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CITY SWISS CLUB. Monthly Meeting.

Nearly one hundred members and friends attended the September meeting of the City Swiss Club at the Dorchester Hotel, on the 16th inst.

Mr. Bon, the President, extended a hearty welcome to the principal guest and lecturer, Mr. Henry Newnham, better known under his *nom de plume* "Candidus."

He also mentioned the presence of the following guests: Sir Harry Brittain, Monsieur W. Preiswerk, former head of the Special Division of the Swiss Legation, Dr. Masnata of the OSSEC organisation, and Mr. C. D. Furrer, architect.

The President acquainted the meeting with the sad news of the death of Dr. P. Pettavel, Honorary Member of the Club, and the usual silent tribute was paid to our late member.

Mr. H. Newnham then addressed the company on "Liberty Through British and Swiss Eyes," mentioning that curiously enough the cradle of real democracy and liberty has always emerged from small countries, but whilst constitutional developments differ, as to details, between this country and Switzerland, both British and Swiss people are looking at liberty very much through the same eyes. Both the Swiss Confederation and Great Britain want the individual to have as much liberty as is compatible with the safety of the State. Both countries are striving to respect the liberty of their respective nationals. "Liberty," he said, "is always in a state of siege and has through all the ages been under fire." He mentioned that Switzerland has solved this very difficult problem within its own borders, but as to the world at large, liberty under present conditions, was in considerable danger.

This very interesting lecture was followed with great attention by the gathering and the hearty applause which the lecturer received on concluding his *exposé* was well and truly deserved.

Sir Harry Brittain, the well-known politician and eminent newspaper man, thanked the City Swiss Club for the invitation extended to him. After a few reminiscences of former stays in our country, he declared that he was a fervent advocate for the abolition of visa's and easier travelling facilities between Great Britain and Switzerland.

Dr. Masnata, head of the OSSEC organisation in Switzerland, gave a very lucid *exposé* of the aims of this important institution.

Monsieur Escher, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires, wound up the proceedings with a very able and comprehensive statement, dealing with the lecturer's subject, which was greatly appreciated.

Before closing the meeting, Mr. Bon informed the members that Mr. Joerin, a fellow member, has recently celebrated his 80th birthday, extending to him, his and the Club's congratulations.

Mr. Joerin shortly acknowledged the wishes extended to him.

Close of the meeting 9.30 p.m.

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OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION OF SWISS PLANNING AND BUILDING AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

The opening of the above Exhibition took place on Wednesday, September 18th, 1946, at the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66, Portland Place, W.1.

The Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paul Ruegger, and the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects received the guests.

Amongst the Swiss guests were: Mr. Aubaret, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bon, Mr. J. Boos, Dr. and Mrs. E. Bircher, Mr. and Mrs. Boog, Mr. and Mrs. V. P. Ceresole, Mr. C. Caillat, Mr. R. de Cintra, Mr. C. F. de Steiger, Dr. A. Escher, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Gamper, Mr. R. Hunziker, Mr. and Mrs. P. Moehr, Mr. and Mrs. A. Oboussier, Pasteur Pradervand, Mr. Th. Ritter, Mr. and Mrs. A. Stauffer, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Stahelin, Mr. E. Steiner, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Suter, etc., etc.

(The Exhibition is open between 10 a.m.— 6 p.m., admission free.)

EDITOR'S POST BAG.

THE SWISS FLAG ON THE HIGH SEAS.

The Editor,
THE SWISS OBSERVER.

Sir.— Recent references have appeared in the press that the Swiss Flag — "the white cross in the red field" — will no longer be flown at sea.

We would like to take the opportunity of correcting the impression which has doubtless arisen owing to the probable termination of the Swiss War Transport Office at some future date with the resultant cessation of vessels trading under their control.

Private Shipowners in Switzerland, however, will be operating modern fast vessels under the Swiss Flag and "the white cross in the red field" therefore will continue to be flown at sea.

Yours faithfully,

For SWISS SHIPPING AGENCY
(Agence Maritime Helvétique) Ltd.,

C. V. DRUITT, Director.

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