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## THE SWISS CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.

The Swiss children's Christmas party was held as usual during the Christmas holidays at Victoria Hall, Bloomsbury. It was well attended by over 160 children. An invitation was sent out to 217 children of Swiss parentage between 2 and 16 years of age, but even a few younger ones were present. They could not very well be left at home alone. The weather was kind, and the children arrived in good time and full of expectation. Last year many of them were delayed and even held up by fog and by a bus strike which was then being held.

This year's program ran on familiar lines, since the party was resumed after the war. After a few words of introduction and the singing of English carols there was a short interval for the children to look round and see the decorations and Christmas trees. After this Mr. Sage was ready to start with the first two films. These were of a more serious character, intended rather for the elder children. One had as its subject a Swedish Christmas, with the ringing of church bells and the other one was a biblical story, called the "Healing of the Blind."

The next item on the program was the much appreciated entertainment provided by Uncle Sid (Mr. S. Cable) as a skilful conjurer. The children were fascinated by his performance. Two more films followed, given by the Swiss Federal Railways and showing the beauties around Zermatt in winter, as well as the antics of Mikey Mouse.

When the lights went up again, Mr. Gandon was on the stage with his accordionists, some very young ones among them. Their playing was a great enjoyment for everybody present. After that it was already tea-time and the children came into an adjoining room, where a nice tea was laid out for them on four long tables. During the tea the accordionists entertained the company once more. The tea over, Father Christmas claimed everybody's attention. It was a pity that some noise at the buffet made his words of good advice to the children partly inaudible.

This brought the party almost to an end. There was only the distribution of the presents left and every child collected his or her gifts in a brown paper bag on the way out through the hall. It should be specially mentioned that Mrs. Bessire had the good idea of

making a calendar for each child so that the party could be remembered by it throughout the year. These calendars were very attractively made, each one showing some coloured view of Switzerland. Another much appreciated gesture was the help of Mrs. Mariann Meier, who made it possible to give each one of the older children a copy of her book "The Young Traveler in Switzerland."

Mr. and Mrs. H. de Torrenté joined the party, bringing their little daughter along, who enjoyed herself together with all the other children. Quite a number of parents stayed on during the party and took this opportunity of having a chat with other parents and friends. It was a pleasure to all who helped to arrange this year's Children's party to see such a variety of healthy, happy, and well behaved children. Undoubtedly it is not easy for all the parents to bring their children along, as many live quite far away and had quite some journeys to make. Nevertheless the parents and organisers of this party are united in the conviction that it is well worth it attending and organising this gathering of so many children who are British born — if only to show them how nice it is to be of Swiss descent.

Mrs. G. K.

## OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, January 26th, 1951. We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: R. G. Mathez, E. von Bergen, R. Sahli, M. Merian, J. Schmid, E. Montag, R. Weist, W. Schlatter, Mrs. D. Meyrat, J. Lochmatter, J. Weber, C. Voegeli, H. E. Messmer, L. P. Croset, F. J. Martin, P. Bonnet, Pasteur C. Reverdin, A. Cima, M. Ruthishauser, H. Frutiger, O. Jaeggi, E. G. Stauber, L. Forrer, L. S. Forrer, J. Emmenegger, F. Magnin, Miss C. Rougemont, H. M. Ochsner, Mrs. A. Dimier, J. W. Bonjour, W. Meier, O. Rohn, A. J. Gommiero, V. Nodiroli, M. E. Dubois, Miss H. Sidler.

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6 p.m. Annual General Meeting.

7.15 p.m. Reception.

7.30 p.m. Dinner and entertainment.

All Members and Friends are cordially invited.

Applications for tickets for the dinner at 17/- incl. gratuities to be sent with remittance to the Hon. Secretary, Miss A. Gretener, 49, Putney Hill, London, S.W.15.

Informal Dress.

Albert Ferber will play.