

Successful co-operation

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SUCCESSFUL CO-OPERATION. Anglo-Swiss Society and Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

In the columns of this paper and elsewhere in the Swiss Colony one hears complaints and grumbles that many of the social gatherings are too expensive. The Anglo-Swiss Society, therefore, altered its Christmas Dinner at the Dorchester Hotel to a Buffet Ball at Londonderry House. The organisers, having scored an outstanding success with their Coronation Ball in June, hoped to make the *CHRISTMAS BALL* on Friday, 18th December, an equal success. But in spite of the fact that a ball of this character taxed the purse of those attending considerably less than a dinner and dance, attendance reached only about one hundred. There was no doubt, however, that the ball was a real success in everything but numbers. The dancing was excellent, the food good, the company congenial and the atmosphere pleasant and happy, and there were no speeches, one more fact which — according to critical comments in many quarters — should have attracted more people.

Another piece of criticism which has often been voiced is that there are too many social and cultural meetings within the Colony. The Anglo-Swiss Society and the Nouvelle Société Helvétique have made an excellent start in the direction of pooling resources. On Saturday, 16th January, they arranged a *CHILDREN'S PARTY* at Londonderry House, Park Lane, W.1. By courtesy of the Swiss National Tourist Office some short films were shown. The three Swiss ones were very interesting for the

parents as well as the older children, whilst the younger children were more delighted with the comic pictures. Mr. Peter Marsham entertained the audience with a number of conjuring tricks. There were also two sessions of community singing led and accompanied by Mrs. W. Meier. Sometimes with and sometimes without the parents' help the children sang gaily in Swiss, German, French, English and even Italian. Young and older people alike left well pleased not only with a gift of sweets but above all with a successful afternoon.

Again the two societies combined in arranging a lecture on Monday evening, 18th January, also at Londonderry House. This time the spacious library was filled to capacity. Monsieur Egmond D'Arcis, Président de l'Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme, and Geneva correspondent of "The Times" gave an extremely interesting talk in English on "Zermatt and the Matterhorn". The coloured slides illustrated his lecture to perfection. After the coffee interval Monsieur D'Arcis showed three films on the same subject. The first of these was a fascinating document of historic interest. It was on the climbing of the Matterhorn in 1900 and was, if anything, more interesting and artistic than the two modern films.

Dr. H. Egli, Miss A. Gretener and Colonel H. S. Townend must be congratulated for arranging these functions. I am sure many — if not all — of our friends and compatriots do appreciate their efforts very much indeed.

Mariann.



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