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The question of German assets proved, as we all know, a thorny problem. Minister Stucki's Washington agreement meant that whilst the gold went to the Allies, Swiss isolationism was at an end. It also meant international collaboration wherever politically possible and wherever neutrality was not involved. Whilst Switzerland is not yet a member of the United Nations and the question of neutrality has not yet cropped up, and it may be said that neutrality is to-day considered from many new angles, Switzerland is actively interested in many international organisations. To mention a few: Labour, Refugee childrens' fund, Court of Justice at the Hague, Health, Food and Transport, in effect, Switzerland is fully represented.

As to the Marshall Plan, the Federal Council gave weighty and serious consideration to the famous offer, and the statement consequently issued, declaring full collaboration, was well timed. Still, in the second Paris Conference, Switzerland's clear-cut conditions in the economic field, to trade with countries outside the Marshall Plan, were accepted. Switzerland, however, in spite of American insistence, refused to sign a bilateral agreement "the one remaining country out of the 17 member states."

And so to sum up, Switzerland is determined to keep a sound currency, free exchange, to offer credits to trade wherever possible, and to offer as an outstanding contribution, her neutrality. The desire to remain strong, which has undoubtedly helped her neutrality, prompted her not to disarm nor to demobilise,

and it is certain that her strength adds stability to Europe.

Switzerland can and will survive this ideological conflict by well-tried democratic means, the Swiss Government, however, can only work to this end when the majority of its people are solidly behind them.

Our Vice-Consul, Mr. J. J. Huber, thanked our guest on his and the Club's behalf for this brilliant address that again puts us "au fait" with the many trends and thoughts of our Homeland.

A number of questions were asked which drew further interesting elucidations from the lecturer.

To Dr. A. Lindt, who because of the Manchester meeting had foregone the more restful manner of crossing the Atlantic in one of the "Queens" flew to Lake Success, went our sincerest wishes for unqualified success.

HELM.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, February 11th, 1949.

We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: S. Spagnapani, H. J. Markwalder, C. Kunzle, J. H. Meyer, L. J. Faivre, J. Muller, Miss Paur, Miss A. Biucchi, Miss Portman, A. Steiner, H. Schmid, J. F. Beer, M. E. Dubois, F. Egger, Max Lienhard, A. W. Burckhardt, Mrs. H. Ellison, Mrs. E. Te Winkel-Dubois, J. Scheiwiller.

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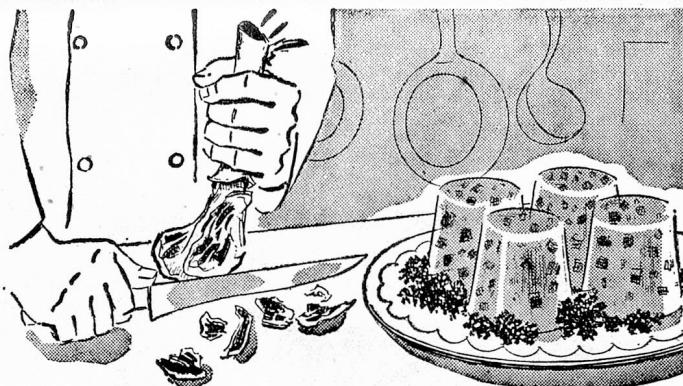
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