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then joined the board and became Managing Director. At a time when he might have thought of retiring he had to work even harder, for the untimely death of one of his co-directors Mr. Walter Meier left a serious gap. But with great energy and sense of duty he continued to direct the company until his retirement a few years ago. He was a shrewd business man of few words and with the wit and humour of his countrymen from the Appenzell. His knowledge of the non-ferrous metal trade was unequalled, and he was much respected in the City.

Mr. Baenziger joined the Swiss Mercantile Society in 1921 and he was a generous supporter of the Swiss Benevolent Society, the Swiss Observer and the Swiss Church.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

The following couples will be celebrating their wedding anniversaries: Mr. & Mrs. H. Suter on 22nd August (52nd), Mr. & Mrs. E. Zwicky on 28th August (51st), Mr. & Mrs. H. Humbel on 24th September (35th).

The following readers will have their birthdays soon: Mr. F. Good will be 73 on 15th and Mr. G. Godet (La Neuveville) 83 on 22nd August. Mr. C. Fairweather will have his 83rd birthday on 7th September, and Mr. J. G. Michel his 65th on 8th. Mr. P. B. Haberstick will be 74 on 9th September.

Mrs. N. Towers of 75 Albion Road, N.16, will have her 75th birthday on 10th September. On 18th of the month, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Jean de Stoutz, Swiss Embassy, Per Stopani, 2/5, Moscow, USSR, will be celebrating his 60th birthday.

On 20th September, Mrs. A. Boog will have her birthday, and on 23rd Mr. W. B. Sigerist (Territet, Vaud), will be 82. Mr. M. Rothlisberger will be 74 on 25th September, and Mr. O. Rohn 67 on 1st October. Mr. W. Burren will be 66 on 4th and Mr. H. Humbel 68 on 5th October. Mrs. H. Jenne (Andeer, Gr) will have her birthday on 9th October, the same day as Mr. P. Lehrian who will be 76. Madame B. de Fischer (Berne) will have her birthday on 10th October.

To all these and any other readers whose birthdays and anniversaries will take place in the same period, we send best wishes and congratulations.

THE DISTRESSING SACRIFICE TO MATERIAL THINGS

A reader from London, Mrs. E. Tober, has sent us the following comment following our rather severe appreciation of two of the films shown during the recent Swiss fortnight at the National Film Theatre.

I was surprised to read in your last but one issue your article about the Swiss film season at the NFT. Surely, there was no need to express your dislike of Soutter's *Les Arpenteurs* in such strong terms. This and the other film were, after

all, outside the usual run of films today – no display of copulation and no violence! You may not have liked them but it could have occurred to you that they might have appealed to some people.

I went to see two of the sessions. I admit the audience was sparse and many of them did walk out before the end. Such is the taste of today's public. I, however, as well as my English husband and teenage son, enjoyed the films very much. And for once I felt proud of my countrymen. Here are young people who have the courage to create something which they know will not be a box-office success and not appeal to the masses.

This is certainly a rare feature for the Swiss of today who have made money their god and whose ideals aim at quantity rather than at the quality of life. The materialism which exists today in Switzerland is indeed frightening. They sacrifice everything for money – more production, bigger exports, bigger profits, larger and more roads, heavier lorries, more cars, more foreign workers, etc., to achieve it. And the results are hidden by "clever" politicians and greedy capitalists!

This results in overpopulation leading to shortages of essentials such as water and electricity, over building on a restricted countryside, property speculation, pollution of lakes, rivers and the atmosphere, cutting down of forests, demolition of old buildings, overcrowding in schools and a breakdown of essential services such as the postal service and the hotel industry.

In short, a deterioration of the quality of life and an ecological breakdown!

Maybe this is why Mr. Tanner and Mr. Soutter could not show us the traditional images of Switzerland (as P.M.B. no doubt would have liked it) with its sparkling lakes and rivers, its quiet mountains and pretty villages. They are no more to be found! ... As for the film portraying the boredom of a Swiss family, it is not only true for the Swiss, but for millions of families all over the western world – because the "luxuries" we have "gained" cannot replace the things we have lost!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Next shoots at Bisley on Sundays 26th August and 7th October.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY, CITY SWISS CLUB, NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE – no meetings until September. **SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY** – no meeting until October.

CULTURAL NEWS

Switzerland will be prominently represented at the forthcoming Edinburgh Festival. Herewith a list of events featuring Swiss artists:

Monday, August 20th – Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, 11 a.m. – The soprano *Edith Mathis*, accompanied on the piano by her husband

Bernhard Klee, sings Lieder by Mozart, Debussy and Brahms.

Wednesday, August 22nd – Usher Hall, Edinburgh, 8 p.m. – Performance of *The Soldier's Tale* by Stravinsky/Ramuz (English Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Daniel Barenboim; speaker: Peter Ustinov).

Swiss Churches

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h15 et 19h00.

PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

SAINTE-CENE: le premier et troisième 18h00. **REUNION DE QUARTIER:** huit veillées en automne et au printemps: voir "Le Messager".

CLUB DES JEUNES: tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNION DE COUTURE: le 2e mardi du mois. **LUNCH,** tous les dimanches à 13h00.

VISITES: sur demande.

PASTEUR: A. Nicod, 8 Park View Road, London, N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 2HA.

Sundays: Holy Mass at 6.30 p.m. with sermon in German, in the Club hall, ground floor.

(2nd floor at the same time, Protestant service in German).

CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS: by appointment.

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2, on Sundays, 10.00, 11.00, 12.15, and 6.30 p.m.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB: Open every Sunday from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. (48 Great Peter Street). Discussions, dance, lectures (with members of other denominations), Sunday services and refreshments. See programme "Die Stimme."

During the week: open according to programme of the English Youth Club.

RESIDENCE OF CHAPLAIN: Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street, (2nd floor), London SW1P 2HA. Telephone: 01-222 2895.

SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2, every Sunday at 9.45 a.m. Sunday school takes place on the first and the third Sunday in the month for children of all age groups. Children assemble in the church with their parents who attend the normal Service. Liturgical Service takes place every second Sunday in the month. Services also at John Southworth Centre, 48 Gt. Peter Street, S.W.1 every Sunday at 6.30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION: every first Sunday of the month at evening service at John Southworth Centre. Every second Sunday of the month at morning Services at Eglise Suisse. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

CONSULTATIONS: every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

DISTRICT GROUP S.E.21 and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON: see "Stimme."

"KONTAKT" (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 7 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: every first Tuesday of the month from 12 noon onwards at the Eglise Suisse.

MOTHER'S REUNION: third Wednesday in the month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Eglise Suisse.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTERS: Pfr. U. Stefan, 1, Womersley Road, N.8. Tel: 01-340 9740.