

# Visit of national Councillor Schmid-Ruedin to the College of the Swiss Mercantile Society

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black crêpe. Then, when Mussolini was murdered, the crêpe was removed—in case anyone thought they had any sympathies with the man. Now it stands on a bookshelf with its face against the wall.

Cats are a feature of the household. The collection started one day when the Captain was walking through a tropical downpour in Algiers. Seeing a poor miserable kitten soaked to the skin and not knowing what to do, he asked a passerby to whom the kitten belonged. "To Allah!" was the reply. So the Captain took over.

Now you cannot move in the flat without seeing a cat—in a basket, under the table, in bed, or even on the top of a cupboard. And when you have run out of live cats there are always toy ones on wheels, photos of cats and kittens (taken by Mrs. Saunders) or cats' heads embroidered on cushion covers.

The Captain, a stickler for truth and accuracy, declared war on certain British newspapers at the time of the big avalanches at the beginning of last year. One correspondent who particularly annoyed him stretched his imagination as far as it would go to write a lot of nonsense about death and destruction in "The White Hell of Davos". A photographer who would be well advised to steer clear of that region in the future took a picture of clouds of snow falling from one of the "suck and spit" snowploughs and called it an exclusive picture of an avalanche in action, taken at serious risk to the photographer's life!

His one big dislike at the moment is those English visitors who go to Davos ostensibly on the meagre foreign travel allowance of £25 yet manage to stay weeks in the best hotels sipping champagne and moulting caviar at £4 a spoonful.

When he is on this subject he loves to recall the time when "Dickie and Edwina" Mountbatten were there. After a rather hectic day at the ski school, where they were both enthusiastic pupils, Lady Mountbatten turned to her husband and said: "Dickie, I'm so tired. Do you think we could take a sleigh back to the hotel?" The Earl of Mountbatten, thinking of their swiftly dwindling allowance, replied: "If we do dear, there will be no coffee after dinner."

Her Ladyship had her way, of course. But the couple did not miss their coffee after all. The Captain, hearing the story, immediately went to their hotel and treated them to coffee himself!

\* \* \*

Next — New lungs for old.

### VISIT OF NATIONAL COUNCILLOR SCHMID-RUEDIN TO THE COLLEGE OF THE SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

On Thursday, May 29th, the College of the Swiss Mercantile Society was honoured by a visit from National-Councillor Schmid-Ruedin and Mrs. Schmid-Ruedin. They inspected the classrooms of the College and also the students at work in the various rooms.

Later on the visitors were introduced to the students as a whole by the Principal, Mr. C. Slade, M.A., who also took the opportunity of introducing the President of the S.M.S., Mr. W. Meier and Mr. W. Burren, Chairman of the Education Committee, and various members of the Society in their official capacities.

Mr. Burren, on behalf of the Education Committee, thanked Mr. Schmid-Ruedin for his visit to the College and mentioned, that despite his many duties as General Secretary of the "Schweiz. Kaufmännischen Verein" and as a member of the Swiss Parliament, he had always given his wholehearted support to the College. Thanks to his personal efforts, both in Zurich and Berne, the College had derived great benefits for which he deserves sincere thanks.

He expressed the hope that the students would make the most of the comparatively short time they studied at the College so that they would be able to follow the many thousands who have made the College a stepping stone to a successful career.

Mr. Schmid-Ruedin, in replying, expressed his pleasure at having been given an opportunity of once again visiting the College, saying that being in the midst of so many young compatriots of both sexes make him feel that he is "home again". He voiced the hope, that they were happy in this school, where they enjoy the privilege of having an excellent teaching staff. Referring to the accommodation at "Swiss House" Mr. Schmid-Ruedin said, that he was quite aware that the rooms were far too small and overcrowded, but this would be remedied shortly when the adjoining house would be again put at the disposal of the school.

In conclusion, he wished the students the best of luck during their stay in London, expressing the hope, that with the knowledge they have acquired here, they would be able to render great services to our country.

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