

A Tour at Geigy's

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called) this new arrival meant quite a change!

His first appearance in a Colony function was at the AGM of the Swiss Benevolent Society. Madame Thurnheer visited the Home for the Elderly Swiss on February 3rd and returned a month later. This gesture won her the immediate friendship of the Colony. The new ambassadors of our country were greeted in a festive way by 900 members of the Colony at a reception at the Dorchester Hotel on March 2nd.

At about the same time, the German-speaking half of the Swiss Church in London welcomed its new pastor, Pfarrer Stutz, who made a most moving introductory sermon at St. Anne's Church, Gresham Street, and was welcomed by Pasteur Pradervand.

So much for the life of the Colony. The late Editor, Mr. Alfred Stauffer, was a particularly alert reader of newspapers and managed to reproduce features on Switzerland coming from the most varied sources. The most important Swiss event of the day was the death of Federal Councillor Guiseppe Motta, who had been at the helm of Swiss Foreign Policy for over twenty years. The "Unione Ticinese" took the initiative of celebrating a requiem Mass for the rest of his soul at Westminster Cathedral. It was read by the Rev. A.

Lanfranchi. The Swiss Observer reproduced numerous retrospects of the deceased political leader, one of them came, of all papers, from the "Irish Independent". Leading journalists such as Léon Savary and Pierre Béguin filled many Swiss Observer columns in the past and the Editor visibly favoured the "Tribune de Genève" and the "Gazette de Lausanne". He found interesting articles on Switzerland in such publications as the "Economist", "Lancet", the "Glasgow Herald", the "Financial News" and many other periodicals in English. Arnold Dolmetsch, the celebrated Swiss musician, died in March and the Swiss Observer reproduced obituaries taken from the "Birmingham Post" and the "Catholic Herald".

A French-speaking Swiss, Marcel Pilet-Golaz, succeeded to Guiseppe Motta and this too was the subject of one or two lengthy editorials reproduced in the Swiss Observer. With the war, Swiss neutrality became more than ever a subject of debate and this was reflected by a series of at least four articles on the theme by political specialists, the longest one being a proper thesis on "Neutrality and its Critics" by Emile Cammaerts, taken from the March number of the "Contemporary Review".

A TOUR AT GEIGY'S

The day after my visit to the Clayton Aniline Company (see last issue) was misty and wet. This didn't discourage me from undertaking a long exploration of the centre of Manchester. When my feet were sufficiently worn and soaked, I hailed a taxi on the Piccadilly Pizza, and drove through the interminable sprawl of Manchester on my way to the premises of another important Swiss company in Great Britain.

The headquarters of Geigy (U.K.) Ltd. are in the pleasant Mancunian suburb of Heald Green, next to Manchester Airport. The buildings are very low and sprawl across a garden estate. They are fairly modern (they were bought from the British Rayon Research Association when Geigy moved over from the north of Manchester) and lie near to the Manchester plant of the Ferranti Company.

Mr. B. Simon, President of the Manchester Swiss Club and responsible for employee relations at Geigy's, kindly explained to me how his mammoth company operated.

Geigy employed 26,000 employees all over the world. Its main factories lay in Switzerland, in the USA and in Great Britain. The British Geigy facilities came in third position of importance and were centred at Heald Green, which housed the headquarters of most of the divisions of Geigy U.K. The actual production of Geigy in Great Britain could be divided into five divisions: agricul-

tural chemicals, dyestuffs and textile chemicals, industrial chemicals, pharmaceuticals and pigments. The company employed 3,000 people in Great Britain and, according to the prospectus, made a turnover of approximately £26 million in 1968. The main manufacturing centres were located at Trafford Park and Clayton in the Manchester area, and at Paisley in Scotland and at Macclesfield.

Mr. Simon explained that the bulk of dyestuff production was carried out at the Clayton Aniline Company (which is jointly owned with Ciba and Sandoz) and that Geigy also produced "pigments", which were not the same thing. Dyes are primarily used to colour the surface of threads and tissues whereas pigments are intimately linked to the substances they are intended to colour. Paints, inks and coloured plastics made use of pigments, whose most important factory in the Commonwealth was the Geigy plant at Hawkhead Road, Paisley. Among the so-called "industrial chemicals", Geigy produced the most sophisticated lubricating oils, such as those used in the engines of the "Concorde" airliner.

As we had to go to Bramhall and had about an hour and a half to spend, Mr. Simon suggested a drive towards Wilmslow and have a look at the Toxicology Department of the Pharmaceuticals Division and then drive on to the Hurdfield Estate above Macclesfield, where the ultra-modern pharma-

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