

City Swiss Club

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

An outing to "Great Fosters", Egham, Surrey,
on Friday, 10th June 1960.

Last year's "Informal Dinner Dance" which was held at "Great Fosters", Egham, Surrey, was a great success, no less than 120 members and friends being present.

Encouraged by the spontaneous response which was given twelve months ago, the committee has decided to arrange again an outing to one of Britain's finest country house hotels, reminiscent of such royal personages of the past as Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn and Queen Elizabeth I.

The wonderful gardens at "Great Fosters" are alone worth a visit; they will present at this time of the year a wonderful sight.

A circular which was sent to the members of the Club mentions "there will be no speeches"! Thus, the visitors can enjoy every minute of an outing which promises to be one of the most enjoyable social gatherings to be held this year. The committee has generously agreed that part of the cost will be borne by the Club's exchequer. Dinner will be served in the ancient baronial hall (by candle-light), and the Menu that has been arranged should satisfy even the most fastidious gourmet. Dancing will be catered for by a five-member band.

The invitation is not restricted to members only, and friends are cordially invited. Tables for parties can be arranged, and on applying for tickets the size of parties should be mentioned.

Private cars can reach "Great Fosters" by taking the Southampton Road (A.30) from London to Staines and Egham. In Egham follow the station road to Egham station, cross the level-crossing and follow the blue sign direct to "Great Fosters". Members who wish the committee to make arrangements for their transport should inform Mr. Lucien Jobin, Messrs. Marchand & Jobin, 100 Hatton Garden, E.C.1, as soon as possible.

We feel sure that all those who will give themselves *rendez-vous* at "Great Fosters" on 10th June are sure of spending an enjoyable evening in beautiful surroundings and congenial company.

Press Reporter
(City Swiss Club.)

JAPAN

A Causerie by Mr. William Roch

Members and friends of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, at the meeting which took place on 19th April, were entertained to a most interesting Causerie on some aspects of Japanese life and history, which was accompanied by coloured pictures. Monsieur William Roch of the Swiss Embassy is not only a good raconteur but evidently also a good amateur photographer. Some of the slides were exquisite. The long and hearty applause at the end of the lecture was clear evidence of how much the audience had enjoyed both words and pictures.

Mr. W. Renz, the President of N.S.H., thanked Mr. Roch, and added some well-earned complimentary remarks.

The following is a brief résumé of Mr. Roch's lecture.

While showing his slides on the region of Kyoto and Nara (Central Japan), Mr. Roch explained that this district is the cradle of Japanese history. In the fourth century the first ruler to be given the title of emperor, according to the historians, resided there. This imperial dynasty is still in power; it is therefore 1,500 years old. However, according to legend or popular belief, the imperial line is descended from the Sun Goddess Amaterasu. It is thus possible to understand the divine attributes with which the person of the emperor is endowed. Mr. Roch added that originally the Imperial Court moved about from place to place, but at the end of the seventh century it was established at Nara. Subsequently the emperor removed the court to Kyoto, which remained the capital of Japan until the nineteenth century. In the twelfth century, however, the emperor lost his temporal power to a prince (Shogun) who commanded an order of knights (Samurai). The Shogun first installed himself in a palace at Kyoto, later transferring his residence to a town called Edo; but in 1860 the emperor Meiji left Kyoto to go to Edo to dethrone the Shogun and set himself up in the prince's own palace. This was the end of the Samurai, that is to say of the feudal regime of chivalry. Japan became organized as a modern state under the dual authority, spiritual and temporal, of the emperor. The new capital, Edo, then took the name of Tokyo, which means "Capital of the East".

Mr. Roch showed the historic buildings of Nara and Kyoto, in particular the sumptuous palace of the Shogun at Kyoto. The speaker also explained the difference between the two religions which dominate Japan: Shintoism, the primitive belief (of which the principal divinity is Amaterasu, Goddess of the Sun), and Buddhism, which reached Japan from China in the sixth century. Shown also were the temple which the Shintoists dedicate to the Sun Goddess, and Horyuji, which is the most ancient Buddhist sanctuary in Japan and is regarded as the fountain-head of Japanese art and culture.

Mr. Roch devoted a part of his talk to Japanese gardens and floral art. He showed the classic garden of the Villa Katsura (near Kyoto). This park contains an admirable arrangement of trees, shrubberies, rocks and watergardens. As for flowers, Mr. Roch explained that the Japanese specialize in the cultivation of irises and chrysanthemums, of which they produce a large number of varieties.

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