

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1970)

Heft: 1589

Rubrik: Swiss Rilfle Association

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 09.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

MAY

Sunday 3rd, 4.30 to 11 p.m. UNIONE TICIN-
ESE DANCE, Dorchester Hotel — Harry
Vardon's Band — Tickets (inclusive of Tea)
25/- obtainable from Secretary, E. P. Mor-
ganti, 10 Newport Buildings, Shaftesbury
Ave.

Wednesday 13th. Swiss Mercantile Society
monthly meeting.

MUSICAL EVENTS: On Tuesdays 7th and
14th April, GEZA ANDA will be the solo-
ists of concerts given at the Royal Festival
Hall, 8 p.m.

SCHWEIZERBUND

On 6th March, the Annual General Meet-
ing of the "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club) took
place at the Glendower Hotel, attended by 16
members. The Club, which despite the lack of
premises of its own remains active with a Stand-
ing Committee, had 44 paid-up members at the
end of 1969. Mr. V. Berti, President, was in the
chair, and he was re-elected together with his
fellow officers (Mr. L. S. R. Asch, Hon.
Treasurer, and Mr. J. Schmid, Hon. Secretary).
After all business was settled, the Club's mem-
bers and friends enjoyed an excellent dinner.

WELFARE OFFICE

for

SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

(For Information, Advice or Help)

11 Belsize Grove, London N.W.3.(Nearest Underground Station:
Belsize Park)

Telephone: 01-722 4260

RECEPTION HOURSTuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
2 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

THE SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Swiss Rifle Association held its Annual General Meeting as usual at the Glendower Hotel. Unfortunately, only 12 out of 83 members were present and the Committee regretted the absence of such prominent members as Lucien Jobin and Bernard Jaeggi. Letters of apologies were received from the absen-
tees, many of whom were abroad.

Mr. J. C. Wetter, the retiring Presi-
dent, greeted his guest of honour, Colonel Von Frischling, the Military Attaché at the Embassy, and made it known that I had been appointed as the Association's new Press reporter, in
succession to Mr. J. Schmid.

The minutes of last year's AGM were read by Mr. Charles Abegglen, the Honorary Secretary, and approved. Mr. Wetter asked Mr. Peter Fischer to read out the President's Survey for 1969. The brilliant results at the shoot-
ing festival at Thun and the 6th Radio World Shoot were among the main events reported. The Association had met eight times and shot 5,620 rounds of ammunition against 3,360 in 1968. It had welcomed 16 new members and lost 12, 8 of them having left England, 2 having resigned and 2 passed away. The balance-sheet was examined and showed a very satisfactory financial situation.

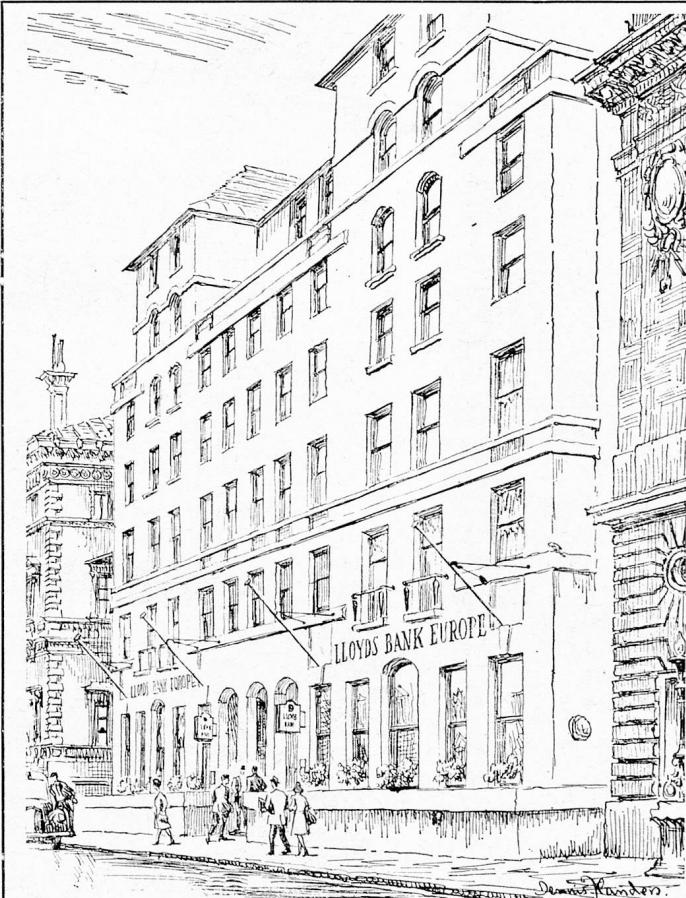
Mr. Wetter then announced his de-
finite resignation from the presidency of the Association, thanked the mem-
bers for their past support and an-
nounced that Mr. Marcel Bucherer

would be ready to succeed him. Mr. Oscar Grob, who acted as interim chair-
man, thanked him for all he had done for the Association and motioned his election as Honorary Past President. This was unanimously accepted.

Mr. Bucherer thanked the mem-
bers present for their vote of confidence and outlined the programme for this year. He unfolded the new Feldschiessen target and expressed the hope that a match with the .22 rifle could be organised between the Swiss Rifle Associa-
tion and the Kensington Rifle and Pistol Club this season. There were unfortunately too few members present to pass any decision about this.

Mr. F. Magnin suggested that Mr. Alfred Schmid who, at a lively 84, is the doyen of the Association, be elected "second Vice-President" (next in rank after Mr. Peter Fischer, who re-
mains Vice-President). Mr. Schmid wasn't showing much enthusiasm for this new honour and Mr. Wetter suggested that, by investing Mr. Schmid with this new and queer title, we would be creating an unnecessary precedent. He turned down the idea and got the approval of the meeting.

Mr. Schmid had brought the menu of the 7th Annual Meeting of the Association, which took place in 1930, and we could all appreciate that its fantas-
tic list of courses compared rather well with present AGM menus. He also showed us the booklet of the Swiss Rifle Association's rules. This booklet, now out of print, used to be given to all new members. Mr. Schmid also raised the problem of the Association's pub-

**LLOYDS BANK EUROPE**

with Branches in Geneva and Zurich
offers a full banking service
at 100 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.

Similar facilities are available
throughout England and Wales
at any of the 2,230 Branches of

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED

licity and said that he would like to see more being said about the Rifle Association's activities in the Swiss Observer. Another suggestion was to reintroduce the badges carried in the old days by range officers. He had a few of these badges with him and they were passed among the members.

Finally, Mr. Abegglen distributed the medal of the "Association Suisse des Carabiniers" to four proud recip-

ients: Messrs. Wetter, Magnin, Fischer and Bucherer.

Mr. Bucherer then declared the meeting officially closed and we proceeded on for dinner. It was a quiet old boys' party which lasted from about eight to ten. Wine was being downed slowly but steadily and we had plenty of conversation on shooting and the virtues of the Sturmgewehr.

(PMB)

produce their brand products but leave the marketing to them. Clayton Aniline has thus become solely a manufacturing plant responsible for the dyestuff production of three companies. It has no publicity and no marketing department and this is why the name is practically unknown".

I pointed out that the Ciba building across the road looked quite large and asked whether there was any production going on there.

"Ciba employs about two hundred people here", said Dr. Bolliger, "they are exclusively concerned with marketing and solving the particular problems of their customers, the dyers, and act as chemical consultants".

"How does this common ownership of one factory by three companies work out in practice? Aren't there some problems in co-ordination?" I asked.

"There were a few knots in the past. Nowadays there may be an occasional rub when one company is not content with its allocation of Clayton Aniline' production. The plant employs 1,200 workers, produces 10,000 tons of dyestuffs a year and 10,000 tons of various chemicals, some of which enter in the dyestuff-production process. This amounts to about ten tons of dyestuff per year per worker, which gives you an idea of our productivity. We are second in line after ICI, who produce roughly 18,000 tons of dyestuffs a year. There are about five other competitors well behind us. Much of our production is actually re-exported towards the parent company in Basle. This applies in general for what we can produce more cheaply in Great Britain than in Switzerland. This is also due to the acute shortage of labour in the home factories. As you know, Swiss employers have the right to a very restricted quota of foreign labour, with the result that their production is halted at a certain limit. This holds especially true of the big chemical companies, who are forced to expand through their outside subsidiaries. Our own production is in constant increase. Starting in 1952, we've accomplished a complete reconstruction and reorganisation of our plant and have spent over £10 million in capital expenditure".

"Then came the first World War, the company switched over to war production. Britain was absolutely unprepared for the war and was buying German explosives on the eve of the fighting. At the end of the war, the British Government voted a bill that was intended to be temporary, but which in fact lasted for over thirty years, to protect the home chemical industry by forbidding the import of all chemicals already produced in the U.K. This of course made life difficult for the Swiss chemical industry, particularly for the two other large Basle-based companies, Geigy and Sandoz".

"The Clayton factory being an ideal way of penetrating the British market, the three firms Ciba, Geigy and Sandoz agreed to control it in common in the 1920s. Ciba held 50% of the shares, the two other firms 25% each. The Clayton Aniline Company was to

me, the company is run on the Swiss model. All decisions are taken by a board of seven managers, three of them being Swiss, including the Managing Director, Mr. E. P. Banderet, who comes from Neuchatel and who sits on the common board of Clayton Aniline's controlling companies.

After a very pleasant meal flavoured with plenty of good humour, Dr. Bolliger invited me to his office for a briefing on the history and the activities of his Company.

"The chemical industry", he explained, "and by chemical, understand the dyestuffs industry, began when Sir William Perkin changed benzine into nitrobenzine and nitrobenzine into aniline, thus discovering the basic component of dyestuffs. That was around 1860. The first dyestuff factories sprouted up during the last third of the 19th century and a company called the Manchester Aniline Company got started here in Manchester. One of its employees, a Frenchman called Dreyfuss, got the sack for some reason and decided to move outside Manchester, to Clayton, and founded the present company. The Manchester Aniline Company failed. The Clayton Aniline Company fell on the brink of bankruptcy a couple of times, and got properly bankrupt in 1911, when Ciba intervened and salvaged it".

"Then came the first World War, the company switched over to war production. Britain was absolutely unprepared for the war and was buying German explosives on the eve of the fighting. At the end of the war, the British Government voted a bill that was intended to be temporary, but which in fact lasted for over thirty years, to protect the home chemical industry by forbidding the import of all chemicals already produced in the U.K. This of course made life difficult for the Swiss chemical industry, particularly for the two other large Basle-based companies, Geigy and Sandoz".

"The Clayton factory being an ideal way of penetrating the British market, the three firms Ciba, Geigy and Sandoz agreed to control it in common in the 1920s. Ciba held 50% of the shares, the two other firms 25% each. The Clayton Aniline Company was to

As the main road reaches the Mancunian suburb of Clayton, there are two modern groups of buildings, those of Ciba on the left, and, on the right, the imposing complex of the Clayton Aniline Company. The car had

hardly stopped in front of the administrative block when Dr. Bollinger, coming across the wet tarmac from another building, arrived on the dot to greet me and invite me to have lunch with him and the other managers of the company.

We climbed up a flight of stairs and entered the managerial dining-room. Dr. Bollinger's collaborators were already there drinking their aperitifs. Time for a quick Dubonnet and a short conversation of the virtues of soft water fish with the production manager and we sat down. All managers enjoy a comfortable dining-room—one of the consolations of their heavy responsibilities and hard work. At Clayton Aniline's they had the additional advantage of having a choice of three menus. There were also wines and cigars in plenty.

As Dr. Bolliger later explained to

"What about your research and development, is it linked with the work done in Basle?"

"We naturally work on Ciba processes but, as we have our own problems, we do quite a bit of independent development ourselves. I have a team of 60 chemists who are mainly concerned with applied problems like improving reaction yields".

"Are there any Swiss in your staff?"

"The scientific staff is British, apart from the occasional trainee".

"Are you difficult in the choice of your candidates?"

"We obviously try to get the best men. I'm always more happy to have men with doctorates. This isn't an absolute rule and we won't turn down a bril-