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DINNER ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE OF SWISS TRADE PROMOTION

The problems of communication posed by the postal strike didn't prevent over thirty Swiss and British businessmen from attending a dinner with a speaker organised by the Institute of Swiss Trade Promotion. The dinner took place in the Stanhope Suite of the Dorchester Hotel and was chaired by Mr. R. Suess, Chairman of the Swiss Economic Council. Our speaker was Professor Charles Iffland, of Lausanne University, a specialist on the economics of development. Under the heading of "The developing nations, Switzerland and Europe" he outlined the various popular misconceptions on the problems of underdevelopment and the gross oversimplifications often indulged in with the solutions put forward. Prof. Iffland held a basically liberal outlook and poo-pooed the starry-eyed idealists who, at a convention organised by the reformed churches in Berne last December, squarely proclaimed that Switzerland was exploiting the poorer countries. Prof. Iffland upheld the value of private investments and refused to consider them simply as a means of capitalist "exploitation". Referring to public aid (which is noticeably small in Switzerland) the speaker said that Switzerland could never hope to obtain tangible results by giving a yearly aid worth 20 centimes each beneficiary. The bulk of Switzerland's aid to the third world was aimed at Africa and most of it concentrated in the small country of Ruanda. It was the only way in which this aid could bring about some measurable results. Prof. Iffland said that the aims of private and public aid were basically the same and neither should be spurned at. He propounded no particular faith or philosophy of development. His exposé was limited to a realistic assessment of the subject. It was followed by a discussion.

(PMB)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 17th February. Annual General Meeting of the SMS.

Tuesday, 23rd February. Soirée Familiale of the City Swiss Club.

Tuesday, 23rd February. Skittle Evening of the Swiss Club Edinburgh.

Friday, 26th February. Annual Dinner of the Swiss Philatelic Society, Dorchester Hotel.

Tuesday, 23rd March. Monthly meeting of the City Swiss Club. After-Dinner speaker.

Thursday, 25th March. Nouvelle Société Helvétique, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and DINNER.

Friday, 30th April. Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

The following subscribers will be celebrating birthdays and anniversaries during the next few weeks: Mrs. E. Jamieson will be 71 on 20th, and Monsieur Armin Daeniker, Berne, 73 on 24th February. On 26th, Mr. Oscar Grob, KSG, will be 71. Mr. F. Gerber is in the odd position of only having a birthday every four years — he was born on 29th February 1892 — so he misses out this year.

On 1st March, Mr. F. G. Sommer will be 79, and on the same day, Mr. and Mrs. A. Boog will be celebrating their 54th wedding anniversary. Mr. E. Hardmeier will be 73 on 3rd of March. Mrs. L. Gradmann will be 73 and Mr. R. Marchand (Bienne) 79 on 9th March. Mrs. A. Streit will have her birthday on 13th March, and Mr. F. Conrad will be 75 on 15th March. Dr. Hans Egli will be 72 on 17th and Mr. R. Chappuis 75 on 17th March.

Best wishes for many happy returns to all!

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h15 et 19h00.

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PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à 18h00.

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REUNION DE COUTURE: le 2^e mardi du mois.

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SWISS Y.M.C.A.: see Forthcoming Events.

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SATURDAYS: Ecumenical Service at 6.30 p.m.

SUNDAYS: Holy Mass at 9 and 11 a.m. (in English).

At 6.30 p.m. (mostly in German).

CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS: preferably on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in the afternoon or by appointment.

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SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB — Meeting every Sunday after Evening Mass (8-11 p.m.) at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

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