

The winter wonderland

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Ambassador needs if he is to do his job properly. It is true that an Ambassador's first duty is to foster relations between his home country and his country of residence in all important fields of international life. But he also assumes a certain responsibility for the well-being of the Colony and its relations with the home country as well as with the host country. In this respect, the N.S.H. plays a key role. In spite of the fact that I am privileged to be surrounded at the Embassy by an excellent staff, I should simply not have been able to do the work the N.S.H. is doing in cultivating Swiss traditions and informing our compatriots in Britain about political, social, economic and cultural developments in Switzerland".

Monsieur Thalmann said that one had to be realistic, the outlook was rather gloomy, internationally as well as on the domestic front. And therefore, an Ambassador would need the Society's help even more in the future. And he concluded by saying: "Close ranks behind your outstanding President, help one another by sticking together and try to recruit more and more members who are willing to follow the wise advice of John F. Kennedy: 'Don't ask what the country can do for you but what you can do for your country'. By doing so you will carry on the real spirit of the N.S.H., which

is the greatest asset Switzerland has abroad".

After the traditional presents to the ladies from an anonymous donor had been distributed, Mr. Bernard Simon, who had earlier been welcomed by the Chairman as President of the Federation of Swiss

Societies in the UK, addressed the gathering on behalf of the guests, ably and with true Basle wit.

This brought a most enjoyable evening to a close, and we should like to say thank you and the best of luck!

M.G.

THE WINTER WONDERLAND

This was the theme of a gala reception held at the Hotel Inter-Continental in London on 15th January. Over 1,000 guests attended the reception, and they included several Ambassadors, many celebrities, many personalities in the Swiss Community, hotel guests and clients. The Swiss Ambassador and Madame Ernesto Thalmann were guests of honour, and they were received by Mr. Graham Jeffrey, General Manager of the Hotel Inter-Continental.

The Grand Ballroom presented an astonishing sight: On a platform in the centre was a traditional Swiss sleigh, and two Swiss musicians played Ticinesi tunes. Swiss songs, marches and folk music as well as pictures were produced with the help of audio-visual apparatus. Against that background, models displayed furs loaned for the occasion by Bradleys at Harvey Nichols and over a million pounds worth of

jewellery from the Queen's jewellers, Collingwood of Conduit Street. The placid St. Bernard dog took it all in its stride!

All around the ballroom were buffets, some in Swiss chalets, others on tables and stalls, and the variety of hot and cold food was such as has hardly ever been seen in this country: *raclette*, *fondue*, *Buendnerfleisch*, a suckling pig stuffed with chestnuts, roast beef, *pâtés*, apple fritters, cold meats and a very large selection of Swiss cheeses and bread and *Zoepfe* of every description, and, most important, excellent Swiss wines to match (after the initial serving of champagne).

The Swiss National Tourist Office, Swissair and the Swiss Cheese Union had co-operated with the hotel in organising the event. The Hotel Inter-Continental in Genève had played a major part in the planning of the party. M.M.

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The Swiss Ambassador (centre) and Madame Ernesto Thalmann being received by Mr. Graham Jeffrey, General Manager of the Hotel Inter-Continental.
More pictures on page 32.

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