hoping to meet again on a similar occasion in the not too distant future. As an ordinary member, let me conclude with the words: "Well done, Swiss Club Manchester."

E.B.

SUMMER CAMP

The German-speaking community of the Swiss Church in London again organise a Summer Camp for young people. It will be held at Ashburnham Place near Battle from 12th to 18th July. It will cost £12. Applications may be made to the Rev. M. Dietler, 1 Womersley Road, London N.8. Tel: 01-340 6018.

On Sunday, 14th July, there will be a family outing to Hastings, combined with a visit to the camp. There will be an open-air service that day instead of the usual service at St. Mary Woolnoth's.

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

The Anglo-Swiss Society gave two dinners recently, both chaired by their President, the Earl of Selkirk, both at the Dorchester Hotel, both attended by a number of distinguished guests to listen to two eminent speakers. The Swiss Ambassador and Madame Olivier Long were present on both occasions.

On 6th February, the guest speaker was Mr. A. E. Sarasin, President of the Swiss Bankers' Association, who gave a talk entitled "The Portrait of the Swiss Banker".

On 12th March, Prof. J. Freymond, Director of the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies, addressed the gathering on the work of the International Red Cross Committee of which he is a member.

Membership of the Anglo-Swiss Society is open to British and Swiss nationals, and applications may be made to the Hon. Secretary, Anglo-Swiss Society, Swiss Embassy, 77 Gloucester Place, London W.1.

CHECK GINGHAM AND CHECKER-BOARD DANCING

The City Swiss Club's Soirée

A novel idea was put into practice for the City Swiss Club's *Soirée Familiale* on 19th March, when some 60 members and friends met at the Dorchester Hotel. It was a happy evening with a rather intimate atmosphere. Swiss "with-it" travel posters were hung in pairs on the Wedgwood-blue walls of the Orchid Room and floodlit after the excellent dinner was over. The lights were put out in the glass chandeliers, and a warm glow spread from the red candles on the ten round tables grouped around the dance floor. Red and white check gingham table-cloths added a gay touch, and dancing began to a great variety of tunes from a record-player ably operated by the indefatigable Eddy Tobler. From a fast "Ländler" to a languid tango, from "pop" music to sentimental waltzes — even a Paul Jones — dance after dance was performed on the unusual raised checker-board floor. There was general regret when time to say good-bye came, and young and old alike decided it should not be farewell, but *au revoir* at a similar evening in the not too distant future.

MM

GRAND SWISS HOLIDAY COMPETITION

Fifth Section

In the presence of a solicitor and members of the Travel Trade and the Press, the 71 winners of the fifth section of the Grand Swiss Holiday Competition were drawn from the correct entries. The draw took place in Belfast on 20th March, on the occasion of a Swiss Evening at the Ulster Cricket and Football Club. The first prize — a month's holiday in Switzerland including travel by Swissair — was won by Mrs. S. Washington, Pine Farm, Wokingham, Berks. All prize winners have been notified.

Correct Answer: ROMANSH

Entry forms for two more competitions are available from the Swiss National Tourist Office, Swiss Centre, 1 New Coventry Street, London W.1.