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contrast, but in one, where the narcissism of the travesty becomes brutally clear". Other body art artists Mr. Garraux mentioned, are *Urs Iuethy* and *Alex Silber*.

He then talked about an interesting man, *Helmut Federle* (born 1944) from Basle. He paints landscapes which only exist in his imagination, and it is not the scenery, but the mood expressed which matters. It is a meditation, calm, but with immediate effect.

Next, the speaker talked of surrealism and the art of *Martin Distler* (born 1949) and *Pierre Keller* (born 1945); the latter used fur and photography on porcelain for his "le coeur Christian".

The only school for experimental creation in Switzerland, said Mr. Garraux, was located in Zurich, called F & F (form and colour, Farbe). Robert Junck, well-known author, mentioned the school as "laboratory of the future". *Peter Jenny* (born 1942) gives courses for "creative composition" and teaches "experiment of creation of human presentation" at the ETH in Zurich.

The last artist mentioned was *Peter Weibel*, who is concerned with video art as experimented with at the "Impact" circle.

Without the numerous slides the lecturer showed, it would have been difficult to get a real impression. Mr. Garraux used them with skill and made it easy to follow. He finished by saying that creative art had become international and did not recognise national frontiers. Yet for every artist his background was of significance. Often his message was addressed to certain definite recipients: to a community whose mentality was familiar to him. Thus the Swiss artists were influenced as well, and one could concentrate on Swiss artists without chauvinism.

The President thanked Mr. Garraux for his most interesting lecture which had made a great impression on the audience — as shown by the ready applause and many questions — even though it was perhaps somewhat bewildering until one realised that the artists of today had not arrived at any permanent conception, but were searching.

MM

"The monthly meetings of your Society have become an integral part of our life in London, a meeting place for friends who wish to discuss matters of common interest. We could not do without it."

Mr. Fritschi then proposed a toast to the Society and its College.

In his address the Society's President, Mr. A. Jaccard, paid tribute to the guests from the Embassy as well as other guests too numerous to mention individually.

He also especially welcomed a newcomer to the Society's activities, Mr. E. Tangemann, Manager of the London Office of the Union Bank of Switzerland.

Perhaps with just an element of "tongue in cheek", Mr. Jaccard made reference to a rather special football match which took place last April between the College team and the Times FC at Ravensbourne in Kent.

To use Mr. Jaccard's own words — "to say we suffered a reverse would be a gross understatement and unfair to our opponents. It was, in fact, more like the massacre of the innocents, master-minded by Mr. John Gard whom we salute tonight, not as a foe but as an old friend".

For the record — the result of the match was Times FC 8—SMS 1.

When it came to the point when Mr. Jaccard wanted to propose his toast to the guests and the ladies he was faced with a minor problem — the recently enacted Sex Discrimination Act.

Obviously having given the matter considerable thought, Mr. Jaccard solved the problem in his own inimitable style. Instead of asking his colleagues to raise their glasses to the guests and female persons (or as he insists he has heard — gentle persons), he said "Honestly, ladies, we rejoice in your recently gained emancipation and so long as you don't let this business go to your heads, you do not ask your husbands to produce babies, and as long as you retain your greatest asset, your femininity, we shall be proud to continue to refer to you as our better halves." Definitely the touch of a gentleman!

Dancing to the sort of little ensemble one would expect the Dorchester to supply ended what was, by common consent, a happy and memorable evening.

WGS

## NOTICE

Members of the Swiss Relief Society who have not yet paid their contribution for 1975 are kindly requested to send their subscriptions to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. M. Wegmüller, Consulate General of Switzerland, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BH. In order to reduce postage expenses, it has been decided to send receipts on request only. Members of the Swiss Club who want to join the Swiss Relief Society may contact the Hon. Treasurer.

# SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY KEEPS DORCHESTER DATE

The Dorchester Hotel's elegant Orchid Room provided a suitably convivial atmosphere for the Swiss Mercantile Society's annual dinner and dance on the 31st January.

The members and guests were also not disappointed by the food which came from a well-thought out and appetising menu which was tackled with relish after Father Paul Bossard of the Swiss Catholic community in London had dedicated the event and led those present in grace.

Among the distinguished guests were Mr. Karl Fritschi, Charge d'Affaires at the Swiss Embassy as well as other members of the embassy staff.

In his speech Minister Fritschi paid tribute to the SMS and its many important activities. He also pointed out that this year he was unable to make apologies for the absence of the Swiss Ambassador for the simple reason that none was in office, Dr. Weitnauer having departed and Mr. Thalmann expected shortly.

"How does one feel in such a situation?" he continued. "To be sure, the status of Chargé d'Affaires appears much less glamorous than that of Ambassador, Consul or Attaché. Also these titles have great attraction for the public at large. Take for instance the hotels, cars, furniture, shirts and aftershaves which have been named 'Ambassador'. A well-known car proudly

carries the name of Consul throughout the world. And no Director General, no President — be he of your Society — and not even an Ambassador can do without an attaché case.

"But have you ever heard of a hotel, car or brief-case upon which a clever businessman might have bestowed the name of Chargé d'Affaires? No wonder that the most frequent question I have to answer during the short spell of my present assignment is 'When is the new Ambassador arriving?'.

"You may rest assured that everything is being done to welcome Ambassador and Mrs. Thalmann in a couple of days. Like his predecessor he will, I am sure, greatly appreciate all your Society does for the benefit of the Swiss community here and for the good relations which so happily exist between Switzerland and Britain.

"Your College has for its motto 'Study means success', and I could not think of a better guide for its students.

"In my younger days my teachers used to tell me, when I was indulging in the pleasures of laziness, that it was not for school but for life I had to keep on and strive for good results. For over 50 years your College has helped hundreds of young people from Switzerland to make a good start in their professional life.