

Departure of an old french friend of our colony

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SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB)

On 16th February, the Annual General Meeting of the "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club) took place at the Glendower Hotel, attended by 19 members. The Club, which despite the lack of premises of its own remains active with a Standing Committee, had 24 paid-up members at the end of 1967. At the AGM, four new members were admitted. The "Schweizerbund" will organise a "Fondue Evening" at the end of May and a Luncheon Outing in summer, thus increasing its social activities. The Committee, re-elected in full, comprises three officers: Mr. V. Berti (President), Mr. R. Asch (Vice-President and Hon. Treasurer), Mr. J. Schmid (Secretary). After all business was settled, the Club's members and friends enjoyed an excellent dinner.

J.S.

PERSONAL

We announce with deep regret the death of Mrs. G. Friberg, of 255 Kennington Road, S.E.11. She was 74 when she died on 23rd February. It was only in February last year that Mr. and Mrs. Friberg celebrated their Golden Wedding. We extend our sincere sympathy to the bereaved husband and family.

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We wish to congratulate one of our faithful readers, Monsieur René Faessler, at present Ambassador in New Delhi, on his appointment as Envoy Extraordinary and Ambassador Plenipotentiary to Sweden. Monsieur and Madame Faessler were at the London Embassy from 1954 to 1961 when he was appointed Ambassador to Bolivia and Peru. We wish him a successful and happy stay in Sweden.

BIRTHDAYS

We wish many happy returns to any reader whose birthday falls within the next fortnight, in particular to Mrs. A. V. Berti who will be 78 and Mr. F. Conrad who will be 72 on 15th March, to Dr. H. W. Egli whose birthday is on 17th and to Mr. R. Chappuis who will be 72 on the same day.

On 22nd March we shall remember an old stalwart of the Swiss Community, who died two years ago, the late Mr. A. F. Suter who would be 86.

We have just heard that our old friend Mr. Eugen Weber, now in U.S.A., celebrated his 72nd birthday on 12th February, Lincoln's birthday. Belatedly, we send best wishes to him and also to Mr. F. Gerber who celebrated his 19th birthday on 29th February, which should make him 76.

DEPARTURE OF AN OLD FRENCH FRIEND OF OUR COLONY

One of the most faithful participants at various Swiss functions in London for many years and chronicler of these events in his newspaper "Journal de Genève", Mr. Joseph Mennessier, has retired and departed to his home country, France. It is a great loss to the Colony who is so much indebted to him as a friendly observer and reporter. He will be particularly missed at the meetings of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique which he hardly ever failed to attend with his wife when the subject-matter warranted their presence. We wish them both a happy and long retirement.

E.

SWISS EVENING AT WIMBLEDON

The Swiss Evening of St. Teresa's Maternity Hospital, Wimbledon, held at the Dog and Fox Hotel, Wimbledon, on St. Valentine's Night, 14th February, is reported to have been most successful. A number of previous national evenings have been held by the Friends of the Hospital, in a series of attempts to raise the money required for the new building programme, and this year there was further pressure for funds owing to the withdrawal of National Health Service subsidies in 1967 after a dispute about the length of time nursing mothers should spend in hospital.

The Editor of this journal offered her assistance, and apart from making space available in a recent issue, was also responsible for introductions to many potential well-wishers among the Swiss Community in London, who came forward with a generosity unprecedented in the history of this function.

The Friends of St. Teresa are particularly anxious to convey their thanks to the Ambassador, who made a personal gift of a quantity of wine, and to his staff who were so helpful and some of whom attended the dance. The Embassy also made a magnificent gift of an enamelled clock and a number of dolls in national costume.

A number of other members of the community also came forward with gifts, prizes and donations. These included Mr. Solomon, Mr. and Mrs. B. O. Cogliatti, Mr. A. Kuhn, Mr. E. Bonvin of Kettners', Mr. P. S. Jacomelli of Valchera's, Mrs. M. Speckert, O. Bartholdi & Son, Swissair, Swiss Milk Products, Schweppes and Nestlé. The Swiss National Tourist Office provided a fine selection of posters with which the room was decorated.

Despite all this, the evening could not have succeeded as it did had the two hundred odd dancers not been entertained so well and for so long. After the first session of dancing, the Choir of the Unione Ticinese delighted their audience with a number of folk songs, traditional and more modern, sung with great gusto under the leadership of their accordionist. They were followed by the Trio Arnold Wachter, who sang and yodelled and told their stories to a most appreciative audience.

The band played on and dancing continued into the wee small hours. The irrepressible Shelagh Byfield continued to extract every last gasp of energy from all around her, and it appears that her efforts were rewarded to the tune of £170, by far the best result from a dance ever recorded by the Hospital.

D.M.N.

A LAST CHANCE

In recent issues we have recommended the special holiday offer by the Home for the Swiss Abroad at Duerenaesch in the Aargau. We have also published some glowing reports sent to us by fellow countrymen who took advantage of this incredibly generous offer and enjoyed a marvellous holiday in the homely centre situated in the peaceful countryside of the Canton of Aargau.

In early March and April, the home is fully occupied, but there is a last chance for anyone who would like to have a **fortnight's holiday from 18th March.**

Please apply immediately to Dr. E. Wiget, 1 Umbria Street, Roehampton, London S.W.15.