

Personal

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Christmas Dinner.

Father Christmas has returned whence he came, the candles on the Christmas Tree have burned out, the Carol Singers have vanished from the door-steps, and the bells have rung-in the New Year; all this has happened since the traditional Christmas Dinner of the City Swiss Club took place at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, on 17th December 1958.

Before dinner, cocktails were served in one of the ante-rooms — which was packed to suffocation. The dinner served in the gaily decorated Orchid Room was a seasonable one, the main dishes consisting of Turkey, Christmas Pudding and Mince Pie, and came — as usual — fully up to expectations. Swiss vintage wines, such as Neuchâtel, Fendant, Dôle, Clos du Mont, Dezaley, etc., served with the dinner had a stimulating effect.

After the usual Toasts had been proposed by the President and duly honoured, Mr. H. Knoll extended a hearty welcome to the members and guests, and especially to Monsieur J. J. de Tribolet, 1st Counsellor of Embassy, who represented the Ambassador, who, owing to another engagement, was unable to be present.

There followed a short Meeting during which the President mentioned that the Hon. Secretary of the Club, Mr. Th. von Speyer, had just been appointed Deputy Manager of the London Office of the Swiss Bank Corporation, congratulating him on his promotion. (*Applause.*) Then our old friend, Mr. A. Gandon, with his accordion, played a medley of Swiss melodies in which everybody lustily joined. Songs in French, "Schwyzerdütsch" and Italian were rendered with much gusto; some, however, were just a wee bit out of tune, and would not have gained a prize at any Federal Singing Competition, but the *spirit* was willing — and worked. From martial tunes like "Lasst hören aus alten Zeiten", "Roulez-Tambours", and "Adio la ceserma", the singers switched over, most appropriately, to some Christmas songs like "Silent Night, Holy Night", and "O Tannenbaum", finishing up with some of the old folklore "Lieder" such as "Teure Heimat", "O Bluemli mi" and the "Ranz des vaches". It was a time of songs and laughter, in short what one may safely call a happy and carefree evening.

Before the President closed the proceedings, he wished all the members and their families a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year, not forgetting to thank Mr. J. A. Ronus, the Manager of the Dorchester Hotel, for the cordial hospitality always accorded to the Club, and Mr. A. Gandon for his lively playing, which added so much to the success of the evening.

ST.

PERSONAL.

We deeply regret to announce the passing away, at her home, 28 Underhill Road, Dulwich, S.E.22, after a prolonged illness, of Augusta de Cintra, wife of Raoul de Cintra, and mother of Gerald, Yolande and Gaby.

The funeral service was held at St. Peter's Church, Dulwich, on Friday, 2nd January. The Rev. C. Reverdin conducted the service, and amongst the numerous congregation was the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur A. Daeniker.