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THE SWISS MINISTER AT THE MANSION HOUSE.

Monsieur A. Daeniker, the Swiss Minister, was recently the guest of honour at a Banquet given at the Pattenmakers' Banquet at the Mansion House.

Dr. Daeniker said his own City of Zürich had had a similar constitution to the City's, of patricians and artisans, as long ago as 1336. It lasted for 450 years.

In those days the craft guilds of Zürich, through their members, exercised great military influence in Europe. Now, however, the Guilds were of purely social significance, devoted to the preservation of their beautiful buildings and to the encouragement of youth.

His own guild, which consisted mainly of bankers and wine merchants, received Sir Winston Churchill in 1946. One respect in which Swiss and London Guilds differed was in the ceremony of the loving cup, the Swiss drinking habits being more straightforward !

Throughout history there had always been a close relationship between London and various Swiss towns. In 1583, in the reign of Elizabeth I, London sent a considerable sum of money for the strengthening of Geneva's defences against neighbouring Savoy.

The Lord Mayor said few people knew that "pattens" were designed for "traversing the dark and filthy lanes of the City". The Pattenmakers incorporated in their ancestry Galosh Makers and Pouch Makers.

In Fenchurch Street stood the Church of St. Margaret Pattens, where they used to worship.

Lt.-Col. H. N. Letts said the free translation of the Pattenmakers' motto was "Women receive support from us". Pattenmakers must be wonderful people to be able to support so many ladies. He himself found great difficulty in supporting one in the manner to which she would like to be accustomed.

The Past Master, Lt.-Col. D. H. Davis, proposing the Civic Toast, said the Lord Mayor's methods were indirect and subtle ! Having pulled wool over their eyes in the Lord Mayor's Show, he was now proceeding to pull money out of their pockets so Bow Bells could ring out again.

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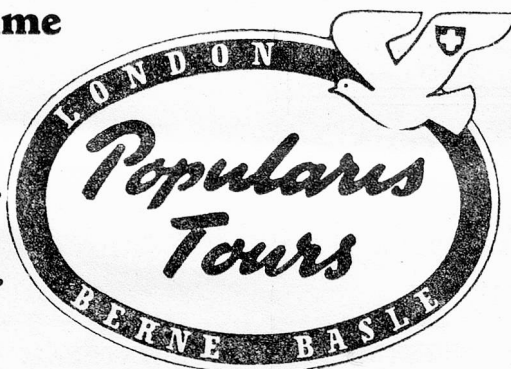
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SWISS SPORTS. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Sports took place on Thursday, February 23rd, at Swiss House, W.1.

Mr. R. de Cintra was in the Chair. It was decided to hold the Swiss Sports on Saturday, June 2nd at the Polytechnic Stadium, Chiswick.

The following committee for the year 1956/57 was elected: President: R. de Cintra, Vice President: not yet appointed, Hon. Secretary: J. Wetter, jun., Assist. Secretary: T. S. Regamey, Hon. Treasurer: E. H. Schlatter, Assist. Treasurer: C. Krebs. Members: M. Berti, W. Burren, R. Chappuis, J. Diviani, L. Jobin, jun., and W. Meier.

R.Ch.

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Club, Manchester, which took place on February 18th, 1956, at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, the following committee for 1956/57 has been elected: President: H. Monney, Vice-President: E. Berner, Hon. Secretary: J. P. Locher, Assistant Secretary: P. Bringolf, Hon. Treasurer: W. Allenspach, Librarian: H. Scheiwiler.

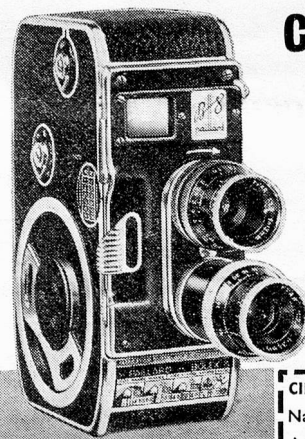
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