

Our next issue

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the Vice-President Dr. Obrist, the "financial wizzard" Mr. Scheiwiller, the indefatigable Secretary Mrs. Monney and Swissair's Manager Mr. Mettler, not to forget Mrs. Themans and Miss Rietmann.

Mr. Berner mentioned the loss of three faithful members, Mr. Liechtensteiger, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Corrodi. On the other hand, he was happy that so many young members took an active part in the Club. Finally, the President sketched the new task which would be facing the Club in the near future, the decision to join the Federation of Swiss Societies in the U.K. in connection with the new Swiss Centre in London.

The presidential address was warmly applauded. It was followed by the presentation of the Swiss Challenge Cup (Rifle Club) to Mr. Mettler and the Vaud Cup and the Swissair Cup to Mr. Scheiwiller.

The Swiss Ambassador replied to the President as follows:

"I should like to thank you, Mr. President, on behalf of my wife and myself, for your very kind words of welcome, and to add that we are greatly enjoying your hospitality. We always look forward to a visit to Manchester, first because we are delighted to meet again all the interesting personalities, Swiss and Mancunian, whose acquaintance we have had the pleasure of making — may I mention, in particular, Alderman and Mrs. Chadwick — and secondly because there is always something new to hear, to see and to learn in Manchester. There is a saying that "what Manchester thinks today, the world will think tomorrow". This adage dates from the free trade era but is, of course, still true today if we think in terms of town planning building or development.

"Indeed, during the past month I have had the pleasure of witnessing two great achievements in Manchester. The first was the modernization of the Clayton Aniline Company, and I had the honour to attend the festivities celebrating the wonderful realization of many years' planning and the results of a great investment programme, which make the company one of the most advanced and technically perfect in its field.

"I have had the privilege of visiting, also, three of the marvellous plants of Geigy Ltd., where I admired the extremely up-to-date installations and the fine organization of the management, the planning, the scientific research, the manufacturing, as well as the splendid spirit of progress and the constant desire for perfection which inspires its leading personalities.

"May I say here how proud I am of this brilliant Anglo-Swiss collaboration, to which I wish ever more success. It is true, as people say, that there is something in Manchester that produces fighters and creators.

"As you see, to be in Manchester is indeed always an enriching experience.

"But I can also bring you some news from London. As you know, we have founded there the Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom, which hopes in this form to be able to give stronger support to the plan to create a Swiss social and cultural centre in London. Federal Councillor Wahlen has convened a meeting of Swiss firms connected with Great Britain and will try to persuade them to collaborate financially in the realization of this scheme.

"Another event was the opening on Wednesday in the Goldsmiths' Hall of an exhibition of magnificent jewellery by our compatriot from Geneva, Gilbert Albert. This is the first time in its 600 years' history that the Goldsmiths' Company has honoured an artist with a one-man show. The 80 exhibits incorporate mostly meteorites or

stones from outer space, which may be millions of years old. This extraordinary exhibition is arousing much interest.

"May I now raise my glass to the continued success of British-Swiss collaboration, to the further prosperity of your Club, which is cultivating that tradition of good understanding, and to the health of your members and your distinguished guests."

The Ambassador's well-received speech brought the formal part of the evening to a close. The tombola tickets were on sale in the interval, and in no time, all of them were sold — the prizes were most attractive and ranged from a roll of velvet and a clock to wines, scent, kitchen towels and playing cards.

Dancing started as soon as the room was cleared, and throughout the evening there was not a dull moment. Real universal enjoyment could be seen *and* felt, whether it was with an old-fashioned waltz or a modern contortionist dance. Incidentally, it was quite remarkable how many of the members had brought sons and daughters along. They mingled with the large number of young Swiss temporarily in the City. There was proof, if it was needed, that the Swiss Club in Manchester, however great its problems may be, need have no fear of the future. Good luck and thank you!

MM

SWISS CLUB DUNFERMLINE

On Sunday evening, 7th November, the chairman of the Dunfermline Swiss Club welcomed about fifty members and their friends to a very successful film show sponsored by Mr. W. Bosshardt and his son Charles.

The programme included three films, the first of which — the EXPO Film — was particularly fascinating both for those who had actually visited the exhibition and for those who had been unable to enjoy that impressive and go-ahead expression of contemporary Swiss activity. The second film formed a pleasant contrast since it introduced the viewers to the Ticino, a Canton abundant in tradition made visible in beautiful romanesque churches like the one at Giornico and also expressed in the ancient crafts like loch-fishing.

The third film gave a wonderful and somewhat nostalgic account of Swiss agricultural development in the Valais. The evening ended on a more social note when members and friends met over a cup of tea and cakes in the canteen of the Winterthur Silk Mills. Altogether a very successful evening!

U.D.

AN APOLOGY

We wish to apologise for a mistake which occurred under "Forthcoming Events" in the last issue, when the Monthly Meeting of the SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY was announced for the 15th December. This is wrong; the date is the usual second Wednesday of the month, i.e. 8th December, and it will not clash with the Christmas Dinner of the CITY SWISS CLUB. We regret any inconvenience which may have been caused.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

The Swiss Observer is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will be the DOUBLE CHRISTMAS ISSUE, the only one in December. It will appear on 17th December. We shall be glad to receive all articles and reports by 3rd December. Only short news items can be accepted later.