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pop music strictly precludes conversation. This is not, after all, what the young want.

What is most specifically Swiss in the St. Moritz—besides the beer and the costumes of its waitresses—is a vast oak table which makes an ideal *Stammtisch*. The members of Stammtisch on this opening day of the Chresta Cellar included Father Bossard, Mr. Alfred Schmid, Dr. Walter Gunthard, and many other Swiss *bon vivants*. Mr. Loetscher had even invited Scotland Yard, and two valiant representatives of the Soho anti-gang squad were consuming impressive quantities of Warsteck beer. The party rode high well into the early hours of the morning. All those who were present are now looking forward to when Mr. Loetscher will redecorate another of the St. Moritz's many recesses and celebrate in a similar manner again.

(PMB)

CHRISTMAS DINNER OF THE NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE

The tables of the banqueting room of the Glendower Hotel were romantically illuminated by candles as a good sixty members and friends of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique entered with goggling eyes. Fortunately, the candles were not due to the power cuts, although everything had been prepared for this eventuality. It was the warm setting designed to bid us to a friendly and a familiar evening.

This annual function didn't take place at the Swiss Hostel for Girls as usual. As a result of extensive renovations the Hostel was not equipped to accommodate us, but we of course lost nothing by going to the Glendower and by being expertly looked after by Mrs. Schmid and her family.

Our President, Mrs. Meier, made her customary speech and welcomed our Ambassador and Madame René Keller. She also welcomed Dr. and Madame Jürg Iselin and Dr. H. R. Bolliger, who had kindly supported the Society by coming expressly from Manchester to be among us. As Mrs. Meier pointed out, Dr. Bolliger was a member of the London group of the NSH. It was also disclosed to us that Dr. Bolliger was to be the next President of the

Manchester Swiss Club, in succession of Mr. Bernhard Simon. This news was greeted by a unanimous applause of congratulation. Mrs. Meier evoked the forthcoming departure of Monsieur and Madame Keller but would not dwell on this distressing coming event, as it had already been mentioned at other Swiss gatherings in London and elsewhere. She nonetheless thanked Monsieur and Madame Keller for their friendship and support to the Colony.

Monsieur Keller said a few words and evoked his attachment to the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. It dated from his war days in Prague, when one of his duties as a young vice-consul was to take care of the activities of the tiny expatriate NSH group. Monsieur Keller told us that his successor would be a Basler, but would not give more details as the nomination of the new ambassador had not yet become official news.

Dr. Bolliger then added the greetings and memories of the Swiss of the North to Mrs. Meier's good wishes to us all.

The speeches by no means marked the end of the evening. Our President suggested that all the men move three places to their right. This social reshuffle only increased the pace of conversations which were to continue for another two hours.

(PMB)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 14th January, 7.45 p.m. at Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9-11 Belsize Grove, N.W.3. OPEN MEETING of Nouvelle Société Helvétique. FAITH and FERMENT: The Rev. M. Dietler will give a talk in English on his journey in the Soviet Union, illustrated by slides and recordings.

Wednesday, 20th January, 7.30 for 8 p.m. Orchid Suite, Dorchester Hotel. Farewell Dinner in honour of Monsieur René Keller.

Tuesday, 26th January. Card Evening at the City Swiss Club.

Tuesday, 26th January. Swiss Club Edinburgh. Fondue Evening and Sing-Song at 112 Hanover St.

Friday, January 29th. AGM and Cup Competition of the London Swiss Philatelic Society.

Saturday, 30th January. Annual Dinner and Dance of the Swiss Mercantile Society. Orchid Room, Dorchester Hotel, 6.30 for 7 p.m.

PERSONAL

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Oscar F. Boehringer, of 55 Woodstock Road, London, N.W.11, who will be celebrating their Silver Wedding on 2nd February. We send them warm wishes and hope for many returns of the day.

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