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CHARLES STRUBIN †

We regret to announce the passing away, after a long illness, of Mr. Charles Strubin. He closed his eyes in his 74th year on Monday, 14th December, at Meggen, near Lucerne. The cremation took place in Basle.

The departed lived for many years in London, and was a well-known personality in the Colony. He was concerned with Shipping and traded under the name of Charles Strubin Ltd., in the City of London. He left this country a few years ago to settle down in Switzerland.

Charley, as he was known to his friends, was a member of the Swiss Mercantile Society where in 1920/22 he occupied the post of Vice-President. For many years he was a member of the Swiss Rifle Association and the "Schweizerbund". To the latter Society he was a great benefactor.

After his retirement in Switzerland he paid occasional visits to London where he was always a welcome guest. Unfortunately, for the last two or three years he was in bad health and had to forgo his periodic trips to see his friends. They will sadly miss him, because he was steadfast in friendship and generous to many who had the misfortune to fall on evil days. He leaves a widow and son to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

ST.

FRANK SEIZ †

We announce with deep regret the death of Mr. Frank Seiz who died on 26th December. A citizen of Rheineck (SG), he came to this country in 1914. For forty years he was *Chef Pâtissier* at the Rembrandt Hotel in London and a Gold Medallist at the Food and Cookery Exhibition which is held every three years. He was a judge at the exhibition many times and a loyal member of the Union Helvetia.

He leaves a widow and a daughter to whom we express our sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

FROM THE EDITOR

The Editor wishes to thank the many subscribers who have sent her kind and encouraging messages for Christmas and the New Year. She is most grateful for all the good wishes which she warmly reciprocates.

She would like to take this opportunity of asking whether any subscriber who may still have a copy of issue 1441 of 11th October 1963, could possibly let her have it. Unfortunately, there are no copies left of that particular number at the "Swiss Observer" office, apart from the one in the bound volume. The Editor would be most obliged to any kind supplier.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations above their subscriptions and for taking out or renewing gift subscriptions; we are also indebted to some readers who very kindly sent a donation to the S.O. by way of a special Christmas gift: Mrs. E. Mitchell, Mrs. A. Scheuermeier, Mrs. A. Schmid (Grenchen, SO), Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Daeniker (Berne), Consul W. Diener (Dar-Es-Salaam), and Messrs. A. P. Berti, H. Bronnimann, A. J. Canning, H. Furger (Basle), E. Gallizia, P. Haberstich, G. Hediger, E. Laechler, C. de Maria, F. B. Tschudy. We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

SWISS CLUB DINNER

Any organisation has several types of members, some belonging for reasons of tradition, sentiment or moral obligation, others faithfully partaking of anything offered in the way of functions, meetings, dinners, lectures, without ever playing an active part in an organising or administrative capacity. Then there is the third group, usually, alas, small only, who are willing to do work, who sit on committees, write minutes and reports, send out invitations, foster contacts, organise "do's", collect subscriptions, rope in new members, chair meetings and dinners and are generally prepared to do a lot of hard, onerous, voluntary work. All three groups are essential to keep a society alive and kicking.

The Swiss Community in Great Britain find it hard these days to keep the societies going, and the intake of new members in most cases leaves much to be desired. It is a worry to officers and committees — ask any treasurer!

One of the few exceptions is the Swiss Club (Schweizerbund), exceptional in the sense that they have no aspirations to increasing for the moment, but are content to keep the members in touch by two or three purely social meetings a year. When they had to give up their club premises in Charlotte Street due to lack of funds, their numbers naturally dwindled. But the few dozen loyal supporters who have remained, form a very happy group. The triumvirate of President, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary — at the moment Mr. V. Berti, Mr. R. Asch and Mr. J. Schmid — look after the business side and arrange the few gatherings every year. Maybe, the fact that they are not harassed by the task of recruiting new members and keeping their accounts balanced is the reason why there is always such a happy and carefree atmosphere whenever the Club meet.

This was the case at their Christmas Dinner on Friday, 18th December, at the Montana Hotel. Just over thirty members and friends, both Swiss and British, met for the by now traditional "Fondue Bourguignonne". If formality was absent, there certainly was no lack of fun, wit and humour, and not one of the few short addresses went by uninterrupted with jokes and a great deal of laughter. Maybe, the excellent Swiss wines had something to do with it, but the writer's guess is that it was just unadulterated enjoyment of a pleasant evening in congenial company.

Mr. Berti welcomed several of the old stalwarts of the Club, who have done a great deal for the "Schweizerbund" and indeed for the Colony at large. There was Mr. Delaloye whose Valaisan sense of humour could always be counted upon. There was Mr. Luterbacher whose zest for yodelling is still considerable. There was Mr. Jones who spoke for the British members of the Club. There was Mr. Stauffer, the former Editor of the "Swiss Observer", who was one of the Bernese trio delighting the audience with a song. But the ladies, too, graced the party, either as wives or sweethearts, or just in their own right. No wallflowers at the Swiss Club gatherings — just one happy crowd having a good time, but mindful of others, too, for a collection for OXFAM was taken and resulted in well over £6.

The Editor is not in a position to say when the party broke up — for it was still in full swing when she had to leave at 10.30 p.m. She was the first to go — most regretfully indeed.

Mariann.