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on an important hydro-electric plant in the Highlands.

He welcomed the presence of further officials of the Embassy. They were Mr. C. H. Brugmann, Mr. C. Abegglen, Mr. T. Dudli and their ladies. He regretted the absence of our Consul, Mr. Fritz Adams, unable to come because of the illness of Mrs. Adams.

Another esteemed friend of the Society whose absence had to be regretted was Dr. H. Egli, who had been called away from an enjoyable evening by the indisposition of Mrs. Egli.

Mr. Jaccard recalled the regular football contests between the SMS team and the Athletic Association of the "Times", and the failure of the SMS footballers of wresting the coveted Lints-Smith Cup from their opponents for the past few years. He nevertheless welcomed Mr. John Gard, of the "Times", and his wife.

The President continued by stating how pleased he was to see among us Mrs. Marianne Meier, widow of the late Honorary Member of the Central Society and the London Section, Walter Meier, herself a member of the SMS and President of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. He welcomed the ministers of our two Protestant Swiss parishes and their wives and daughters. He added undeserved kind words to the present Editor of the "Swiss Observer".

Nearer to the SMS school he saluted Mr. Walter Burren, Secretary and former Chairman of the Education Committee, Mr. Raymond Chappuis and Mr. Oscar Grob, past Presidents, Mr. C. Slade, Principal, and Mr. E. W. Makin, Vice-Principal, and their respective wives.

Mr. Jaccard evoked the good state of the SMS establishment at Fitzroy Square and the healthy spirit ruling at the school. He underlined his satisfaction at being assisted by such helpful Trustees and Council Members and expressed particular thanks to Mr. F. O. Hausermann, Chairman of the Education Committee.

Mr. Jaccard said that he had entertained faint hopes that the President of the SKV, Mr. Richard Maier-Neff, might be with us. That was not to be. But Mr. Maier-Neff had done the next best thing by lending us his daughter, Miss Brigitte Maier, who was working in London. Mr. Jaccard welcomed her and invited her to greet her parents on the London Society's behalf.

This warm message of welcome was concluded with an invitation to the members of the SMS to raise their glasses and drink to the health of the Guests and the Ladies.

A short pause followed, following which Monsieur Jürg Iselin rose to thank his hosts for having given him the opportunity of being with them this evening. He recalled that this was his second SMS Annual Dinner and Dance and that last year he had come to the same function in similar circumstances.

On that occasion too, he was deputising for the Ambassador, called away to the Bahama Islands. But this time it wasn't quite the same thing, as Monsieur René Keller had left us for good only two days beforehand. Monsieur Iselin paid tribute to the eminent qualities of his former chief and said that he well understood why Berne should want to get hold of him. But, he added, taking away a good man from London in no way excluded the equally eminent qualities of our new Ambassador, Dr. Albert Weitnauer, who was expected for the middle of February. Dr. Weitnauer had distinguished himself in conducting economic negotiations for his country under the management of Hans Schaffner. Dr. Iselin seasoned his address with no less than five quotations from Oscar Wilde and Bernard Shaw. He came to speak of the importance of the work of the SMS and its college in London. It not only helped the motherland by inculcating English to generations of Swiss youths, but it also rendered valuable services to the Embassy, which made use of SMS students for its daily jobs. Monsieur Iselin joked on the college's lovely façade and elegant location, all of which contrasted somewhat favourably with the interior. He ended by referring to the Forum of Switzerland, whose prospects did not appear at present to be very encouraging. He invited us to Toast to the Swiss Mercantile Society and was echoed by the thunderous call of the liveried Master of Ceremonies.

We were seated again when Monsieur Iselin made it known that Mr. Jaccard was soon going to retire from his post at the Swiss Bank Corporation—but fortunately not from his Presidency of the London SMS. He presented him with a large framed reproduction of a Jurassian scenery originally taken by Mr. L. S. R. Asch. This gift on behalf of the Society particularly pleased Mr. Jaccard, as it reminded him of a familiar setting, and he expressed his feelings of gratitude to all.

The last speaker, replying for the guests, was Mr. G. Gyssler. He thanked his hosts for having been honoured with an invitation and highly appraised the importance of the Swiss Mercantile Society's famous college in London. It had initiated 25,000 youths to the English language in its 50 years of existence. Mr. Gyssler then described in an entertaining way how he himself had come to learn English, finally forced by the circumstances. He recalled the English teacher of his school days and his first dealings with British clients as a Brown-Boveri engineer. He ended his address by exalting youth and by stressing the importance of an institution like the SMS for its invaluable service to the young.

Speech-time was over. Tables were cleared for the Dance and laid with light drinks.

The dancing soon got under way and lasted merrily until past midnight, when it was officially closed in the glor-

ious manner of SMS balls. We formed a vast circle and sang "Auld Lang Syne" to the intention of our President and Mrs. Jaccard, who both appeared in the centre of the circle. Finally the Orchid Suite reverberated with the harmony of the "Schweizer Psalm" and "God save the Queen".

(PMB)

CAPTAIN T. RICHARDSON

We have the sad duty of announcing the passing away of Captain T. Richardson. He died on January 7th, 10 days before his 84th birthday. He was a great friend of Switzerland and a prominent member of the Anglo-Swiss Society. In fact, he took an eminent role in the revival of the Society in 1959, the year of the Swiss Fortnight in London and the year of a memorable Anglo-Swiss ball at the Dorchester in favour of Pestalozzi Village. Captain Richardson became the Treasurer and took this duty most seriously. The Anglo-Swiss Society is furthermore grateful to him for having enlarged it with many new British members.

Born in Yorkshire in 1887, Captain Richardson was to have a life-long

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association with Switzerland and, in particular, with St. Moritz. He first visited Switzerland in 1887. He tried his first pair of skis at Grindelwald in 1894, at the age of 16 only, and he revisited the Alps for every subsequent winter with the exception of the war years. He loved St. Moritz and chose it as the regular venue of the Winter Commonwealth Games, of which he was the Founder and Chairman. The "St. Moritz Courier" has on more than one occasion devoted a column to him, expressing the degree of esteem which the people of this great Engadine resort felt for their regular visitor from England.

Captain Richardson was a great all round sportsman, but skating was perhaps the sport in which he particularly excelled. In 1905 he won a silver medal in a large ice-skating competition on the Kulm Ring. He and his wife ranked among the best ice-skaters for many decades. They both took part in the Olympics of 1920 and 1924, where they were both Figure Skating Gold Medallists. Probably the most brilliant demonstration of Captain Richardson's involvement with this sport was the impressive list of books he wrote on the subject. These books were: "Modern Figure Skating" (Methuen), "Ice Rink Skating" (Pearson), "Complete Figure Skater" (Methuen), "Skating with Richardson" (Pitman), "Ice Skating" (Batsford), "The Girls Book of Skating" (Barke), "Champions All" (Muller), "Your Book of Skating" (Faber and Faber), "Skating" (Burke) and "The Art of Figure Skating" (Nicholas Kaye).

But skating was not all! Captain Richardson was a lightweight oarman both at Cambridge University and at Henley. He was a "boxing blue", a keen golfer and twice the winner of the Swiss Open Amateur Championship. He held yet further trophies in the antipodal

sports of bobsleigh and curling. The Commonwealth Winter Games which were created at his initiative were held most successfully at St. Moritz in 1958, 1962 and 1966 and Captain Richardson worked very hard to ensure their success and continuity.

He and Mrs. Richardson were highly successful winter sports journalists. Captain Richardson wrote more than a million words on winter sports of every kind and was for many years the special correspondent of the "Times" in this field, while his wife wrote for the "Observer". Both have also regularly contributed to such publications as "The Field" and "The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic".

Captain Richardson had been Honorary Treasurer of the Anglo-Swiss Society for many years and we know that his passing away will be felt strongly by many members of the Society. We should like to express our heart-felt sympathy to Mrs. Richardson.

(PMB)

THE "FESTIVAL TICINESE"

Long gone are the days when at this time of year the thoughts of our southern compatriots would dwell in pleasurable expectancy of the "Union Ticinese" annual dinner and dance, held at first in the spacious International Hall at "Monico's" or, later, in the cosier Alexandra Room at "Paganini's". This was invariably the occasion for an ample meal, open-hearted fellowship, with aristocratic looking Minister Charles Paravicini as principal guest of honour, flanked by the mayors of the London Boroughs of St. Marylebone and St. Pancras, and a dozen or more official guests from the score of societies that then gave vigorous life

to the Swiss colony.

But "acqua passata non macina più", so they say in the Ticino; one now can only remember, but no longer conjure back past glories. The "Unione Ticinese" has today been left without a regular venue pending the advent of the Swiss Forum.

Not all, however, is sentimental remembrance, and sadness for us, London Swiss, especially since in the last few years we have welcomed among us the longed for Swiss Centre, a bold venture on modern lines, in which home trade, travel and communications are worthily represented.

Undoubtedly one of the Centre's attractions are its four restaurants, so that the culinary arts of the four cultures that make up the Confederation can be practised in rivalry with the other countless catering establishments of London's West End; they are the "Rendez-vous", the "Taverne", the "Locanda" and the "Chesa". For the uninitiated we would explain that to the first you go for a hasty snack, to the second for a satisfying "fondue", and while the "Locanda" is for "pasta" and other southern dishes, the "Chesa" is for abundant meals on the expense account.

When first opened, the restaurants suffered from the usual teething troubles and gained an undeserved reputation for providing the smallest meal for the highest price, served by some forbidding "gauleiterettes". But under the energetic management of signor Rinaldo Veri from Mendrisio, things have considerably improved. Even at my City Office word has reached me lately of the Swiss Centre's delicious coffee, and reasonably priced, well prepared menus.

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