

City Swiss Club

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That the S.M.S. entertains friendly relations with all their sister Societies was proved by the attendance of the following Societies:—

City Swiss Club,
Société de Secours Mutuels,
Fonds de Secours,
Swiss Club (Schweizerbund),
Swiss Orchestral Society,
Unione Ticinese,
Nouvelle Société Helvétique,
Swiss Gymnastic Society,
Swiss Choral Society.

The Union Helvetia Club and the Swiss Club, Birmingham, were unfortunately unable to be represented.

Mr. Boos also welcomed Mr. G. De Brunner, one of the Trustees of the Society; Mr. Stauffer, Editor of the *Swiss Observer*, and Dr. Egli, London correspondent of the "Bund," and last, but by no means least, he paid a well-deserved compliment to Mrs. Lunghi-Rezzonico, who takes such motherly care of the lady students of the College.

I do not wish to blow my own trumpet, but I cannot help thanking the speaker for the very flattering remarks he made about the *Swiss Observer*, describing it as a concern run by father (Mr. Boehringer) and son (yours truly); but he must have had a very poor opinion of our parental relationship, because he put us miles asunder, and I even heard him use, as an excuse, the words "in case they quarrel." Well, we did not, nor did the fatherly hand bid me go to bed when midnight arrived.

The presentation made to me of a large silver (or was it silver paper?) medal for services rendered in connection with the function was a great and pleasant surprise, and I shall treasure it as long as I live (as a matter of fact, I lost it twice during the evening). I hope that perhaps (?) one day I shall be able to show it to my children, explaining to them how the beautiful medal was presented to me, in the presence of an illustrious company, consisting of Diplomats, Captains of Industry and Commerce, shining lights in the Banking profession, beautiful ladies, etc., etc.

The toast to the Guests was coupled with the one to the Ladies, and the compliment which Mr. Boos paid to the fairest of the fair made all blush with modesty — and what is sweeter than to behold a blushing maiden!!! I feel convinced that those who "have caught" (I am not quite sure whether this is the right word) their life partners amongst the S.M.S. members, will have sent a silent prayer to heaven, thanking the authorities above for blessings received. A further compliment paid was to the "Paying Guests," which was most appropriate, because from the Society's point of view they were much more profitable ones to the Exchequer than the others.

Compliments so lavishly bestowed require and deserve an acknowledgement, and the task of saying "Thank you very much" was entrusted to Mr. Senn, President of the City Swiss Club, who, by the way, is also an old member of the S.M.S. He said:—

This is a very proud moment for me. I have to respond to the toast of the Guests, *Paying Guests*, and the Ladies.

I feel, however, somewhat of an imposter, because, although I happen to be the President of the City Swiss Club at the moment, I am, after all, also an active member of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and yet I am numbered among the guests. It is certainly a very nice compliment, but one that might be taken both ways.

There is an old English adage which tells us to walk a mile after supper. I think that after such a banquet as we have just had, we ought all to walk a dozen miles, which I suppose some of us will have done by the time the dancing is over.

Well, Ladies and Gentlemen, long speeches are never popular, and all I will say, therefore, is that on behalf of the Guests, *Paying Guests*, and myself, I beg to offer our heartiest thanks to Mr. Boos, who proposed the toast, and to you gentlemen for the splendid hospitality you have shown us. I am sure I am expressing the feelings of all your guests, when I tell you how greatly honoured we all feel by your invitation to-night. We have enjoyed and will enjoy very much the few hours we are privileged to spend with you, and we congratulate you on the undoubted success of this gathering. The Swiss Mercantile Society, that school famous for everything worth having in public and business life, has done a great deal, perhaps far more than is generally realised, and I hope it will not only continue, but extend its influence.

We Swiss in this country are privileged to enjoy under the Union Jack a wonderful hospitality and freedom, but we never forget that other flag, "Das Weisse Kreuz im Roten Feld," which brings home to us all that we hold dear. Let us then see to it that by our lives here the

high ideals symbolised by both flags and impressed on us by the activities of the Swiss Mercantile Society, are not discredited. All that I have said on behalf of our Guests applies equally to the Ladies, who, I know, greatly appreciate your kind invitation and would wish me to tender you, on their behalf, their hearty thanks for a very enjoyable evening.

I myself have very little experience of the fair sex, but from what I hear occasionally, I imagine that they are more likely to be interested in dancing than in listening to any inane babblings that may emanate from me. Therefore, Gentlemen, I will now call upon the Ladies, my Fellow Guests, and *Paying Guests* to raise their glasses and drink deep and long to the Swiss Mercantile Society and its continued success and further prosperity.

The applause which Mr. Senn received on resuming his seat was a hearty one and was fully deserved. The only criticism I have to offer is that a "bachelor-girl" should be singled out to reply for the Ladies. It has always been a puzzle to me, in these days of women's emancipation, that no lady can be found to acknowledge the toast to their own sweet sex. If that could be done, we would then perhaps hear once what the ladies really think of us men. We are acquainted, of course, on some occasions, in the sanctuary of our own homes, with the truth, or what they imagine is the truth; but I should like to hear it once publicly stated, so that we men know where we stand.

That the members of the S.M.S. are nice people was proved on this festive occasion by the remembrance of their more unfortunate brethren who are in straightened circumstances. The Appeal for Charity, was entrusted into the capable hands of Mr. Stahelin, in the absence of M. J. Pfendler, who was unfortunately prevented from being present, owing to illness.

Mr. Stahelin, accomplished speaker as he is, asked without using many words for help, and help he received. The collection amounted to nearly £33, and I have been given to understand that this amount constituted a record, and I am glad to say that it is a record the Society can be proud of.

This appeal concluded the speech-making, and the company adjourned whilst the Banqueting Hall was made ready for dancing. I need hardly say that the second part of the programme was equally successful, or even more so, than the first.

It was altogether a most enjoyable evening, and the presence of Monsieur and Madame Paravicini until nearly to the end of the function was greatly appreciated.

ST.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The February meeting of the City Swiss Club took place on Tuesday, the 6th inst., when about fifty members and guests were present.

On this occasion the Club was honoured by the presence of the Swiss Minister, Mr. C. R. Paravicini.

I was told by one of our most eminent members, whose information is generally correct, that this was the first time that the Minister had been present at one of the ordinary monthly meetings.

I hope he enjoyed his evening, and as his visit was unexpected, no special arrangements had been made to welcome him, and his visit being thus informal, he was able to get an idea as to the procedure at one of our meetings.

The Minister, being an Honorary President of the Club, occupied the Chair, and after dinner proposed the toast of The King, and then, in a delicious and informal speech, kept the members in roars of laughter with his witty remarks about some of the Members of the Committee and the guests.

Among the latter was Sir Arnold Theiler, K.C.M.G., who is the big noise in the veterinary world in South Africa.

From the Minister's speech, it would appear that Sir Arnold Theiler has collected most of the academic and scientific honours which could be bestowed upon him, by South Africa, America, France, Belgium, Great Britain, Switzerland, and various other countries.

In reply to the toast of the Visitors, Sir Arnold Theiler told us something about his early adventures in South Africa; how he worked on a cattle farm in order to gain practical experience; how an epidemic of smallpox gave him his first opportunity; how he was then commissioned by President Kruger to investigate the means of fighting the great epidemic of rinderpest; how he succeeded, so that in place of 99 per cent. of cattle dying from the disease, 99 per cent. were saved by serum treatment, and how he was afterwards called into consultation by the Government of Australia and by the American Government concerning an outbreak of the disease in Texas. A most interesting account of an interesting career.

Mr. A. F. Tschiffeli, the famous author of the book "Southern Cross to Pole Star," who was invited, was unable to attend owing to a previous engagement.

After these speeches, the ordinary business of the Meeting was quickly despatched by Mr. Senn. One new member was elected. Three resignations were announced. Three delegates from the Club for the Swiss Sports Committee were elected, or rather re-elected.

Mr. Senn reminded the members that the next Cinderella will take place at the May Fair Hotel on Saturday next, February 10th. And then a most successful and enjoyable evening was brought to a close, and everyone was unanimous in expressing the hope that the Minister would be able to find time to visit us on some future occasion, and give us the opportunity to listen once again to another gem of oratory.

ck.

UNIONE TICINESE.

Domenica, 4 febbraio, aveva luogo nel locale sociale la prima Assemblée Generale del 1934 dell' UNIONE TICINESE. All'adunata, il cui forte era dato dagli anziani, erano intervenuti pure dei veterani, ai quali il solo nome della Società richiama alla mente fieri ricordi di vita ticinese nella Metropoli britannica.

La seduta si aprì con la lettura del verbale dell'ultima assemblea dell'anno scorso e la presentazione del rapporto dei revisori dei conti, seguiti da una succinta relazione sulla gestione 1933 da parte dell'attivo Segretario.

Alla nomina della nuova Direzione, il Presidente, Signor W. Notari, dando effetto al proposito già accennato in una precedente occasione chiede di non essere rieletto. In due discorsi, notevoli l'uno per la pacatezza e l'altro per l'incisività degli argomenti, i Soci Gambazzi e Berti pregano il Socio Notari di voler riservare alla Società per un altro anno ancora il suo valido ministero e coronare così una carriera indimenticabile nella storia dell'Unione Ticinese. Con unanime plauso il Socio Notari riprende il seggio presidenziale motivando la sua accettazione con la ricorrenza quest'anno del Giubileo Diamantino dell'Unione, un'occasione nella quale più che in ogni altra urge una mano esperta al timone.

Il Consiglio di Direzione per l'anno in corso risulta così composto:

W. NOTARI, Presidente;
O. GAMBAZZI, Vice Presidente;
P. DE MARIA, Segretario;
G. EUSEBIO, Vice Segretario;
C. BERTI, Cassiere;
A. MORESI, Esattore;
E. BIUCCHI, figlio, Membro;
C. BÖLLA, Membro;
G. CAMOZZI, Membro;
U. HAUSWIRTH, Membro;
D. LUNGI, Membro.

In seguito venne proposta e dall'Assemblea rimandata alla Direzione per l'organizzazione, la Festa Sociale annuale che quest'anno secondo desiderio unanime dovrà essere celebrata in modo degno del sessantesimo anniversario della fondazione.

Votati le altre piccole poste dell'ordine del giorno, fra le quali una elargizione a favore del Fondo Premi del Tiro Federale di Friburgo, l'Assemblea è dichiarata chiusa.

EUSJ.

INFORMATION FOR THE NOVICE IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss language is very easy to learn; in fact there is no uphill work about it. The only phrases you need bother about express, with three exceptions, your desire to check descent.

We will first deal with the exceptions. These are *Hell*, *Dunkel* and *Kirsch*.

Hell means light beer;
Dunkel means dark beer.

Having drunk however deeply, you need not flatter or encourage yourself with the idea that either has gone to your legs. Nothing will make any difference to the latter after your skis are on.

Kirsch means *Kirsch*, and spells that pride which goes before a fall. It also goes to the head, giving Swiss courage, and accelerating descent down to a point (probably the point of someone else's ski-stick).

Achtung is an ejaculation meaning "Hi!" "Get out!" "Hell!!!" or "Oh, dear!!!" according to number of exclamation-marks indicated by the intonation. It is used to express the fact that you are going faster than you can and that recumbent or more slowly-moving bodies must look out for themselves.

Achtung (archaic) means "Fore!" and is shouted arrogantly by those who are masters of their skis. Novices need not try to perfect this pronunciation.

Achdamm! (corruption of *Achtung*), used in prolonged emergencies.