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welcomed by Lord Sandford, Under-Secretary of State at The Department of Education and Science under the last Government. The speaker was Sir John Wolfenden, former Director of the British Museum, who had been invited to speak on the "British Image of Switzerland, Dream or Reality".

He began with a long preamble of exquisite post-prandial humour, during which Sir John invited the audience to "rest in the arms of Morpheus" if they so wished and promised that he would try to remain awake while delivering his address.

In a very succinct and well constructed exposé, Sir John, an ex-headmaster, separated his subject in four chapters: nature, people, international centre, and neutrality. Stressing that he was not entirely a "geographical determinist" he did point out the bearing of a mountainous and difficult environment on the "patriotic pride" of people. The speaker noted that several mountainous countries in which existence required a constant struggle stood out by their patriotism. Switzerland was one of them, Scotland another.

As a result of these geographical conditions, the Swiss developed a great "practical effectiveness" which was an essential aspect of their identity.

Sir John laid great emphasis on Switzerland's weight as an international financial centre. He said that behind the "Gnomes of Zurich" were highly professional, intelligent and reliable specialists who had built up a well deserved reputation of efficient banking service.

Sir John said that it was essential for Switzerland to keep to her neutrality. He recognised that the concept lacked romanticism to young people. It was difficult to be "enthusiastic" about neutrality just as it was difficult to be "passionately moderate". Yet without neutrality, and the principle of non-partisanship which it implied, Switzerland could not play host to so many international organisations. Announcing that he would shortly be going to Geneva to attend a session of the "International Social Service", he said that such an organisation, and others like it concerned with supranational objectives would inevitably loose is credibility if they were based in either New York or Moscow.

Sir John completed his talk with an anecdote on how he probably became the only Englishman inoculated against smallpox at Kloten Airport – and that at a quarter to eleven one winter evening.

Lord Sandford then thanked Sir John for his excellent talk and said the closing words of the official part of the evening.

P.M.B.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

CITY SWISS CLUB: Informal Dinner Dance scheduled for Friday, 21st June.

Friday, 17th May – Annual General Meeting of Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK.

Sunday, 26th May – ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON – 79 Endell Street, WC2 – 10.30 a.m. Annual General Meeting – 11.15 a.m. Divine Service, The Rev. M. Pradervand. This will be followed by a meal. (Please notify one of the Ministers).

Sunday, 16th June – GOLDEN JUBILEE OF GERMAN-SPEAKING PARISH OF THE SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON – Family Outing to Ashburnham Place with a Service of Thanksgiving at the Chapel.

NFH: Open Meeting on Thursday, 16th May, 7 p.m. at the Swiss Embassy. Mr. Marcel Ney, Director of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, will give a talk on "Serious and amusing incidents from the history of the Swiss Abroad".

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