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Lt.-Colonel Stuart Townend, O.B.E., M.A., the Director of the Society and his charming wife. There was not the slightest hitch nor one dull moment, the only criticism one could make is, that it did not last longer.

As mentioned in one of my recent reports, Banquets and Balls are much of a muchness nowadays, this Banquet, however, distinguished itself from the purely Swiss functions, by the fact, that, apart from the customary loyal toasts, no speeches were inflicted upon the revellers, not that I would advocate dispensing with speeches altogether, it has been my privilege to listen to many delightful after dinner speeches, but others were less amusing, and not a few were, the least said, trying.

Before the dinner a reception was held by the President of the Society, and the Swiss Minister accompanied by their Ladies, after which the company adjourned to the richly decorated Ball room of the Dorchester.

A huge Xmas tree reminded the company, that the festival of peace and goodwill was on hand, and the various cantonal flags exhibited on the tables added to the "Stimmung."

The dinner too bore a festive character, consisting of roast turkey and Xmas pudding, which are so intimately connected with this time of the year. Excellent vintages from the sun-kissed vineyards of our country were served and thus evoked in many of the company pleasant memories of recent holidays spent in Switzerland.

A festival of this kind would be incomplete without the Ladies, their gay laughter and radiant beauty were one of the features of the evening.

An excellent cabaret was provided for, but the *clou* of the evening was, when a huge cake, depicting the "Matterhorn" was brought in to the music of Mr. Gandon's accordion band. Dancing went on with remarkable perseverance until midnight, when this most successful festival came to a close.

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Amongst the guests of the Society were:— The Swiss Minister and Mme. de Torrenté, Captain and Mrs. T. D. Richardson, Chairman, National Skating Association, Mrs. Philippa Martin, M.S., F.R.C.S., E. K. Martin, M.S., F.R.C.S., Sir Malcolm and Lady Trustram Eve, C.B.E., M.C., T.D., K.C., President Ski Club of Great Britain, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Steel, C.B., President Association of British Members of Swiss Alpine Club, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Keller, Vice-President City Swiss Club, Dr. H. W. and Mrs. Egli, President, N.S.H., Mr. and Mrs. A. Stauffer, Editor, Swiss Observer, Mr. and Mrs. W. Meier, President, S.M.S., Dr. W. Amstutz, Swiss British Society Zurich.

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

The traditional Christmas Dinner of the City Swiss Club took place on Tuesday, December 12th, 1950, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, and was attended by about a hundred members and friends.

Mr. R. Dupraz, President of the Club, extended a hearty welcome to all those present and after an excellent dinner, and a few speeches, the Meeting was closed soon after 10 p.m., the President wishing all the members a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE. (London Group.)

The Meeting of the above Society, which took place on Tuesday, December 19th, 1950, at the Vienna Café, Berkeley Arcade, N.W.1, was not well attended, no doubt, due to the approaching Xmas holidays.

It was a great pity, and all those absent missed a very interesting lecture by Dr. A. R. Lindt, Press Counsellor at the Swiss Legation, who spoke on "His work as Swiss Delegate on the United Nations Children's Fund at Lake Success."

The President, Dr. H. W. Egli, thanked the lecturer for his excellent resumé which was greatly enjoyed by all those present.

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