News from the colony

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

THE SWISS CHURCH BAZAAR IS NEAR!

There is no need to introduce one of the most important Swiss events in Britain: the bi-annual bazaar organised by the Swiss Churches in London. This entertaining and family happening will begin on Saturday, 31st October at Westminster Central Hall at noon, when Madame René Keller will open the bazaar officially. From then on to 5 p.m. there will be time to enjoy cervelas, shubligs and sauerkraut, to meet friends and make new ones, to strike fantastic bargains and to bathe in a genuine and familiar Swiss atmosphere. Children are welcomed and will be looked after! An important point: if any readers or friends have books, toys, new clothing or other handy and negotiable articles they can dispense with, then they are greatly welcome to take them to the bazaar, where they will

readily find an appropriate stand. The Swiss Church Bazaar is a most important source of revenue for the Swiss churches in London. Let's hope that the record proceeds of the last bazaar, which topped the £1,500 mark, will be attained again and let's hope that all the Swiss of London and the Home Counties will be present in Central Hall next Saturday.

AND SO IS THE TIME FOR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS IN THE SWISS OBSERVER . . .

We shall as usual be presenting our readers' Christmas greetings in our December double-number. We hope to be able to reserve as many little personal "boxes" as in previous years and shall very shortly be sending "reminders" to all those readers and supporters who presented their greetings in the Swiss Observer last year. New Christmas well-wishers are welcome, needless to say, and should send us their names and addresses, together with a remittance of £2 by 25th November. We look forward to a general and swift response.

(PMB)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR Dear Mr. Beguin,

On the 6th October, at a meeting of the Yorkshire Swiss Club in Leeds, I mentioned that on page fifteen of the "Swiss Observer" (Issue No. 1596) dated 15th July, 1970, there was an article on Professor Jean Philippe Inebnit which, in my opinion, contained an unfortunate and misleading statement in respect of our Club. I quote below the remark in question:

"... On the contrary, he is one of the most devoted contributors to the organised life of the Swiss of Yorkshire and nobody over there denies that without his tireless efforts, the Yorkshire Swiss Club and Swiss activities in the North would probably not survive for long ... "

I am in no doubt whatsoever that our President would take a rather poor view of all of us if he had reason to believe that without him our organisation would fall apart. I feel that we will always have sufficient members who have the well-being of our Club at heart and I have been asked to contact you with the request that you officially rectify your statement. Perhaps this could best be done by publishing my letter in full. Yours sincerely, E. Berner.

> MR. J. R. GAECHTER'S FAREWELL

An unusually lively reception in the Dorchester's Park Suite gave members of the Colony and numerous diplomatic and Press personalities a chance to say good-bye to Mr. J. R. Gaechter, head of the economic services of the Embassy, who is leaving us after five years spent in London.

after five years spent in London. Mr. J. R. Gaechter was born in Oberriet, Saint Gall, in 1928. He studied economics at Geneva University and obtained a doctorate in America. He entered the Political Department in 1957. In 1959 he was in Paris and the following year back in Berne. From December 1960 to June 1965 he was successively third and second secretary at the Swiss Embassy in Cologne. He has been in London since July 1965, ending his assignment as head of the economic section of the Embassy. He is now off to Berne and the Political Department again, where he will be a deputy head of section in the Division for Western Political Affairs. With him go his wife and four children. We extend our most sincere wishes to Mr. Gaechter and his family, and hope that we will see them in London again one day.

