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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWISS CLUB (SCHWEIZERBUND) CHRISTMAS DINNER

The traditional Christmas Dinner of the Swiss Club was held at the Montana Hotel on 2nd December. As usual, the majority of the participants were young people, many of them from the Embassy. A number of loyal *old* members were unable to attend, and the President, Mr. V. Berti, read messages from Messrs. Jones, Leuzinger, Luterbacher and Sieber. On the other hand, welcome was extended to two of the Trustees, Mr. A. Gandon and Mr. E. Nussle and their families. Mrs. A. Stauffer, whose late husband had been a steady supporter of the Club, and the Editor of the "Swiss Observer" (a member in her own right for many years) were also amongst the guests.

In his usual humorous way, Mr. F. Delaloye, another loyal member of the Club for decades, addressed the happy party. The *Fondue Bourguignonne* and delicious Swiss wines had been enjoyed to the full, and the speaker related how he had been at the christening of the host, Mr. Edgar Bonvin of the Montana Hotel. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Schmid, and his pretty young wife also came in for a good bit of Mr. Delaloye's chaffing. But it was all taken in good spirit, and there was only one aspect of this year's Christmas Party, which did not come up to the usual high standard — the singing, although a valiant effort was made with "O Tannenbaum". Nevertheless, the evening was a happy one, and all of the nearly forty members and friends left looking forward to the next gathering.

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THE CHRISTMAS PARCELS ACTION OF THE SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Every year the "Swiss Observer" very kindly publishes our Christmas Appeal, and once again we are glad to say that the response has been a generous and most helpful one. The Committee is extremely grateful to the "Swiss Observer" for their co-operation, as well as to all individual donors, firms, and organisations who have contributed so handsomely towards making our action one of good cheer to our needy compatriots. A special word of thanks goes to the ladies of the *Frauenverein* and of the *Réunion de Couture* for all the very nice and warm garments they have made during the year and which are so greatly appreciated by elderly people.

Some 130 to 150 parcels are distributed every year by the Swiss Benevolent Society, but before they are sent out there is all the labour of love to assemble the hundreds of articles, measure them, allocate them according to a well-organised system of records. It takes a team of five or six volunteers three or four days to pack the parcels and ensure that all is done according to plan, the addition of food items, the despatch by parcel post or British Road Services or privately. Incidentally, Swiss patients in hospitals are sent a specially selected parcel of biscuits, chocolate, sweets, dried fruit, ovaltine products, etc.

A good job is done as shown by all the numerous letters of thanks which pour in from the recipients expressing contentment and real gratitude.

J.Z.

NEW SWISS AMBASSADOR IN LONDON

It was announced on Christmas Eve that the Federal Council had appointed Monsieur le Ministre Olivier Long, Delegate for Trade Agreements, as new Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, in succession to Monsieur B. de Fischer who has retired for reasons of age. Monsieur Long is expected in London shortly, and a more detailed account of his career will then be published.

ESCALADE OF THE LONDON GENEVESE

On Monday, 12th December, the *Cercle Genevois de Londres* met at the Montana Hotel to celebrate the historic event in traditional manner. Whilst small in numbers, the gathering was happy in spirit, and the atmosphere was one of gaiety throughout, interrupted only for the solemn reading out of the names of the heroes who lost their lives when bravely fighting the Savoyards. Monsieur Bodmer of the Swiss Embassy performed this act, and then the youngest present smashed the *marmite* in the traditional manner. The chocolate *débris* and marzipan vegetables were almost too rich after the excellent *Fondue Bourguignonne*, well prepared by the Valaisan *patron* of the Montana, himself present. The former President, Mr. A. Bleiker, and the Editor of the "Swiss Observer" were also of the party, and Mr. E. Ribordy chaired the friendly gathering.

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RETIREMENT AND NEW APPOINTMENT

The Anglo-Continental School of English, Bournemouth, wish to announce the retirement, at the end of this year, of their Director of Studies, Mr. D. E. A. Tucker.

Mr. Tucker, an accomplished linguist, was educated in Switzerland, served in the Wiltshire Regiment and the Machine Gun Corps throughout the first World War and was awarded the Military Cross. After a long career in the Colonial Service he came to the School in 1952 and played an active part in its successful expansion. He taught in the School for many years before becoming its Director of Studies in 1961, and is the author of several of the School's text books.

It is with pleasure that we announce Mr. Tucker's successor, Mr. Gustav Oetiker, 37, a Swiss national with an English wife and three children. Mr. Oetiker grew up at Männedorf (Zurich) and read Modern Languages at the Universities of Zurich and Paris. He has an intimate knowledge of modern educational methods and many years of practical experience at classroom and administrative level. Until October 1966, he was a tutor at Adliswil and at the Kaufmännischer Verein Zurich and secretary to the Educational Board of Adliswil. He was also Editor of the English section of the Swiss Stenographer, a member of its Examination Board and President of the Board's Zurich branch. Mr. Oetiker speaks German, English, French, Italian and Dutch. He will be a permanent member of the Company's Board of Directors.