

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1948)

Heft: 1081

Rubrik: City Swiss Club

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CITY SWISS CLUB. Xmas Dinner.

The traditional Xmas dinner of the City Swiss Club took place on Thursday, December 18th, 1947, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

Whilst, in former years well over a hundred members have attended this annual re-union, this time only about 80 members were present. Many would be participants no doubt failed to attend, bearing the Government Restriction order in view, prohibiting more than hundred people sitting down and using both "knife and fork."

After an excellent dinner, comprising such seasonal dishes as turkey and Xmas pudding, the President, Mr. R. de Cintra welcomed the members and guests, amongst whom were Dr. A. Escher, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires, Lieut.-Colonel Rieser, Messieurs Aubaret and Hunziker from the Swiss Legation, M. Gilliéron, Swiss Bank Corporation, M. de Schulthess, Zurich, Pfarrer Blum, Pasteurs Pradervand and Reverdin, and Mr. Albert Ferber.

The President informed the company, that in view of the festive occasion he would desist from making a long speech and called on Monsieur Escher to address the gathering.

The latter spoke in "Schwyzerdütsch" which was a welcome change. He expressed his regrets that the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paul Ruegger, was prevented from attending, owing to his journey to India.

Dr. Escher briefly reviewed the activities of the Colony during 1947, which he described as being very

encouraging, and voiced his pleasure at the fact that the relations between the Colony and the Legation have been on a very cordial footing.

He terminated his address by acquainting the members that recently efforts have been made to bring into life an Anglo-Swiss Society, and in wishing the members and their families the compliments of the Season.

Pasteur Pradervand, who was called upon to say a few words, took a final farewell from his many friends in the City Swiss Club before his departure to Switzerland, introducing his successor, Pasteur Reverdin, who expressed his pleasure at having been enabled to make the acquaintance of the members of the Club, and saying that he hoped that his relations with the City Swiss Club would be as close as they have been with his predecessor.

Albert Ferber, the well-known and gifted Swiss pianist, who, through his many recitals has gained a great reputation in the music world of this country, played various pieces of Beethoven and Chopin which were greatly appreciated and received vociferous applause.

M. de Cintra then informed the gathering that it was exactly 50 years ago to the day, since Mr. Louis Chapuis, a former President of the Club, and his brother Carlo, who shares the same honour, arrived in this country. He extended to both of them heartiest congratulations and best wishes.

Before closing the Meeting, the President wished all the members and their families a Happy Xmas and a Prosperous New Year.



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