

Birthdays and anniversaries

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ALICE HALL

We regret to learn of the sudden passing away of Mrs. Alice Hall (69), wife of Dr. James Hall of Duddingston (Edinburgh), on 12th September, 1976. Mrs. Hall was very much involved with her Swiss compatriots, when living in Shotts with the West of Scotland Swiss Community and more recently in Edinburgh. She was involved in many social, cultural and welfare activities. We express our deepest sympathy to her family and friends and will miss Alice Hall for her love, warmth, sincerity and happy nature.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

November seems to be a rather empty month with regard to birthdays and anniversaries known to us. On 6th of the month, Dr. and Mrs. H. W. Egli will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary, and 23rd November is the birthday of Selma Egli.

CONSUL HOFSTETTER 80 YEARS OLD

Consul Ernst Hofstetter, retired, recently celebrated his 80th birthday in fine spirits at his lovely home in Drymen near Loch Lomond. He was Consular Agent and honorary Consul from 1934 to 1959 and in this quarter-century has been able to help many of his countrymen in Scotland and retain good relationship with cultural and political departments in this country.

He was director of a dyehouse in Balloch for many years (being posted to Balloch in 1932 by a Swiss firm) from which job he retired in 1961.

We wish him many years of health and happiness and thank him for the support he so willingly gave all those in need.

Congratulations and best wishes, also to any other readers who will be celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the month to come.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT BASLE'S ZOO

That was the title of an extremely interesting talk given by Prof. Dr. E. M. Lang, Director of the Basle Zoological Gardens. Prof. Lang is a veterinary surgeon by profession and an experienced zoologist. He has been in charge of the Basle Zoo since 1953 and has written several books, amongst them one on a baby gorilla he and his family reared like a child.

His love of animals and his great understanding came fully to the fore in his talk on 8th July, 1976, when he addressed the *Nouvelle Société Helvétique* in London. The meeting was held at the Swiss Embassy at the height of the heat wave. But any discomfort one might have felt was more than compensated by the superb coloured slides ably and interestingly commented upon by Prof. Lang.

The pictures and his talk clearly showed that breeding successes at the Basle Zoo are justly famous all over the world. The photos not only showed beautiful birds like flamingos of which there are many different kinds, but also how huge baby elephants (African and Indian) and a newly-born pigmy hippo are weighed at birth. There were fascinat-

ing pictures of orang-utans and gorillas, so very much like human beings. One was shown slides of animals with strangely sounding names like the douc langur and the Komodo dragon. The African ostrich and its habits were as interesting as the more familiar zebra and the Somali wild ass. One saw the antics of the colobus monkey and the graceful bongo antelope. And then there were the Indian two-horned rhinos.

The Basle Zoo was opened on 3rd July, 1874, and it has been famous ever since, but especially so since its successful breeding efforts. In 1956, the first unicorn rhino was born in a zoo, and two years later the first flamingo hatching took place in an European zoo. These events were followed in 1959 by the birth of Goma, the first gorilla bred in Europe (Prof. Lang's book on Goma was published some years ago). An okapi (partially striped Central African ruminant) was born in 1960, and in 1971, the first gorilla of the second zoo-generation was born in Basle.

The talk by Prof. Lang and the fine selection of his slides showed just how well-deserved the reputation is which the Basle Zoo enjoys all over the world.

MM

PASTOR ULI STEFAN LEAVES LONDON'S SWISS CHURCH

A great many compatriots from both Swiss Protestant parishes gathered at the Church in Endell Street on Sunday, 19th September to hear Pastor Uli Stefan preach from its pulpit for the last time. After a ministry of 11 years in London, Pastor Stefan and his wife Ursula are leaving for Zürich where they will take a course at the Jung Institute of Psychology.

The service was held in three languages. The opening liturgy was said in German by Pastor Jungi, Mr. Stefan's successor, who then delivered his sermon in English. The new minister of the French-speaking Parish, the Reverend Frank Orna-Ornstein then celebrated Communion with the help of Mr. Claude Godray, a student at the evangelical

college of Emmaus (Vaud) who had assisted the French-speaking minister during the summer.

Uli Stefan's sermon was centred on the theme of God's call and the necessity of sometimes having to leave one's country to accomplish one's destiny and purpose in God's plan. Mr. Stefan referred to Abraham's calling. He drew some parallels with the mission of Swiss citizens abroad. But he said something very useful which is surely likely to comfort the Swiss abroad who might suffer from home-sickness.

Talking about the meaning of a "home", he said that home should not only be understood in the geographical sense. Home, he said, is where one is



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