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"SCHWEIZERBUND" (SWISS CLUB).

The "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club), of 74 Charlotte Street, W.1, was founded in the year 1879, and therefore has reached this year the venerable age of 80.

Anniversaries invariably call for celebrations, but the circumstances prevailing at present make it advisable to postpone any such demonstration to a more opportune moment.

We are giving no secret away by stating that the Society is to-day fighting for survival.

The "Schweizerbund" before the first world war (1914) was one of the most active, as well as a prosperous concern with an appreciable membership. The Club was much frequented by members and Societies of the Colony.

It goes without saying that the first war period affected the position of the Club to a certain degree, but whatever difficulties were encountered, they were effectively dealt with, and the Society was able to weather the storm.

Whilst the period between 1918 and shortly before the second world war could be termed satisfactory the dark clouds of an imminent war cast their shadow.

The real trouble started when during the last war the Club's premises were badly damaged, and the income of the Society was considerably affected — and, in common with other Swiss Societies in this country, the non-arrival of a younger generation, both during the war and afterwards, presented many difficulties, some of the older members having died or left the country.

In 1949, a few members took matters in hand, with a view to improving the status of the Society. The premises were partly rebuilt at considerable cost, the money being provided by several members either *à fonds perdu* or by loans. It was thus hoped that a new and more successful era could be expected. Unfortunately, these hopes did not materialise, in spite of many laudable efforts on the part of successive committees.

However, less than two years ago the committee was reconstructed. The newly-elected President, Mr.

V. Berti, approached the Presidents' Assembly asking for more active support from the Colony; and a special meeting, attended by H.E. the Swiss Ambassador, was convened. The delicate position of the Club was fully explained, and as a consequence the interest and support of various members of the Embassy have created a new confidence and proved a great encouragement to the Committee.

A most competent steward and stewardess in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. F. Vuistiner were recently engaged. Mr. Vuistiner, who is an excellent chef de cuisine with a thorough experience of the Swiss Catering Industry, presents a *Menu* which is up to the best Swiss standards, featuring many specialities of our country, including a high class "Fondue" and our traditional "Rösti" at very reasonable prices, and can cater in a most efficient way for all kinds of functions. An invitation is extended to all compatriots and their friends to pay a visit to the newly decorated premises and see for themselves — we are sure they will not be disappointed.

The present committee are fighting a tremendous battle for survival, and we feel sure that, with the help and support of the Swiss community at large, they will succeed in keeping this pied-à-terre alive, and remember that the most important need is to increase the membership. Why not help? ST.

SWISSAIR EXTRA FLIGHTS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Between 19th December 1959 and 17th January 1960 Swissair will operate a record total of forty-eight extra flights to Switzerland to cater for heavy holiday and winter sports traffic.

Of these extras, forty will go from London to Zurich, seven to Geneva and one from Manchester to Zurich. Among them are twenty-five night tourist services at reduced fares.

Peak day will be 24th December when including the scheduled services Swissair will offer nearly seven hundred and fifty seats to Switzerland. This is the highest number of seats ever provided on Swissair flights leaving this country on a single day.



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