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and glorious "Auld Lang Syne" at 11 p.m. All sing-songs depend for their success on the presence of at least one cheerleader or conductor who will lead his gay company into new songs and never tire. Father Paul Bossard assumed this function admirably and conducted the singing unfalteringly, leading us in the incredible variety of Swiss musical folklore.

(PMB)

THE SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

The Swiss Rifle Association held its Annual Dinner on November 13th. As usual, this was a lively and fraternal evening, with plenty of cheer and wine.

Mr. Marcel Bucherer, the Association's President, welcomed the guests of the evening and regretted the absence of our Ambassador and Colonel Von Frisching, the Military Attaché at the Embassy, who were not able to come. He mentioned two letters he had received from members regretting that they had not been able to come. They were from Mr. Alfred Schmid and Dr. Carl Grob. Reviewing the activities of the year, Marcel Bucherer mentioned the three matches which the Swiss Rifle Association had fought with British clubs. His valiant Swiss marksmen had been "hammered" by the Kensington Rifle Club in a small bore contest, but the Londoners were duly beaten when they came to Bisley for a return match against the Swiss Rifle Association. But the most glorious event of the year was the Association's victory over the Surrey Rifle Association—the first time in twenty years. Marcel Bucherer was

pleased to note that many younger newcomers to the Association had won a growing share of the prizes of this year. Two of them, young Stefan Jaeggi and Mr. Fritz Häsler, had done particularly well. Marcel Bucherer ended his short address by congratulating Mr. Milani of the Glendower for the excellent meal which we had just enjoyed.

A question was then raised concerning the prohibition to shoot at Bisley on the Sunday afternoon in which the Farnborough Airshow was held. Why, it was asked, did shooting have to be interrupted while the "Concorde" was flying overhead? Was it because our range officers had feared that, because we were such bad shots, there was a tangible risk that some blundering sprayer among our ranks would shoot down the plane by mistake? Or did they apprehend that we would want to destroy this costly machine in legitimate tax-payer's protest, or, lastly, did they think that the loud snap of our bullets on the target would dismantle Concorde's shoddy workmanship. Peter Fischer rose to say that the Swiss Rifle Association was in no way responsible for this interdiction, but asked one of the evening's guests, Major Magnay, President of the Surrey Rifle Club and member of the National Rifle Association's Council, to clarify this matter. He told us that the shooting prohibition order for the whole duration of the Farnborough Airshow had come from the Ministry of Defence. In spite of many discussions and telephone calls to have the order lifted, the "Boffins of Warminster" had clung to their neurotic fears that the costly

machines on display at Farnborough would have been endangered by the activities at Bisley. This had disrupted other matches in which the Surrey Rifle Club had been due to take part.

Mr. Brown, the second friend from the Surrey Rifle Association to be the evening's guest, rose to say a few words in which he expressed his pleasure at being among us, and mentioned his Club's defeat against the Swiss Rifle Association and also its successful trip to Switzerland. Major Magnay gave us a few more precisions on this shooting trapeze to Switzerland, in which 16 members of the Surrey Rifle Club and some of their wives took part and which was, despite a constant series of defeats, thoroughly enjoyable.

The time had come for the distribution of prizes, aptly carried out by the Association's Secretary, Mr. Charles Abegglen. Prizes were handed out for the following competitions: Minister C. R. Paravicini's Challenge Cup, Ambassador A. Daeniker's Senior Cup, Major Talbot-Smith Presentation Cup, Monsieur J. L. Revilliod Presentation Silver Cigarette Case, St. Gallen, Einzelwettschiessen, Zürich, Feldschiessen, Obligatorisches Schiessen, Grümpelschiessen and Handicap Competition 1970. One of the most coveted of these glorious trophies, Minister C. R. Paravicini's Challenge Cup, was awarded to Mr. Fritz Häsler and thus taken away from Marcel Bucherer, who had held it for nine successive years. Another highly applauded winner was Father Paul Bossard, who won the Ambassador A. Daeniker's Senior Cup (the only competition in which he took part!). Prize-giving was followed



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by the Tombola draw, with the fortunate result that half of the forty members left for home, when midnight had rung, with at least a bottle of liquor or a box of Swiss cigars.

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CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES OF THE SWISS CHURCHES

Swiss Catholic Mission

There will be an Ecumenical Service on Christmas Eve at St. Ann's at 6.30 p.m. This will be followed by a Christmas Dinner in the Westminster Ballroom. At 11 p.m. Heinrich Schutz's "Oratorio" will be performed at St. Ann's. This will be succeeded by a Midnight Mass and the day will end with a friendly tea.

On Sunday 27th, Holy Mass will be celebrated at St. Ann's at 3 p.m. This will be followed by a Children's Christmas Party. Dancing at the Westminster Ballroom from 8 p.m. onward.

Eglise Suisse

The Annual Dinner of the Doyens of the Parish will take place on Saturday 5th December at 5.30 p.m. The Christmas Tree celebration of the joint Swiss Church and French Reformed Church of Soho Square as from 3 p.m. The Christmas Tree celebration of the French-speaking Swiss parish will take place on the following Sunday at Endell Street, starting at 3 p.m. On Christmas Day there will be a service at 11.15 a.m. followed by Holy Communion. On Saturday 2nd January, the children of the Colony enjoy their annual party at St. Mary's Hall. YWCA, Gt. Russell Street, at 2 p.m. A special dinner is foreseen for the Youth Club on Christmas Eve. The young Swiss exiles can spend Boxing Day at the Presbytery (address given overleaf) from 4 p.m. onward.

German-speaking parish

The series of Christmas events begins with a Family Fete at Seven Oaks, on 17th December, 4 p.m. A second Family Fete will take place at Endell Street on Sunday, 20th December, at 4 p.m. On Christmas Eve at 6.30 p.m. an Ecumenical Service will be held jointly with the Catholics at St. Ann's. Christmas Day, 10 a.m., Service and Holy Communion. No service on the morning of Sunday 27th, but evening service at St. Ann's. Finally, an Ecumenical Service will be celebrated at St. Ann's on 31st December at 6.30 p.m.

CHANGES AT THE WELFARE OFFICE

A reception at the Ambassador's Residence was held to bid farewell to Mrs. M. H. Ellis, President of the Committee of the Swiss Welfare Office, and Mrs. B. Kind, Secretary of the Welfare Office. Mrs. Ellis has had to abandon her responsibility as she is now involved in social work at Folkestone, where she lives. Readers may remem-

ber that she was awarded an M.B.E. last year in reward for her outstanding services to social welfare. Mrs. B. Kind has had to follow her husband, the present "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" correspondent in London to Moscow. Mr. Kind swaps places with the actual Moscow correspondent of the N.Z.Z. Mrs. Ellis is temporarily replaced by Mrs. O. Grob but a permanent replacement for Mrs. Kind, Miss Senn, has already been found. Monsieur René Keller pronounced a short farewell address and offered both Mrs. Ellis and Mrs. Kind gift vouchers as a token of the appreciation of the Colony. We congratulate them and wish them all the best in their new life.

(PMB)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 1st December. Orchid Suite of the Dorchester, Dinner of the Anglo-Swiss Society, 7.30 for 8 p.m. Black tie. Prof. L. W. Forster will speak on "Some Swiss Writers and their Attitude".

Friday, 4th December. Annual Cup Competition of the Swiss Philatelic Society.

Wednesday, 9th December. Swiss Mercantile Society, monthly meeting. The speaker will be Mr. W. Stettbacher.

Tuesday, 15th December. City Swiss Club Christmas Dinner.

Saturday, 12th December. Cercle Genevois Gathering at the Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, W.C.2. 7.30 p.m. Tel: 995 0083.

Saturday, 12th December. Manchester Swiss Club. Christmas Party at the Midland Hotel, Manchester.

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