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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

"Gruempelschiessen" at Bisley.

The shooting practice of the Swiss Rifle Association ending the season is called "Gruempelschiessen". It took place on Sunday, October 13th, at Bisley Camp (Surrey).

This name has always puzzled me, and I have never yet been able to find out exactly why it is used thus. Even some of my friends in the Association seem to be vague about its origin, but I surmise that the name originates from shooting matches which are held in some parts of our country, when those who take part in the competition bring along as presents to the winners "any old rubbish" (hence "Grümpel") which they have found in their attics (Grümpelkammer), very much like some people send "any old rubbish" to a jumble sale.

* * *

Soon after 10 a.m. the first shots were fired in glorious sunshine on the "Siberia" range (again a name which is rather puzzling). I have never yet been "sent to Siberia", and I always understood that it is not a nice place to go to. The "Siberia" range at Bisley, however, hardly deserves this unpopular name; certainly not on a glorious autumn day.

At short intervals the "sharpshooters" arrived, some with "Kind und Kegel", and by about 11.30 a.m. about twenty-five members fired at three targets from a distance of 300 m. (270 yards). In the course of the morning the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Armin Daeniker, arrived and was received by Mr. Alfred Schmid, President of the Swiss Rifle Association, and by Mr. J. C. Wetter, Vice-President.

As can be seen below, Monsieur Daeniker took part in the competition.



Swiss Ambassador in action.

Looking at his scoring card I noticed that he is "almost" as good a marksman as he is a diplomat.

At noon the shooting was interrupted for luncheon at the pavilion of the Middlesex Rifle Association; it being a fine day not a few of the members lunched

al fresco. Previously the President of the Association offered the Ambassador a champagne *aphéritif*.

Shooting was then resumed and lasted until nearly 5 o'clock. Some very interesting results were obtained (needless to say the writer did not handle a rifle), but of this later, because the full results will be proclaimed shortly at the "Grümpelschiessen" dinner, which ranks amongst the highlights of the social events in the Colony. (It goes without saying that the writer will take a more active part in these proceedings.)

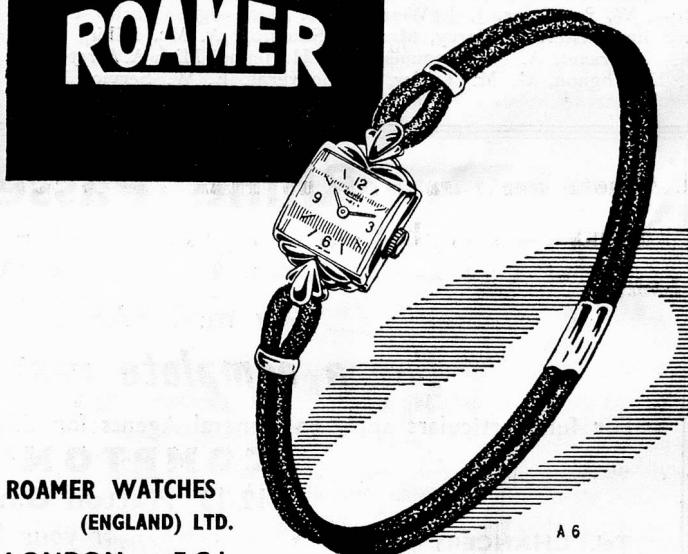
This dinner will be held on Friday, November 22nd, at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7.

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