

# Nouvelle société helvétique

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of years. He recalled that the Swiss marksmen had beaten the Surrey Club for the second year running after suffering a fifteen year spell of defeats. It had lost away against the Marylebone Pistol Club but got its own back at Bisley. The year had seen the usual eighth competitions and several new faces among the cup winners or runners up.

The distribution of prizes was organised by the Secretary, Captain Mathey. The array of boxes of chocolate, bottles of liquor and domestic utensils (one winner had an electric tin opener) was incredible for the relatively small membership of the Society. It reflected on the generosity of its members. Also of note were the finely made medals which practically all participants to the competitions collected. After the distribution of prizes came the Raffle, conducted by Mr. Armin Loetscher with the assistance of pretty Miss Christine Schmid, grand-daughter of the late Mr. A. Schmid of the Glendower, who picked the raffle tickets. There an equally impressive collection of prizes. Mr. Lucien Jobin won no less than three lots of kirsch and liquor. The raffle draw was followed by a merry bidding for a bottle of whisky won by a guest. A professional auctioneer, he suggested that his bottle should be put for auction a second time for the benefit of the Swiss Rifle Association. It fetched £20 after some close bidding and was carried away by a Mr. Callun Callun, a company director, who had come as a guest of Mr. Werner Trauffer. He immediately put it up for auction a third time. Bidding started again and stopped at £12.

Most members left shortly afterwards but a small party remained in the Glendower's dining room for more drinks and merriment until about 3 a.m.

(PMB)

## ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

Our Ambassador Dr. Albert Weitnauer invited the members of the Anglo-Swiss Society to a reception on 13th December in the reception halls of the new Embassy, that model of interior design. A great many Swiss and British members turned up and a bustle of conversation lasted three hours beneath the vast Le Corbusier still-life that dominates the Residence Dining Room.

## CITY SWISS CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Orchid Suite of the Dorchester had to replace the usual Stanhope Suite to accommodate all the members and guests of the City Swiss Club who attended the Christmas Dinner. The food was of rare quality. Dinner was enjoyed against a background of Swiss and Tyrolian music, played by a lone instrumentalist with a traditional costume. The toast to the Queen and Switzerland was followed a short while later by the screening of two films lent by the Swiss National Tourist Office. One was an informative description of Switzerland's advanced standard of living and technological expertise, the other

related the adventures of a tourist who grudgingly found himself compelled to learn the art of skiing. Both films were excellent. The second one was however of a rather weak humour but nonetheless produced strong laughter from the attendance.

## NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE

The Common Room of the Swiss Hostel for Girls had very little room to spare on Thursday evening the 13th December, when a great many members and representatives from other societies turned up to enjoy a friendly get together and a harpsichord recital by the Swiss artist Gloria Vanoli. The programme included short and curt pieces by Bartok, preludes by Bach and works Couperin played with zest and a lively talent by a young and attractive artist. She was warmly applauded and congratulated by the President, Mrs. Mariann Meier, who promised her a present on behalf of the Society at the end of her performance. There followed a supper consisting of meat rolls and Swiss cookies, most of which had been prepared by the President. It was a particularly gay and successful NSH evening which lasted until 10.30.

# THE LIFE OF THE SWISS IN BRITAIN THIRTY YEARS AGO

as read in the Swiss Observer from July to December 1942

## Special events

On Wednesday, 15th July, a party of volunteers from the City Swiss Club set out for "Westfield", the Hatfield home of the Swiss Benevolent Society, to clear timber that had recently been felled. They were answering the call of their President Mr. Louis Chapuis. An article signed by "Gallus" in the 24th July, 1942 issue of the Swiss Observer contains a picture of Messrs. E. Ulmann, A. Tall, L. Jobin, W. Deutsch, E. Suter, J. H. Berger, P. Moehr, W. Bachmann and W. Flory progressing in the grounds of "Westfield" armed with saws and pickaxes. Another picture shows them resting on a log, their tools on their knees and a bottle of beer at hand. On Saturday, 18th July, a second City Swiss Club party left for "Westfield" with Mr. Fer. Among those present were Messrs. Glauser, Guggenheim and Oltramare.

The Swiss National Day Celebration was held at Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, London W.C.2. on Saturday, 1st August. Coming after the 1941 Celebration, which had marked the 650th Anniversary of the Confederation and had been held at Central Hall, Westminster, the 1942 function was described by the Editor as something of an anti-climax. Apparently, there were flaws in the programme. The singing was not at its usual standard and the film "Landammann Stauffacher" was a disappointment. The soundtrack was cut for over an hour as a wire which had accidentally been severed was repaired. The screen was too small and the projector of insufficient power. But Mr. A. Stauffer stressed that the occasion was successful because of the splendid spirit of friendship and patriotism which had ruled over it. Mr. Pradervand, of the Eglise Suisse, had made a moving pat-

## CERCLE GENEVOIS

About twenty Swiss and British residents with kinship or affective ties with Geneva gathered on 12th December at the home of Mrs. Hugh Overton-Binet to celebrate the traditional Escalade. The chocolate cauldron had not withstood the journey from Geneva and was badly cracked for the fist smashing ritual, which I understand was accompanied by the words: "Let the enemies of the Republic thus be broken." The event was particularly friendly and intimate and enlivened by the drinks which many in the party had supplied. The Embassy was represented by Mr. Serex and Mr. Nordmann, who had made a special point of leaving the City Swiss Club Christmas Dinner, held on the same evening, before it had ended to join the Cercle Genevois.