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London. I would therefore ask you to join with me in expressing our sincere thanks to those numerous friends.

Mr. Regensburger said that he imagined we must have a hard task in running our school under difficult circumstances. I admit that occasionally I should prefer to go home to my Philco after a day's hard work in the City rather than to go to Swiss House to a lengthy Committee meeting. But even so it has its compensations. I was very proud only quite recently to think that I was President of the S.M.S. when I heard that the students had made such a splendid effort to help our unfortunate compatriots who had to leave Spain and had collected a very substantial sum for the aid of the refugees. I think it was a very fine deed on your part.

I was also delighted to hear the promise of your spokesman that he would recommend our College whenever possible — for this is, surely, the finest form of thanks that we can ask.

I should like, in conclusion, in my own name and that of the Council, to express to you all the heartiest good wishes for Christmas and the New Year and I feel that I cannot do better than couple with this the hope that the training and experience you receive during your time at the S.M.S. College, may serve to make you all the better able to further and to share the prosperity of our beloved Switzerland.

The President's words were greeted with applause.

Mr. De Brunner, a trustee of the Society proposed the toast to the College and the Teaching staff, he said:

When recently sitting in a 1st class railway carriage, I was much amused to read over both doors the phrase "Wait until the Pain stops." Some inventive genius had carefully erased the letter "T" from the word "train" and turned the letter "R" into a "P." — Doubtless the spirit of the famous Sherlock Holmes or Dr. Watson, said to have at one time permeated the district of Baker Street, where I found myself, made me picture in my mind's eye the perpetrator of this joke, and I came to the conclusion that it must have been a youthful person having a keen sense of humour — that admirable tonic which helps one to overcome so many difficulties and troubles — and being also blessed with the faculty of creating, and taking advantage of, an opportunity. — Opportunity! what a magic word, so full of meaning! Daily we are faced with, or could ourselves create, good opportunities: to help others, to succour, to perform good deeds, to co-operate, to make friends, to end strife, to become better acquainted with the world and its ways, to add to the sum total of our knowledge and experience, etc., etc.

There is, however, one aspect of the revised wording "Wait until the Pain stops" with which I did not find myself in agreement. Pain we all suffer more or less as the inevitable consequence of the deep rooted crisis and economic upheaval of our times, but can we afford to wait until it stops? No, we must lose no chances to create and build up opportunities for better days to come, and already 14 years ago this was the guiding thought which gave birth to the College of the Swiss Mercantile Society, an Institution intended to offer you, my dear Students, as also to thousands of others before you, and we hope to many thousands more in the future, the opportunity of learning the World's leading Commercial language, and to become acquainted with English life, characteristics, customs, literature, art and science, and what not. Our home government was fully alive to the manifold advantages we were holding out to our young compatriots, — who through force of circumstances are, unfortunately, deprived from accepting employment — to extend their knowledge and experience of things British for the common good. Nobly the Swiss Authorities came to our aid with a substantial yearly subsidy, and for this practical evidence of their appreciation of our efforts we are deeply grateful.

I am glad to say that many splendid achievements in the educational domain stand to the credit of our College, and well may we be proud and happy to see that our labours and sacrifices were not in vain. But to whom is the credit for our excellent results chiefly due? To the Headmaster of our College, Mr. Levy, Mr. Burraston, Vice-Principal, and his splendid Staff, who, all and sundry, have for many years past given of their very best, in order that our young friends from Switzerland may derive the utmost benefit from a relatively short stay in this country; to enable you in due course to turn to good account the additional knowledge and experience assimilated from their tutelage, guidance and friendly interest in your future welfare. To our excellent and painstaking Teachers I would express on behalf of the Trustees and Council our warmest thanks for their collaboration in

the past, and which I trust will be fully maintained for long to come in harmonious teamwork, among themselves and conjointly with administrative staff, who are likewise entitled to hearty praise. And you my dear Students can best give proof of your appreciation of what is being done for our young Compatriots by embracing — (I trust I am not using a risky word seeing the bevy of youthful beauty here assembled), I say by embracing to the fullest extent the opportunities proffered you by our College and the Teaching Staff, and by assiduous studies, and exemplary conduct in and out of College to add lustre to our Institution, and thus constantly to maintain, and even enhance, its reputation at home and abroad.

As one closely identified with the inception of our College, it gives me particular pleasure to raise my glass and invite you very cordially to honour this toast: The S.M.S. College and the Teaching Staff, and coupled therewith the name of the Principal, Mr. Levy.

Mr. De Brunner received a hearty ovation on resuming his seat.

The last speaker on the Programme was Mr. Levy, the Headmaster of the College who responded to the previous speech.

If anybody was in doubt about the popularity of the Headmaster he must have changed his opinion, because he received an ovation lasting several minutes, before he could start his address. Mr. Levy acquainted the company that he has now been connected with the S.M.S. school for 19 years. "If we can to-day look back on some fine achievements, it is principally due to the help and hard work which I have always received from my colleagues on the teaching staff, the members of the Committee and the Swiss Legation."

He continued to compare the work of the College with a watch where every wheel must perform its duty to make the whole work in harmony. He said, amongst much hilarity that the letters S.M.S. stood for "Steinmann, Meier and Students."

He urged the Students to work conscientiously in order to make them fit for their work when they enter the most important stage of their lives; he also entreated them to follow the customs and acquaint themselves with the manners of the people with whom they are staying in whichever country that might be.

He ended his address by thanking in the name of his colleagues the Society for their appreciation which has been so frequently and generously voiced by the various authorities.

Another salvo of applause from the students and guests greeted his oration.

This ended the official part of the evening, and soon after dancing began. It was a happy and merry crowd which valed, hopped and fox-trotted to the tune of the band which now felt properly in its element.

A *polonaise*, headed by the ever young Secretary of the Society, Mr. J. J. Schneider, was a most enjoyable affair, all the more so as the couples had to pass underneath a large bunch of mistletoe, with the obvious result of receiving or giving a kiss. Now some were very shy, some only a little so, and others seemed to love it, judging from their unwillingness to move on, and give the other fellow a chance.

It was a fine evening and I feel sure, the memory of it will remain with all those present for a very long time.

ST.

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 Dante. Inferno. C. xxviii.

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, January 5th — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting (preceded by dinner, 7.15 sharp) at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.

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### Divine Services.

**EGLISE SUISSE (1762).**

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70, Endell Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2.

(Near New Oxford Street).

Vendredi 25 Décembre. 11h. — Noël — Prédication et Culte de Cène — M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

Samedi 26 Décembre. 5h. — *Boxing Day* — Fête et Arbre de Noël — Invitation à chacun.

Ecole du Dimanche — Choeurs — solistes. — Thé dès 4 heures.

Dimanche 27 Décembre. 11h. — M. le Pasteur F. Christol — par échange.

Le culte du soir sera supprimé.

Jeudi 31 Décembre. 8h. du soir *St. Sylvestre*. Service de fin d'année avec communion. — L'arbre sera rallumé.

Vendredi 1er Janvier. 11h. — Culte du Jour de l'An.

### MARIAGE.

Louis Samuel Mury — de Montreux — Châtelard (Vaud) et Olive Riley Price de Ysbad Mynach (Glam.) — le 19/12/36.

### BAPTEME.

W. Grégoire Minkoff et Mme Marie Minkoff — de Rjstcher (Ukraine) — le 20/12/36.

A tous ceux qui ont contribué au succès des fêtes et distributions de Noël par leurs dons d'argent, de vêtements ou de nourriture, un chaleureux merci et des vœux réitérés de bénédiction!

### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

Freitag, den 25. Dezember 1936. *CHRISTTAG.*

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Feier des Heiligen Abendmahls.

*Es findet kein Abendgottesdienst statt.*

Sonntag, den 27. Dezember 1936.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst.

7 Uhr abends: Liturgische Weihnachtsfeier. Der Weihnachtsbaum wird wieder angezündet werden.

Donnerstag, den 31. Dezember 1936. *Sylvester.*

7 Uhr abends, Altjahresabendgottesdienst und Feier des Heiligen Abendmahls. — Der Baum wird wieder angezündet werden.

### VERDANKUNG.

Die Kirchenpflege und der Pfarrer der Schweizerkirche danken allen freundlichen Gebern, ob bekannt oder unbekannt, herzlich für ihre freudige und bereitwillige Mitarbeit in diesen Festtagen.

Anfragen wegen Religions- bzw. Confirmationsstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Telephon: Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche.