

# Recent deaths in Switzerland

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he had twenty-four English students staying with him at Yverdon, and many boys' schools, as for instance Cheam, were later founded under the influence of his teachings.

"Thus when, in 1944, Walter Robert Corti launched his appeal to our people for the creation of a village for suffering children, his suggestion was very much in line with Pestalozzi's teachings and example. It was meant as a tribute that Swiss people, having been spared the horrors of the world conflagration, could pay to the victims of the war-stricken nations of Europe, and also as a hopeful new link to bring them together in good comradeship and mutual understanding, an experiment "in European living", in a supranational community which still affirms the existence of national heritages, differences and peculiarities. It was Mr. Attlee who caused the following words to be inserted in the UNESCO Charter: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed", to which Dr. Corti adds that such an education has to start with the child, at an age when national, political and social prejudices are not yet ineradicably set.


"How greatly these villages are enriched since they have also included non-European children — the Tibetan and Korean refugees — and have thus fulfilled, beyond the purely educative plan, important tasks in development aid.

"I am glad to find that in Sedlescombe the name of Pestalozzi is as much venerated as his spirit is upheld — the name of Pestalozzi who, by the example of his life, demonstrated the perennial truth that it is possible to put an ideal into practice however great the obstacles if one is willing to pay the price in personal sacrifice."

It fell to André, a Russian boy and one of the first inmates of the British Village to thank Monsieur Daeniker. He was followed by a Polish girl in national costume, who presented flowers to Madame de Fischer. One of the Tibetan children, a charming little girl in native attire, then handed the Swiss Ambassador and Monsieur Daeniker a copy each of the story of the Battle of Hastings. This brought the official part to a close, and tea was served.

May it be a happy omen that the opening of the "Swiss Hall" practically coincides with the twentieth anniversary of the Village at Trogen, founded in the post-war years in the Canton of Appenzell.

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## RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Karl Bretscher (80), Berne, abroad for many years; from 1919 with the firm of Hasler A.G., Berne, where he became manager and was concerned with new discoveries in electrical communication techniques; awarded honorary doctorate by Berne University in 1951.

Dr. Theodor Biner (81), Zermatt, medical practitioner and Commune President.

Dr. Heinrich A. Spengler (71), Berne, former Vice-President of the Swiss Red Cross; became *Armeeapotheker* in 1946 with rank of Colonel.

Rudolf C. Horner (59), Basle, Deputy Manager of Sandoz A.G.

Charles Thévenaz (80), Lausanne, architect; designer of "Collège Classique Cantonal" and several buildings of the "Comptoir Suisse".

Hermann Amrhein (62), Engelberg; monastery forester; *Statthalter* of the Commune and for twelve years in the Obwalden Government.

Jakob Hugentobler (81), Frauenfeld, from 1925 to 1957 curator of Arenenberg Castle; awarded the cross of the French Legion of Honour for his writings on the Napoleonic family and their connection with Arenenberg.

Dr. Fritz Wiedmer (44), Spiez, *Forstmeister* of the Bernese Oberland.

Fritz Mueller (103), Ipsach/Bienne, farmer; oldest inhabitant of the Canton of Berne; for many years Commune Councillor.

Frau Hortense Kunz-Conrad (93), Berne, widow of the former Bernese *Regierungsrat* Gottfried Kunz; she did much work for prisoners and the wounded who came to Switzerland in the first world war.

Conrad Egger (66), Herisau, for forty years in charge of a building firm; Commune Councillor and for fourteen years in the Appenzell Government; Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army.

Dr. Gustav Meyer (69), Basle, Librarian at the University Library; brother of the late dialect writer Traugott Meyer.

Vittore Bianchi (91), Lignoretto, for forty-four years overseer of the estate and later museum of Vincenzo Vela whom he had known personally.

Prof. Georges Sauser (81), Geneva, lawyer, Professor at the Universities of Geneva, Lausanne, Neuchâtel and Istanbul; responsible for introducing the Swiss Civil Code in the new Turkey after the first world war.

Hilty von Allmen (31), Lauterbrunnen, well-known ski-instructor and mountain guide; killed in an avalanche in the Saluver Valley near St. Moritz; made one of the fastest traverses of the Eiger North face in 1961 (with U. Huerlemann); in spring 1963, he was the first to climb the North face of the Matterhorn in winter; member of the Aero Club and actively engaged in gliding.

Wilhelm Schmid (66), Burgdorf, *Musikdirektor*.

Walter Lang (69), Baden, well-known Swiss composer and pianist; from 1922-1941 teacher at the Zurich Conservatoire; member of the Lang-Trio; for six years pianist and conductor with Radio Lugano; leader of training classes in Basle, Berne and Zurich.

[A.T.S.]