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AN EDITOR'S LAMENT, OR YET MORE GENERAL MEETINGS.

With the exception of two, all the Annual General Meetings of Swiss Societies in London have now been held. Some of them were connected with either a luncheon or a dinner, thus making them more palatable, and less exacting to the members.

Having now patiently listened to a large number of Presidential reports minutes of secretaries, and treasurers' statements reporting mostly debit balances, I decided — not to be left out — to hold a General Meeting in connection with the "Swiss Observer" all on my own, having gained through all these years, no mean experiences about such undertakings.

This meeting took place one day this month at the Editor's Offices at 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2. Apart from the editor there was nobody present, which eliminated any uncalled for opposition or criticism, which I consider was a very smart piece of work.

I purposely did not ask the Publishers to be present, as they would have, no doubt, presented me with a depressing picture of the financial position of this famous paper, which has now appeared without interruption for the last 37 years, and that would have worried me greatly. I rightly thought I would leave the worries to them, which I again consider was a smart move on my part.

Sitting in my comfortable editor's chair, I addressed, unsupported, an imaginary audience, giving them an exhaustive *exposé* of my work and activities during the last twelve months.

Relying on my notes, I reiterated that during the period in question, I had attended 48 monthly, committee and general meetings of various Swiss Societies, 51 other functions such as socials, lectures, concerts, film shows, cocktail parties, funerals, press conferences, etc. etc., as well as some functions only partly connected with the Colony.

I mentioned that I must have swallowed a few gallons of *consommé*, finished off at least half a poultry farm, depleted some of the Scottish salmon streams, ate more grass or salad than an average "vache", consumed ice-cream enough to freeze a whole consignment of Canterbury lamb, drunk cocktails, wine spirits and occasionally water (the latter principally early the next morning after a "do"), and, last but not least, added an extra stone to my already considerable weight, which has caused much annoyance in certain quarters.

Mention was also made that I danced and "hopped" with a score of attractive ladies, both light and heavy, fair and dark, shed tears at fare-well parties, slept half-way through cinema shows, listened to lectures trying to look intellectual, smiled

when listening to never-ending speeches (though inwardly boiling), felt sentimental at concerts of classical and Swiss music, looked gloomy at funerals and happy at weddings, sympathised with old age feeling as old as they, told youngsters of the Colony that I felt and drank everyday Younger's, spent a small fortune on aspirin tablets, taxis, trains and buses.

I reported that I wrote many thousands of lines relating to news, reporting numerous social functions held in the Colony throughout the year, obituaries, concerts, lectures, *feuilletons*, biographies and God knows what.

On concluding my detailed narrative of twelve months activities, I paid a warm tribute to myself for having been able to survive. I scratched my own back — as nobody was present to do it for me — and finally voted myself, in the absence of the Publishers, an extra £500 per year, wishing myself health and strength for the next twelve months.

ST.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

At the 85th annual meeting of the Swiss Bank Corporation held at Basle on March 1 payment of a dividend raised from 8 per cent to 9 per cent was approved. The allocation of Swiss Fcs. 2,000,000 to pension fund, Swiss Fcs. 2,500,000 to building reserve and Swiss Fcs. 4,000,000 to special reserve was also approved. The retiring directors were re-elected and among new appointments to the board was that of Mr. Albert C. Nussbaumer of Basle. Mr. Nussbaumer is well known in British banking circles from his long association with the London office of the bank.

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