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SWISS BANK CORPORATION JUBILEE.

As reported in our last issue, the Swiss Bank Corporation has celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Foundation of the London Office.

To mark this occasion the Management entertained, on Wednesday, June 30th, 1948, the staff to a party at Victoria Hall, Bloomsbury, W.C., at which about 400 Ladies and Gentlemen were present.

This party was honoured by the presence of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dr. R. Speich and M. M. Golay, Managing Director, who had come over specially from Switzerland.

Mr. P. de Wolff, Chief Manager of the London Office, addressing the company, greeted the distinguished visitors from Switzerland and reminded his hearers that M. Golay was present in a three-fold capacity, namely as a former member of the clerical staff in London, as an ex-Manager of the same office, and now as the Managing Director of the Bank.

Striking a humorous note, Mr. de Wolff remarked that the London Office had been described the previous year (on the occasion of the 75th Jubilee of the Schweiz. Bankverein) as the cherished child of the Swiss Bank family, though he felt that at times it may have been the "enfant terrible." He sketched the Bank's history very briefly and spoke of the spirit of collaboration which is so evident amongst the staff.

At the conclusion of Mr. de Wolff's address an interesting and moving ceremony took place, when M. Golay, Managing Director of the Bank presented twelve silver salvers, suitably inscribed, to the following members of the staff: Messrs. W. Comfort, H. Huber, H. Harper, A. Kiener, Ch. Lloyd, H. Riches, F. Angel, W. Bullinger, A. Jevés, J. Marrett, G. Nimmo and H. Spurgeon, who had served more than forty years with the London Office.

M. Golay, after handing over the salvers to the recipients, congratulated the London Office on its achievements.

A very pleasant social evening was spent by all concerned and at the close of the more formal side of the proceedings a large number of the party remained for an informal dance.

The following day, July 1st, on the actual day of the Bank's birthday, a cocktail party was held at the Hotel Savoy, Strand.

The guests, numbering about 400, were received by Dr. R. Speich, Chairman of the Board of Directors, M. M. Golay, Managing Director and Dr. P. de Wolff, Chief Manager of the London Office. Three members of the Board of Directors who had come over specially from Switzerland, Mr. M. Ehinger, Dr. F. Iselin, and Mr. W. Preiswerk-Tissot, were also present. The party consisted of leading personalities in the City of London, diplomats and members of the Press.

In connection with the celebration of the 50th birthday, the Swiss Bank Corporation has issued a booklet describing the history of the Bank during the last fifty years.

The "Swiss Observer" joins heartily the list of the numerous congratulants for "Many Happy Returns of the Day."

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SWEDISH INTERLUDE.

In December, 1947, King Gustav V. celebrated the fortieth anniversary of his coming to the Swedish throne. At the same time thousands of distinguished men and women gathered in Stockholm for the solemn ceremony of the Nobel Prize awards.

One of the guests invited to the Nobel Festival was Dr. R. E. G. Armattoo, Director of the *Lomeshie Research Centre for Anthropology and Race Biology* in Londonderry. On his return to Ireland he recorded his impressions in a small volume entitled: *Personal Recollections of the Nobel Laureation Festival* which is the subject of this brief review.

Dr. Armattoo is no stranger to the Swiss Colony. His name is familiar to readers of the Swiss Observer and he is the author of a study, published in 1944, on *The Swiss Contribution to Western Civilization*, to which Prof. Julian Huxley wrote a foreword. A number of other books, mostly scientific, stand to his credit and he is a well-known contributor to scientific and literary publications in Europe and America.

A native of West Africa, Dr. Armattoo was educated in Scotland, France and Germany. He is a living illustration of the truth that, given equal educational opportunities, the intelligent African is in no way inferior to his white brother in intellectual attainments.

The opuscle (as he calls it) now published is in the main a detailed report on the Doctor's Visit to Sweden, with digressions into Poetry and imaginative literature. He gives a vivid description of the things he saw, the people he met and the part he took in the Nobel festivities. He was fascinated by the sincerity and the warmth of the welcome he received in a land untroubled by problems of colour bar and race prejudice. He appears to have been fêted and lionized, introduced to prominent people and admitted to their homes. The unstinting praise he lavishes on the Swedes is the more remarkable as, where he disapproves, he can be scathingly outspoken and forceful. His candour is revealed in a long letter addressed to Prof. Henschen which forms the introductory chapter of the book and comes near to an autobiography.

Not everyone will agree with all of the Doctor's views and conclusions but as a human document the book is of unusual interest and, in parts, strangely moving.

J.J.F.S.

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