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Brown and published in London by Peter Owen, being a Council of Europe choice. The story about school children in the Grisons and their Christmas "pear sandwich rolls" brought back many a childhood memory, especially to those who grew up in the mountains.

It was a happy and peaceful evening, full of companionship, and the Hon. Vice-President, Dr. H. W. Egli, expressed the thoughts of all present when he said that a gathering of this kind was not all too common, but all the more valuable. He thanked the helpers, especially the President, for making such excellent arrangements, and wished members the compliments of the season.

## SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION

The Swiss Rifle Association has 91 members. Those of them who turned up at Bisley shot 5,300 rounds of ammunition in the course of eight shooting sessions throughout the year. One had to be cancelled owing to bad weather.

These were among the indications supplied by Hr. Marcel Bucherer, President of the Swiss marksmen of London, welcoming them at the Annual Dinner. A team of six members (Mr. Bernard Jaeggi and son Stefan, Mr. Lucien Jobin, Mr. Marcel Bucherer, Mr. Peter Fischer and Mr. H. Fritz) had gone to St. Gall for a highly successful shooting match. The Swiss Rifle Association had fought two contests against the Surrey Rifle Association, unfortunately lost by seven points, and the Kensington Rifle Club, boldly won by one point. Mr. Bucherer announced two more friendly meetings for next year against the Kensington Rifle Club and the Marylebone Pistol and Rifle Club.

One of the two guests of honour from the Surrey Rifle Association was invited to address the gathering. He compared the Federal Shoot in which 75,000 Swiss took part with the national Chinese ping-pong contest, in which one-and-a-half million Chinese participated. He included a few jokes in his loose but gifted improvisation.

The prize cups and emblems were distributed to the year's winners. The prize award was succeeded by the drawing the raffle tickets. Members stayed on until past 2 a.m., consuming appreciable quantities of kirsch, beer and cigars. Needless to say, it was one of the best Swiss evenings of the season.

## THE CITY SWISS CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER

About 70 members of the City Swiss Club turned up for the Society's Annual Christmas Dinner on 14th December, rather less than on previous occasions, where attendances of 100 had been the norm, but enough to ensure the merriment of the evening. Mr.

Walter Bion chaired the meeting, welcoming members in his appreciated friendly way. Dr. Weitnauer, our Ambassador, and other Embassy staff, honoured the dinner by their presence. Dr. Weitnauer made a brief speech, telling his audience that he was about to move from the old residence at Upper Brook Street to the gleaming premises above the new Embassy at Montague Place (leaving the former building to the newly-accredited ambassador of Bahrein). Dr. Weitnauer said that he had been looking forward to this removal for a long time. He ended his address by conveying to all those present the wishes of the season.

The traditional Christmas pudding and the speeches were followed by entertainment offered by Father Bossard, with accompaniment from the Youth Club. Dressed in a Father Christmas garb, he sang a Colony Revue on a well-known Swiss melody, just as he had done two years ago. The attendance was issued with the words and joined in the fun and singing. There were few people in the Orchid Suite to whom a satirical verse was not dedicated.

The customary collection was made in favour of the Colony Children Party on January 1st and raised about £60.

## THE ESCALADE DINNER

The "Cercle Genevois" of London celebrated the Escalade, Anniversary of the Duke of Savoy's failed attempt to take Geneva by stealth, at the Valcherra Restaurant in Richmond on 10th December. Fifteen people were present. The Embassy was represented by Mr. and Mrs. René Serex, First Secretary, and proceedings were presided over by Mrs. Yvonne Metford-Sewell. Her mother, Mrs. Marthe Curchod, who had brought a huge nougat cauldron overflowing with marzipan and chocolates from Geneva, told the story of that city's coat of arms. Other participants to the evening were Mrs. Bruce-Schwatt, Mr. and Mrs. A. Alan, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Overton, Mrs. David Davidson, Mr. Jurg Schmid and bride and Mr. Jacques Mangard. Apparently no names from Geneva. However, three of the ladies hailed from Geneva.

Having begun with a glass of punch and enjoyed a sterling Valcherra meal, participants followed the Escalade Ritual, listening to a record on the Escalade offered by Mr. René Keller to the Society, singing "*cé-qué-laino*" and watching Mr. Alan and Mr. Mangard smash the cauldron to smithereens.

It was a most enjoyable and intimate evening, well catered for by the younger Jacomelli generation. The guests left for home with beautiful photographs and brochures of Geneva supplied, via Mr. Jurg Schmid, by the SNTO.

## THE NEW EMBASSY BUILDING

*The new Embassy has now been in use for two months. Its opening will be marked by a Reception for the Swiss Colony on February 21st and by a second Reception for British officials. Its history was outlined in the second Consular Bulletin issued in 1971. We reproduce it below.*

In 1964 after a limited competition T. P. Bennett & Son, the London architects, were appointed to act in conjunction with the Swiss Federal Office of Works for rebuilding the Embassy and residence.

Contemporary designs were produced in London and Switzerland but at the wishes of the British Ministry of Housing the pavilion is being rebuilt as a replica of the original. The design of the reinforced concrete structural frame was carried out by R. T. James & Partners.

The Embassy is on the corner of Bryanston Square and Montague Place, the square being laid out on the estate of Edward Berkeley Portman in 1810. Buildings which previously occupied the site were constructed in 1816.

In 1932 the Swiss Government acquired numbers 21 and 22, Bryanston Square. These were united and used as the Embassy. Following damage by enemy action during the last war the adjacent number 19 was demolished, acquired by the Swiss authorities in 1962 and used as a temporary car park.

The Georgian elevation to Bryanston Square dictates floor levels and storey heights. This wing will be the Ambassador's residence and reception rooms as in the previous building. Thus the residential atmosphere of the square has been retained.

Fronting on to Montague Place is the Chancellery block. This is of modern design with Swiss stainless steel faced windows, mullions and sills and Portland stone apron bands.

As the Chancellery section is a strictly working area, the storey heights were reduced from those to the Bryanston Square wing. This enabled a further storey to be introduced while still maintaining the parapet in line with that of adjoining buildings in the square.

The basement covering the complete site has accommodation for 33 cars and storage areas. In the sub-basement are more storage areas, a boiler room and other accommodation for services.

The Chancellery block, entered from Montague Place, includes a large hall with ancillary rooms on the ground floor. This is for people visiting the Embassy on Consular matters; another section is for the granting of visas.

First, second and third floors of the Chancellery block have offices for the diplomatic and consular services and on the fourth floor are three staff flats. The fifth floor will have a small library, rest rooms and Telex service.