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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

CHRISTMAS PARTY IN MANCHESTER

For many years now our Club has organised a Christmas Party for the benefit of the children of our members and we always look forward with great expectation to this particular afternoon, when we meet in a most cordial and warm family atmosphere. On Saturday, 14th December, we gathered again in the Midland Hotel, on one of the rare occasions when the grown-ups feel at some disadvantage and our youngsters have it all their own way.

We all enjoyed excellent Christmas-fare after which the Ladies of the Committee distributed the crackers, starting thus a noisy and most entertaining interlude. Eventually we moved, everybody armed with his own chair, to the neighbouring room, where a shining and brilliantly decorated tree was awaiting us. It was very moving and sometimes amusing to observe the longing and impatient looks of the little ones concentrating on a fine array of parcels of all sizes which lay under the tree and whose final destination was quite obvious. Whilst awaiting Father Christmas, a young girl at the piano led the singing of some well-known carols until interrupted by a knocking at the door.

Well, there he was, Father Christmas, to be greeted with thunderous applause and introduced to us by our President. Everybody was so pleased to see him, although some of our children must have looked forward to this moment with some trepidation and foreboding, and this being so they tried very hard to convince the white-bearded Saint how well they had behaved during the past year. It must have been most gratifying for him, and a source of satisfaction to their parents, to listen to the great variety of songs and poems and even the most modest and sometimes incomplete efforts were rewarded by a packet of sweets and words of encouragement. Although it was indeed the day of the very young, some elderly people were not forgotten; quite contrary to well established customs a grown-up member was presented with a special gift, notwithstanding the fact that he was unable to recite or sing. For this he apologised and Father Christmas lent him a sympathetic ear. Our Consul and Madame Brunner were delighted to accept the lovely silver cigarette case, a further proof of their popularity and the great esteem in which they were held by all of us. It was with sadness in our hearts that we saw Father Christmas leaving on his busy and farflung errands, and we all hope to see him again next year.

The second part of the afternoon was devoted to the sharing-out of the individual gift-parcels to our children, and it is wonderful to think that nobody was forgotten and how most of them received just what they had always longed for. Here again our most sincere thanks must be expressed to the wife of our President and the Ladies of the Committee for the real hard work they had put into this successful effort. By now it was considerably darker outside and many were thus convinced to take leave. So we returned home, grateful and with happy memories which will last for a long time.

E.B.

Have you joined the Solidarity Fund yet? An excellent scheme for saving and insuring at the same time. Transferred in sterling — paid out in Swiss francs later. Apply to Swiss Embassy in London or Consulate in Manchester.

NOT SUPERSTITIOUS

The Swiss Club met on Friday, 13th December

A *Fondue Bourguignonne* has become the traditional Christmas Dinner of the Swiss Club (Schweizerbund). In a way it is not unnatural that they should choose something unusual, for it is not all that long ago that one was able to enjoy an excellent meal at their former own Club rooms in Charlotte Street. And there is no doubt that the Montana Hotel serves an excellent meat *Fondue*, not to forget a good drop of Swiss wine.

But it was neither food nor wine which induced the nearly forty members and friends to sing many friendly and popular Swiss songs. For the Swiss Club has a firm reputation for good singing voices, and this year's Christmas gathering supported the claim, though two of the best-known singers and old members were missing, Mr. E. Luterbacher and Mr. and Mrs. F. Delaloye. The President, Mr. V. Berti, read their messages and welcomed a few old and new members, among the latter the Swiss Consul and Madame F. Adams.

The songs went on for a long time, and the hour was late when the happy party finally broke up, looking forward already to the next meeting.

MM

NEW EMBASSY APPOINTMENT

Mr. Franz Bischof who joined the staff of the Swiss Embassy in London in May 1967, has been given the title of Vice-Consul as from 1st January.

Mr. Bischof joined the Federal Political Department in 1945 and served with the Swiss Embassies and Consulates in Ankara, Istanbul, Budapest, Dakar, Sydney and Canberra.

He is the Secretary of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and also of the Council of Management of the Swiss Hostel for Girls.

Best wishes in his new appointment!

SWISS BANK CORPORATION

The Swiss Bank Corporation, London, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. H. Jauslin to the rank of Deputy Manager, as from 1st January.

Messrs. A. E. Bickerton, A. E. Ford and D. G. Frost are similarly appointed Sub-Managers.

BRITISH BROWN BOVERI

Escher Wyss Steam Turbine Business

In accordance with the agreement reached in February 1968 between the Swiss firms Brown Boveri & Co. Ltd. and Escher Wyss Ltd., all steam turbine activities of Escher Wyss have been taken over by Brown Boveri as from 1st January.

In the U.K., British Brown-Boveri Ltd. has, from the same date onwards, taken over the steam turbine activities from Escher Wyss (U.K.) Ltd. This comprises tenders, orders and maintenance of existing plant.