

Annual Social

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ANNUAL SOCIAL.

Anglo-Swiss Screw Co. Ltd.

Apart from the many social arrangements amongst Swiss Societies in London round about Christmas, such as Banquets, Dances, Cocktail Parties, Concerts, Lectures, and Meetings, there are quite a number of parties which are of a more informal and private nature, and are only indirectly connected with the Colony as such.

Invariably the Editor receives a courteous invitation to put in an appearance, which, in spite of his many — and often strenuous — engagements at this time of the year, he tries to honour.

A few weeks ago I received a request from our compatriot, Mr. O. Frey, Chairman and Managing Director of the Anglo-Swiss Screw Co. Ltd. of Trout Road, West Drayton, Middx., to attend a Buffet Dance and Cabaret at the Carlton Rooms, Maida Vale, W.9.

The Anglo-Swiss Screw Co. Ltd., which was established in 1919 by Mr. O. Frey, makes — as the name indicates — precision screws, nuts and metal turned parts, specialising in small precision screw machine products made in bulk quantities on high speed automatic lathes. About a year ago, I had an opportunity of visiting the large works at West Drayton, employing a staff of over 420, amongst them quite a number of Swiss. One of the many pleasant impressions I took away from that visit was the one concerning the friendly atmosphere which exists between Management and Employees; this impression was confirmed again at the Annual Social on Saturday, December 8th. About 550 persons of both sexes took part at this gathering. Amongst some of the guests present were the Member of Parliament for the Uxbridge and West Drayton constituency, the Mayor of Uxbridge, and the Chairman of the District Council, with their ladies.

They were received by the Chairman of the Company, and his charming wife; I might mention here that Mrs. Frey is also a compatriot of ours, hailing from the town of Baden, of which her late father at one time was the Mayor (Landammann). Last year, as reported in our issue of November 11th, 1955, Mr. & Mrs. Frey celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary.

At the reception they were ably assisted by their son, Mr. F. A. H. Frey, B.Sc.(Eng.), A.K.C., and by their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. & Mrs. P. R. Brierly, B.Sc.(Eng.), A.K.C.

This party, which was indeed a happy family reunion, started at 7.30 p.m. with dancing during which a very sumptuous running Buffet was in action.

Amongst the more modern dances were also included barn dances and the Valeta. Even the notorious Rock an' Roll made its appearance on the programme, and I am glad to say that the police did not have to interfere! I tried hard to spot amongst the many dancing couples some of our compatriots, but in vain. Following a sudden intuition I paid a visit to the Bar, and there they were as happy and content as sand boys!

The highlight of the evening was an excellent Cabaret. A bevy of young and attractive ladies — not exactly over-dressed — sang, danced and executed acrobatics.

These ladies appeared at intervals, each time

attired in different coloured costumes, and still scantily clad, enticing some of the male members of the audience on to the dance floor, and I can now quite understand why sometimes "boys do leave home"!

Very attractive was one item when the performing girls dressed in pale blue satin and blue ostrich feathers sang and danced to the melody of the Blue Danube Waltz, which reminded me vividly of a visit to Vienna some years ago where, however, the Danube does not look particularly blue. There was also an excellent performance of a "Teddy boy" with his dummy partner, and two very clever roller-skaters.

Once again the young ladies made an appearance, this time dressed as sailors; they gave imitations of rowing, and "sweeping the upper deck", and when the band intoned "Rule Britannia", Horatio Nelson, minus one arm and one eye, appeared whilst the company lustily joined the performers by singing this well-known song glorifying H.M.'s Navy. I have witnessed in the past many a Cabaret turn, some good, some mediocre, but this one, I must confess, was one of the best I have ever seen. The performers were wildly cheered and they deserved every bit of it.

Dancing was then resumed and went on gaily until midnight when this happy party came to a close.

In a period when frequent misunderstandings and ruptures occur between Managements and Staffs it is refreshing to see how close and happy relations are between employer and employees of the Anglo-Swiss Screw Co. Ltd.

ST.

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY.
Dinner to Mr. Hermann Geiger.

A dinner was arranged by the above Society to Mr. Hermann Geiger, the well-known Glacier-Pilot, after his lecture at the Central Hall, on Thursday, 6th December at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. Sir Clifford Norton, at one time H.M. Minister in Berne, was in the Chair. The Swiss Minister, and Madame Daeniker were also present. In a brief address Sir Clifford welcomed Mr. Geiger and Mr. Stampfli to this country, to which the latter replied.

There were about thirty members and ladies present, and a congenial and friendly atmosphere reigned throughout the evening. A member, who had been Mr. Geiger's passenger on alpine flights also spoke.

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