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merciale Italiana. His next ambition was to go to England, and he arrived in London in 1908, finding employment with the Bank of Athens. When the Banca Commerciale Italiana opened their London Office in 1911, he rejoined this institution and before long made a name for himself as an expert in documentary credits, and head of this department, being promoted to signature-holder in 1919. Unfortunately, the compulsory closing of the bank's London Office, after having been taken over by the Custodian of Enemy Property in 1940 owing to the war, cut short his prospects of completing his successful career there. But he soon found a new outlet for his activity and experience by joining partnership with a friend of his in the hides and skin business in the City. This venture proved very prosperous, and in 1951 Mr. Wespi decided to retire.

He was always a keen gardener, and essentially a home lover. In 1913 he married an English lady and they had two daughters, now mothers — of four and five children respectively who were a great joy to their grandparents.

In his younger days in London, Mr. Wespi joined the Swiss Mercantile Society and he and his wife were seen at many social functions of the Colony. In spite of his long residence in England and his fondness for the land of his adoption, he remained a true Swiss at heart, ever attached to his homeland.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his widow, his daughters and their families in their sad bereavement.

*J.Z.*



**JOSEPH CHRISTEN**

Some time ago Mr. Joseph Christen of 374 Euston Road, N.W.1, celebrated his 70th birthday, and we extend to him our sincere congratulations. He was born at Wolfenschiessen (Nidwalden) and received his education in Zug. At an early age Mr. Christen indulged in the sport of skiing with what then was known as a pair of "Fasstauben"; although these were

of primitive construction he nevertheless soon acquired a remarkable efficiency, which prompted him to purchase a pair of real skis, and in 1907 he became a teacher of skiing both at he Zugerberg and in Engelberg. To make a living he took up, after an apprenticeship, the position as assistant chef de cuisine at the Grand Hotel Schönfels on the Zugergerg. This did not prevent his taking up the sport of skiing more intensely, and in 1911, Mr. Christen was appointed teacher of skiing by Fritsch & Co. in Zurich. During this period he took part in many competitions. In 1913 he won the championship at the "Innerschweizerischen Ski Rennen", and successively won first prizes in the "Dauerlauf" and the slalom.

That same year, he came to London, where he intended to stay for a short time to learn English, having in his pocket an engagement as skiing teacher for the winter season at Gstaad (Bernese Oberland). This engagement came to naught, as in August 1914 he had to join his regiment for the frontier occupation. In April 1916, Mr. Christen was released from the army and returned to this country, and his job as Ski teacher came to an end. From 1917 to 1922 he occupied the post as manager at the New Corn Exchange restaurant, Mark Lane in the City, after which he became steward at the "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club), 74 Charlotte Street, W.1, which post he held for six years. He joined the then Swiss Gymnastic Society and won many prizes at Swiss sports meetings at Herne Hill. In 1928, Mr. Christen was elected president of the "Schweizerbund" and president of the Swiss Gymnastic Society. In the same year he purchased a boarding-house which was managed by his wife, whilst he joined a commercial concern under the management of Mr. R. W. Dreyfus, and in a short time became foreman. Mr. Christen could look thus forward with confidence to a successful career. Alas — these expectations did not materialise. In May 1941, during one of the worst bombing periods, his house at 77 Charlotte Street received a direct hit and was totally destroyed. Eight people were killed, amongst them his wife, whilst he was buried under the burning débris, pinned between two walls. He was found and fortunately rescued, but badly injured, which necessitated long treatment at the University College Hospital where he was taken. After many months of suffering Mr. Christen was able to walk again, and was offered a home by his former chief, Mr. Dreyfus, until he had fully recovered. In 1946 he was offered a position as caretaker by the firm Heddon Smith, which he occupies to this day thanks to his benefactor Mr. Dreyfus.

This is the story of a man who at one time rendered good services to the Swiss Colony, and who — through the misfortunes of war — saw a promising career come to naught. He has borne his troubles with courage, great fortitude and few complaints as a real Swiss, and we wish him a comfortable and carefree eventid of his life.

*ST.*

## CITY SWISS CLUB

A meeting for the "young" members of the City Swiss Club has been arranged for Wednesday, 25th January 1961, at 6.30 for 7 p.m. at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.