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CITY SWISS CLUB.

The now customary Christmas Dinner of the City Swiss Club took place on Monday, the 20th December, 1948, at the Dorchester Hotel, and was attended by a company of about one hundred members and friends.

Guest of honour on this festive occasion was the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté; the President of the Club, Mr. R. de Cintra, was in the Chair.

After the usual loyal toasts duly proposed by the Chairman and honoured by the upstanding company, Mr. de Cintra expressed in a few words a cordial welcome and the good wishes of the season to all present, with special reference to the very great pleasure felt by all at Monsieur de Torrenté's presence on this, his first Christmas of his new mission to London.

The Swiss Minister then spoke highly inspired words on the Christian Festival now upon us; referring to a rather dark future for humanity in a world where science threatens to obscure the true path of civilisation, even to extinguish its torch, where man is not

sufficient unto himself, he reminded his audience of the hope which is given to us all by the message of Christmas.

Monsieur de Torrenté's address and his good wishes for Christmas and the New Year were received with hearty applause.

For a while, the company was left to the relaxation of quiet social intercourse round the various tables and so until the moment arrived for the second highlight of the evening.

Our compatriot and well-known pianist, Mr. Albert Ferber, who had most kindly come straight from a recital at the Wigmore Hall played three Chopin pieces: Scherzo, Mazurka and Nocturne, followed by Granado's Allegro di Concerto. All these the company thoroughly enjoyed and so indeed testified by sustained, richly deserved applause.

Last words were of the Chairman's thanks to Mr. Ferber for the joy and delight of his music, to Mr. Ronus for the truly excellent dinner the Dorchester had served, and once again of a Happy Christmas to all.

J.Z.