

News of the colony

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JOHN A. REIBER.

Recent congratulations were extended by the "Swiss Observer" to Mr. John August Reiber of 129 Bede-Burn Road, Jarrow, Co. Durham, on the occasion of his eighth re-election to the presidency of the Northumberland and Durham Women's Athletic Association and, further, his 21 years as chairman of the Jarrow Cycling and Athletics Club.

Born in Berne on 10th May 1888, he served an apprenticeship as "Patissier" in Bex-les-Bains, Canton Valais, and continued his employment in the same capacity in Montreux and Neuchâtel. Early in 1908 Mr. Reiber served in the "Rekrutenschule" in Berne, subsequently in the Unteroffizierschule in Liestal and then continued service in the "Rekrutenschule" in Berne.

In November 1908 the spirit of adventure and enterprise induced Mr. Reiber to travel to Manchester in England in the service of the Swiss firm of confectioners, 'Meng & Ecker'. In the years between 1908 and 1912 the towns of Southport, Leeds, Brighton and Margate saw a little of our Mr. Reiber. In 1912 Mr. Reiber travelled to Buenos Aires but returned to the British Isles in 1913 to work in Oban and Edinburgh.

At the outbreak of the First World-War he was recalled to the Swiss Army as an Infantry Corporal until November 1914, when he returned to Edinburgh. With the special permission of Lord Kitchener he was able to join the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders. Serving until the end of the war he attained the rank of Sergeant and distinguished his services with the award of the Military Medal. It is perhaps a coincidence that his son, in the Second World-War, attained a similar rank and achieved the identical distinction.

On release from H.M. Forces Mr. Reiber came to Jarrow in the County of Durham, met a lady of Swiss descent and married her early in 1919.

Mr. Reiber entered the employment of the Jarrow Co-operative Bakery, served for thirty-five years and retired in 1954 in the capacity of catering manager.

Having attained the aged of seventy, it is also of note to observe that Mr. Reiber will attain fifty years' membership with the Union Helvetia in January 1959.

He served fifteen years on Management Committee and nine years as Sports Secretary to Jarrow Conservative Club.

J.G.P.

NEWS OF THE COLONY.

M. WIESENDANGER
Chairman Swiss Economic Council

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Economic Council took place on Thursday, 12th June, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. Mr. M. Wiesendanger was in the Chair and there were twenty-five members present.

After the reading of the minutes by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Jules Zimmermann, the Chairman submitted his report concerning the activities of the Council for the last twelve months, and Mr. R. de Cintra, Hon. Treasurer, presented the accounts, which were accepted.

According to the rules four committee members were retiring, namely, Messrs. R. de Cintra, W. Deutsch, Ch. Fer and A. Renou; all were re-elected with the exception of Mr. Deutsch, who has resigned from the committee owing to his retirement from business.

Mr. J. J. Boos acted during the election for the committee as Chairman *pro tem*. He thanked the Chairman, Mr. M. Wiesendanger, and the members of the committee for the services they had rendered.

The following members of the Committee were unanimously re-elected:— Chairman, Mr. M. Wiesendanger; Vice-Chairmen, Ch. Fer and Mr. C. Vogeli; Hon. Secretary, Jules Zimmermann; Hon. Treasurer, R. de Cintra.

Mr. Wiesendanger, on resuming the Chair, thanked the members for the confidence they had shown in him by electing him again to office as Chairman. He welcomed two new members of the Council, Mr. Claus Nuescheler (Anglo-Swiss Food Products Ltd), and Mr. W. E. Bion (Bally's Aarau Shoe Co. Ltd.).

The Chairman made a full report concerning the "Swiss Fortnight", which is to be held from 6th to 17th October 1959, in London, Manchester and Glasgow, under the patronage of O.S.E.C. and the Swiss Economic Council, which was followed by animated discussion.

The meeting terminated at 7 p.m., and was followed by a Dinner, the guest of honour being Dr. Eric Mettler, chief correspondent of the "Neuer Zürcher Zeitung" and President of the Foreign Press Association; other guests were Dr. René Faessler,

Economic Counsellor at the Swiss Embassy, and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer".

Dr. Mettler related some of his experiences during a recent visit to Canada, and gave a very interesting exposé of the economic aspects and the financial problems with which the Canadian Government is at present faced.

This excellent talk was much appreciated and duly acknowledged by the Chairman.

ST.

PIANO RECITAL. Miss Ruth Huggenberg.

The first time I heard Miss Huggenberg was at a concert given by the Swiss Orchestral Society not long after her arrival in this country in 1946. Since then we have repeatedly had the pleasure of hearing her play on various occasions in the Colony. I have, I believe, been to all her recitals at Wigmore Hall, the last of which took place on 6th June. At every concert her steady progress was noticeable, but never more so than at this one.

She started with Schubert's Impromptu Op. 142 in F minor, No. 1, and followed it with his Sonata in A major, Op. posth. It was not, however, until she arrived at Schumann's Humoresque Op. 20 that I felt how very much her interpretation had matured. A new warm glow was breaking through her reserve which had sometimes in the past prevented her from expanding. This new aspect of her playing made her Schumann extremely delightful to listen to.

The second half of the concert was devoted to Brahms. She played three capricci and two intermezzi as well as the Rhapsody in E flat major, Op. 119. My personal favourite was this latter which Miss Huggenberg brought to life with all the seriousness and straightforward simplicity so characteristic of her art.

Though I did perhaps not appreciate her rendering of Schubert as much as it deserved I certainly loved his Moment Musical Op. 94 No. 3 which she played with an easy charm as one of her encores. Miss Huggenberg more than deserved the lovely flowers and the prolonged applause at the end of the evening, for she had given us a real treat. She has reached a point in her career as a pianist where she will become more widely known to the musical public in general. We Swiss in London may feel proud to count her as one of us and wish her every success in the future.

Mariann.

CONCERT NEWS.

We are informed by the "Worldfriends" organisation, that during their Sixth International Youth Fortnight, which is taking place from 11th to 25th July, an International Youth Cavalcade will be held on Saturday, 19th July, at 7.30 p.m. at Central Hall, Westminster.

The programme includes the famous Kurpfälzischer Fanfarenzug from Heidelberg, a group of young men in medieval costume, playing fanfares and doing a ceremonial flag-tossing on the march, the Vienna Children's Radio Choir and the Dinkelsbühl

Dancers (in traditional "Lederhosen" and Dirndl), the prizewinning Frenford Skiffle Group from the London Federation of Boys' Clubs, the Steadfast Sea Cadets Silver Band and Corps of Drums from Kingston-on-Thames, the Bielefeld Rhythmic Dance Group, a Swiss boy yodeller and the No. 1 Apprentice Wing Scottish Pipe Band from the Royal Air Force.

The "Swiss Boy Yodeller" mentioned is Master Jean-Michel Gandon, the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Gandon.

Tickets from 3/6 to 7/6 can be obtained from Mr. Julian Paleson, "Worldfriends", 308, Earls Court Road, London, S.W.5; telephone, FREmantle 7071.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The committee of the City Swiss Club wishes to draw the attention of members and friends to the "Thé Dansant" which will take place on Saturday, 5th July, at "The Compleat Angler", Marlow-on-Thames (Surrey). It is hoped that many members will attend with their families and friends.

PERSONAL.

We deeply regret to announce the passing away, on 6th June, of Mr. Simon Jeker, senior director of Messrs. Fenrise (1932) Ltd., of 28 Gorst Road, North Acton, N.W.10.

The deceased had been a member of the Swiss Mercantile Society since April 1906.



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