Annual banquet and ball of the Swiss Club

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Annual Banquet and Ball

of the

SWISS CLUB (Schweizerbund)

on FRIDAY, MARCH 31st, 1939 at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

What a busy week the last one has been for your reporter!! On Tuesday, I was in the company of the Davos Ice Hockey Players at Pagani's, where I watched them at less strenuous exercises.

On Wednesday evening, I had the pleasure to listen to an excellent concert provided by two Societies of the Swiss Colony, the next evening I nearly shouted myself hoarse at Wembley, where I met my Ice Hockey friends again, this time changing the fork and knife for the Hockey stick.

On Friday evening, I was kindly bidden to the table of the Swiss Club (Schweizerbund) which celebrated their 61st Annual Dinner and Ball, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

In some of the many " hundreds " of reports about functions in the Colony, which I have written during the last ten years, I have often made sarcastic remarks about the unpunctuality with which these functions start, without, however, the slightest result, so I thought at least, until last Friday.

Assuming, that the Swiss Club would make no exception to the rule, I took things very leisurely, trying to imitate during my bath this wonderful " Yodlerin " Mme. Aus-der-Au whom I had heard on Wednesday; and also missing at least one train on purpose, so as not to be too early, I arrived at 74, Charlotte Street at the stroke of nine p.m. where I found to my amazement that everybody was waiting for me.

It is, of course, very flattering to hear that over 100 people were curbing their appetite for the " great one " to arrive, when so many more illustrious personages were already there. I was very much annoyed with myself, how, I argued, can I in future pass unkind remarks, when I myself give such a bad example.

I was, of course, the loser in more than one way, first of all I missed meeting the guests, — all important people in the Colony, — who assemble usually in a special sanctuary to add to the bill of the respective Society by imbibing, free of charge ,one or two apéritifs.

Secondly, I missed having one or two of these treacherous cock-tails, but if I was the loser, the Swiss Club is the gainer, and thus they should not harbour any grudge against me for being late.

After a hurried glance into the mirror to see whether I was properly arrayed, I hurried into the Banqueting Hall, and before I could utter a word, an excellent *Crème Portugaise* was put before me.

And, whilst I talk of food I wish to pay at once a compliment to the stewards of the Swiss Club, Mr. and Mrs. Rossier, for the splendid dinner they served, this tribute was later on seconded by the President, and the applause which greeted his words proved that the company was in full agreement.

Monsieur M. A. Girardet, Counsellor of Legation, who was to represent the Swiss Minister at this Banquet, was unfortunately prevented at the last moment to take the Chair, and so Mr. H. Ellenberger, the President, accompanied by his charming Lady took over this function.

Mr. Delaloye, a member of long standing acted most efficiently as toast master, he did not wear a red coat, nor did he wear knee breeches, but he looked all the same very smart, and his voice was equally impressive.

Towards the end of the Dinner the President proposed the customary loyal toasts which were heartily responded to.

During the dinner a small orchestra played in a rather forcible manner, so that any table conversation was almost impossible, which was a great pity, as I had a very attractive table vis-à-vis. Near me, sat an elderly gentleman, one of the founders of the Swiss Club, and he, during a short interval, told me that he had made my acquaintance in Switzerland, when I was at the tender age of six; I was just going to ask him, whether I looked as handsome then as now, when the band again went hammer and tongs, thus making his answer inaudible, which was perhaps a good thing.

The toast master then called upon the President, Mr. H. Ellenberger, to address the company, who started his oration by expressing his pleasure at seeing such a large gathering present, he paid, amongst great applause, a compliment to the following old members: Messrs. Keller, Eichenberger, Bernhard and Scheidegger, thanking them for the long and faithful services rendered to the Society.

" My predecessors " he said " have always referred to them as the " Pillars of the Club," and I readily and heartily endorse this reference."

The President then presented the Diploma to Messrs. Froehlicher and Bowman, who were recently elected Honorary members of the Swiss Club, he also thanked the members of the Committee for their wholehearted collaboration.

Further tributes were paid to Mr. and Mrs. Rossier, stewards of the Club for their tireless efforts to please everybody, and to Mr. Imhof, Secretary of the Club for his faithful services.

Mr. Ellermann finished his " maiden " speech by expressing the wish that the company would enjoy this gathering, and he asked the participants to rise and drink to the health and prosperity of the Swiss Club (Schweizerbund).

On resuming his seat the President received a hearty ovation.

Mr. H. Caluori, Vice-President, extended on behalf of the Club a hearty welcome to the official guests, including the following:

Mr. L. Chapuis, President of the City Swiss Club, accompanied by Mrs. Chapuis.

Mr. J. J. Boos, President of the Swiss Mercantile Society and Mr. M. Schneider, Secretary of the S.M.S.

Messrs. Morosi and Veglio, Unione Ticinese.

Mr. Kunzli, Soc. de Secours Mutuels, accompanied by Mrs. Kunzli.

Mr. Nachbur, President of the Swiss Choral Society, accompanied by Mrs. Nachbur.

Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor, Swiss Observer.

Mr. Kirchbaum, Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

Mr. Hausermann, Swiss Accordion Club.

Mrs. Swan and Mr. Siegel, Symphonic Choir.

Pastor E. Bommeli, " Schweizerkirche."

Mr. Louis Chapuis, President of the City Swiss Club, responded with a happy and patriotic speech in the name of the guests.

Mr. Koch proposed the toasts to the Ladies, to whom, I am afraid he was not very complimentary, and I sincerely hope that his charming wife gave him a " good talking to " on Saturday morning.

This ended the official part of the evening, and after a short interval dancing started and lasted until 2 a.m.

In order to give the dance band which worked very hard a little rest, Masters Delaloye and Rossier played on their accordions some lively dance tunes, accompanied on the drum by Mr. Delaloye, sen. which were greatly appreciated.

In conclusion I would like to congratulate the Swiss Club, and especially its President, Mr. H. Ellenberger and Mrs. Ellenberger, the latter being a perfect hostess, for a very enjoyable and happy evening.

ST.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The Members of the City Swiss Club are herewith informed, that the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will take place, on Wednesday, April 19th, at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.

The Committee.

FEDERAL SHOOTING COMPETITION IN LUCERNE.

June 16th to July 3rd.

In a recent number of the Swiss Observer, we published an Appeal by the organisation committee, which was formed in order to collect funds to defray the cost of the numerous prizes.

Ever since these Federal Shooting Festivals were started, nearly a hundred years ago, Swiss abroad have shown their patriotism by sending various prizes so that the skill and marksmenship of our riflemen at home could be duly rewarded.

If to-day our Army enjoys a fine reputation abroad, it is not the least due to our marksmen, who throughout the year keep in proper training, and it is only right that they should be rewarded for their endurance and often sacrifices made in the interest of our country.

The Swiss Colony in Great Britain is one of the most important Colonies abroad, and enjoys a fine reputation at home both as to patriotism and generosity.

Although times might not be very favourable for collecting Funds, we nevertheless wish to heartily support the Appeal made, in view of the cause for which it is made. No big sums are expected, even the smallest contribution will be appreciated ,and it is hoped that the Fund will reach an amount which will honour the Swiss Colony in Great Britain. We wish to show our countrymen at home, that in spite of hard times we can always spare a little to show our attachment and our interest.

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