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SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER.**Christmas Party, 17th December, 1949.**

It is with the greatest pleasure that we record in a few words our annual Christmas Party held at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, Saturday, 17th December, 1949.

Its popularity is evident, since there were sixty-six "young ones" and the "grown-ups" also enjoy this event, as the party in all just passed the 260 mark.

There was the beautifully decorated Christmas Tree surrounded by presents for all the Children. Our Vice-President, Mr. G. Senn, welcomed all present in an admirable, suitable, and short speech specially addressed to the Children.

An excellent tea, with just those good things which are the delight of all children was served. Father Christmas made his happy appearance and later a Conjuror had the Children all agog with his magic tricks.

Special thanks go to Mrs. H. Schedler, for what must have been a trying job, that is, parcelling and addressing all presents and for her help generally, given in so gracious a manner.

Thanks also to all Members for their generosity. Also a mark of appreciation to Mr. H. Monney for the organisation behind the scenes, which made the event the success it was.

Nor must this article be concluded without sincere thanks to Mr. E. R. Cottet for the careful catering arrangements and floral decorations.

*RTG.***CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S SERVICE
PARTY OF SWISS CATHOLICS.**

The Church of St. Peters and St. Edwards, Palace Street, Westminster, S.W.1. was just large enough to hold the very large Congregation assembled on Sunday, January 1st, 1950, for this year's Christmas and New Year's Service. The Chaplain, Father Lanfranchi, in a moving sermon, in English and German (the latter for the benefit of the many new young temporary Swiss residents over here now) reminded his hearers of the real meaning of the Christian Christmas and the Christmas presents, the best present being the receipt, through prayers and devotion, the blessings of the Christchild born for the salvation of all men of goodwill.

Solemn Benediction was given by Father Gut of M.H.B. assisted by the two Anglo-Swiss will-be-priests—Rev. Gasche and Rev. De Maria, sons of well known Swiss families in the Colony. The mixed Choir sang Christmas Carols and the hymns during the service.

The Christmas party, arranged for young and old, at the spacious Westminster Cathedral Hall was equally well patronised, some 70 children and about 300 adults enjoying an excellent tea, refreshments and songs by the Choir. The children in particular enjoyed the tricks of the conjuror and the antics and wit of "Archie" the ventriloquist's dummy.

Every child, thanks to the generosity of the compatriots, received a handsome present, and some fruit from the hands of Father Christmas, who under the shade of the large and nicely lit and decorated Christmas tree, exhorted the children to be good and faithful children and obedient to their parents in the year just started.

In the Church and at the Party we had the great pleasure of seeing the Swiss Minister and Madame de Torrenté, accompanied by Colonel Ryser and Dr. Umbrecht of the Legation.

The children having had their share, the not-so-young came into their element about 7.30 p.m. when they took up the meriment with singing Swiss songs and dancing to the tune of Swiss accordion players.

It was a great treat to see so many old and young Swiss in happy and merry mood, the babble of the various tongues proved that compatriots from all over Switzerland mingled on this memorable occasion, a real happy Swiss party away from the homeland.

Great thanks are due to Father Lanfranchi who almost single handed arranged the party, and his untiring helpers on the day, particularly those behind the scenes preparing and serving the refreshments, all free of charge, also the many donors of the gifts, in kind and cash.

*J.B.***"WATCHWORDS" WINS CUP.**

"Watchwords", a house journal, published by Omega Watch Co. (England) Ltd., of 26-30, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.1, has won the cup for 1949, offered by Messrs. Block and Anderson, for "the best house journal, bearing in mind the purpose of the Journal." The judges reported that there was "a remarkable number of entries."

We are sending our heartiest congratulations to the Omega Watch Company on their success.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The 61st
Annual Dinner
and
Dance

will be held at the

TROCADERO RESTAURANT
Shaftesbury Avenue, Piccadilly Circus, W.1
on **FRIDAY, JANUARY 27th, 1950**

The Swiss Minister and Madame Henry de Torrenté will be the Society's Guests of Honour and delegates from the S.K.V. in Switzerland will attend.

Reception 7 p.m. Dinner 7.30 p.m.
Dancing till midnight. Evening dress optional.

TICKETS at 25/- can be obtained from:

THE SECRETARY, SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY,
35, FITZROY SQUARE, W.1.