

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

**Band:** - (1957)

**Heft:** 1294

**Rubrik:** City Swiss Club

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 09.12.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

### CITY SWISS CLUB. "Soirée Familiale".

Whilst the ordinary monthly meetings and "Jass", Bridge and Canasta evenings are reserved for "Gentlemen only", the ladies at the occasional "Soirées Familiales" are always most welcome. It was, therefore, a pleasure to see so many of them at the Dorchester Hotel on Wednesday, March the 20th.

The ante-room, where cocktails were served, was thronged with attractive ladies — most of whom wore the latest creations of "haute couture" — and "well-groomed" gentlemen.

When the company was bidden to adjourn to the Orchid Room for dinner everyone was pleasantly surprised to see the wonderful flower arrangements, more sumptuous than ever, no doubt, as a special compliment to the ladies. Indeed spring-time was in the air.

Towards the end of the dinner, and after the customary toasts, the President, Mr. Ch. Gysin, welcomed the various guests — amongst them Monsieur J. J. de Tribolet, 1st Counsellor of Legation, and Madame de Tribolet, Monsieur R. Faessler, Counsellor of Legation, and Madame Faessler, Dr. E. M. Bircher, Press Counsellor, Mr. J. Huber, Consul, and Mrs. Huber, Mr. & Mrs. K. Potter, and the representatives of the Swiss churches in London — ending by paying a touching compliment to all the ladies present. The excellent dinner served greatly helped in creating an atmosphere of geniality.

After a short interval two documentary films, "African Heritage" and "West Australian Adventure", were shown, preceded by a short talk on the Petroleum Industry by Mr. K. Potter, Public Relations Officer of the Regent Oil Company Ltd.

The first film, photographed in brilliant colours, brought us in contact with one of the world's oldest cultures — a culture which is gradually being integrated into the civilisation of the twentieth century. In this true anthropological study we saw the East African building his boats in the way that it has been done for centuries. Traditional methods of pottery making, basket weaving and the fashioning of hunting weapons were recorded perhaps for the last time on film before they disappear for ever. Ceremonial dances and folk music added to the beauty and intensity of the film. A first-class informative commentary increased the film's interest and value.

The second film, "West Australian Adventure", is the historical record of the first oil exploratory venture in Western Australia. Into a vast desert-like land devoid of roads and human habitation, geologists, drillers and engineers come to carry out the search. The great logistical problem of bringing equipment in by way of a beachhead landing at Learmouth and the exciting overland haul of vast quantities of equipment from Perth contributed to the great interest of this film. We saw the drill biting into the sandy earth and finally the flow of the first oil discovered in Western Australia, only to be followed by disappointment as subsequent wells proved to be dry.

Before the films were shown, Mr. K. Potter gave us a most lucid talk concerning the "Early History of the Oil Industry".

The early uses of petroleum (Rock oil) throughout the centuries were briefly outlined, leading up to the

point when Mr. Bisel leased 100 acres of land in North America and formed the Pennsylvanian Rock Oil Company in 1854 to supply crude oil for medicinal purposes. Four years later, in 1859, he employed an engineer, Mr. Drake, to drill for oil on his land. The first well was successful and oil was found at 69 ft.

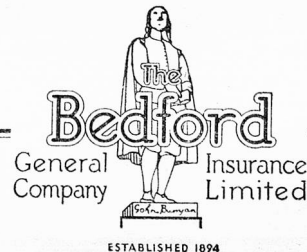
From 1859 to 1911 the development of the Oil Industry was then traced. During these fifty-two years Mr. John D. Rockefeller and Mr. Clark, his partner, developed the Standard Oil Company after they had sold their fruit and vegetable brokerage business in Cleveland and had built their first Refinery with all their available capital of \$4,000.

Since the first well was drilled in America, the speaker said, over 1½ million more wells have been drilled, 18,000 in Venezuela, and 1,500 in the Middle East. The deepest well so far drilled is in Louisiana, and it is 4½ miles deep. We learned that the world production of crude oil, outside of the Iron Curtain, approximates to the average daily flow of the Thames at Teddington.

Finally, some of the products of crude oil mentioned, other than fuel and lubricants, were the following: paint, metal polish, soap, explosives, medicinal ointments, chewing gum, wax polish, insecticides, printing ink, fertilizers and asphalt.

On the conclusion of this interesting talk Mr. Potter was loudly cheered, and the President, on behalf of the audience, thanked him and his colleague very heartily for having given us such an enjoyable evening.

The "Soirée Familiale" was, again, a great success. The committee, and especially Mr. Robert J. Keller, who made the arrangements, are to be congratulated on their endeavours. ST.



## FIRE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE

#### DIRECTORS

SIR HARRY TWYFORD, K.B.E. (Chairman).  
THE RT. HON. VISCOUNT ADDISON.  
SIR JAMES MILNE, K.C.V.O., C.S.I.  
SIR FRANK NEWSON-SMITH, BART., M.A., D.C.L.  
W. SCHWEIZER.  
SIR EDWARD WILSHAW, K.C.M.G., D.L., J.P., LL.D., F.C.I.S.

#### HEAD OFFICE:

**THE BEDFORD GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.**  
FAIRFAX HOUSE : FULWOOD PLACE : HIGH HOLBORN : W.C.1  
Telephone : CHAncery 8833 (20 Lines).