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" SCHWEIZERBUND " (SWISS CLUB).
Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club) was held on Friday, March 11th, at 74 Charlotte Street, W.1, about forty members being present.

The President, Mr. V. Berti, in opening the proceedings, expressed satisfaction at the numerous attendance. After the minutes of the last General Meeting had been read, the accounts for 1959 were presented by the accountant; although they are not very satisfactory, some improvement has occurred in the last twelve months. After a short discussion the accounts were accepted.

The committee's proposal to reduce the membership subscription from £2.2s. to ten shillings was accepted after a prolonged discussion. Mr. Berti then gave an *exposé* covering the activities of the Club in 1959. He said that amongst the many difficulties encountered, the main ones were the fire-proofing (demanded by the L.C.C.), the re-decoration of the premises, and the engagement of a new Manager. These items necessitated a complete change in the policy of the committee. The basic motive underlying the decisions taken was to attract a wider circle of the Colony to the Club, by presenting the visitors with clean and attractive accommodation. He said that the proposal of the committee — just accepted — to reduce considerably the annual subscription, should prove an impetus for a larger membership bringing along a larger turn-over.

The President said that, by the engagement of a young couple from Switzerland (M. F. Vuistiner and Mme. Vuistiner), conditions had already shown a marked improvement in the early part of 1960, in the Restaurant takings and in increased membership. Mr. Berti said that a strict control with regard to new members, as to their desirability, would be exercised by the committee. He mentioned that so far an amount of over £100 had been received in donations towards the fund for fire-proofing which would cost between £300 and £400. (This fund is still open.) He acknowledged various generous donations, such as one from Mr. B. O. Cogliatti, the presentation of a washing machine by Mr. W. Schneeberger, a former President of the Club, and Mrs.

Schneeberger. Mr. Berti further mentioned that the Club had received ten complete sets of "Fondue" equipments at a 50 per cent discount through the good offices of Mr. G. Duttweiler (Zurich) of "Migros" fame. This equipment did not finally cost the Club anything, as Mr. W. Wyler of "Swissair" kindly donated the remaining costs. Mr. Berti said that the Club was most grateful to all those who had helped in one way or another. In concluding his report, he thanked his colleagues on the committee for their loyal collaboration.

The elections for the committee for 1960 then took place under the presidency *pro tem* of Consul E. Ribi, who in taking the Chair thanked the outgoing President and members of the committee for the services they had rendered.

When the ballot papers were collected, Consul Ribi announced that the following had been duly elected:— President: V. Berti; Vice-President: E. Burgaezzi; Hon. Secretary: A. Baenninger; Hon. Treasurer: L. S. R. Asch; other members of the committee: F. Burgunder, E. J. E. Luedin, F. Allegranza, A. Gandon, L. Jacomelli, R. Heuser, K. Eastwood, M. Benn, D. Nash, and A. Bravo.

Mr. Berti in resuming the "Fauteuil Presidential" thanked Consul Ribi for having so competently occupied the Chair during the elections. He also voiced his appreciation to the latter for the support which he and his colleagues at the Swiss Embassy had given to the Club in the past.

Before closing the Meeting he complimented the Manager, M. F. Vuistiner, and Mme. Vuistiner, on the efficiency with which they were carrying on their task.

The writer is glad to say that during the last few months a considerable improvement has taken place, especially in the catering arrangements. A varied *Menu* for both luncheons and dinners, consisting of English and Swiss specialities, is at the disposal of visitors. This, together with the smaller annual subscription of ten shillings, should make the "Schweizerbund" a welcome meeting place for Swiss (the only one left!).

We wish the new committee success in their untiring efforts, and sincerely hope that the Colony in turn will give them whole-hearted support.

ST.

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