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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

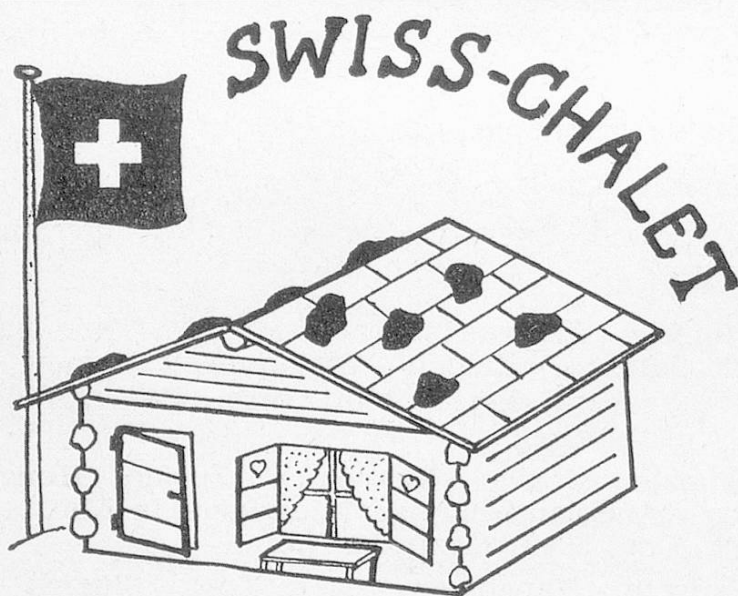
AFFILIATED AND NON-AFFILIATED CLUBS

Sir,—We were disappointed to read in the minutes of the annual meeting of the Swiss Society a statement about the Taranaki Swiss Social Club, made by Mr Moser. We quote: "Mr Moser, President of the Christchurch Swiss Club, wished to put on record that it is very regrettable indeed that the Taranaki Swiss Social Club should act as an outsider by not being affiliated to the Society and it is hoped that they may realise this and act accordingly".

We have given considerable thought over the years to affiliating to the Swiss Society whose aims and objects as a benevolent society we heartily endorse, and feel that there is a real need for the Swiss Society to exist as such.

Membership to the Taranaki Swiss Social Club, Mr Moser, consists of a life membership fee of \$2, and all members must be of Swiss descent. The Club has a membership of over 300.

If the Club was to affiliate to the Swiss Society it would mean that we would have to have an annual subscription which would probably result in the Club membership dropping to less than 100. Alternatively the Club could pay the affiliation fee for each member; however, this would be too large a financial burden for the Club. We feel that the Swiss Society would not as a benevolent



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society wish us to become affiliated with the result that there would be a severe reduction in members of our Club.

At present the number of individual subscriptions to the Swiss Society and Helvetia from members of the Taranaki Swiss Social Club compares favourably with those contributed by clubs affiliated.

We would like you, Mr Moser, to withdraw this statement, and give us an apology accordingly. In the meantime we will continue to support the Swiss Society as a benevolent society.

TARANAKI SWISS SOCIAL CLUB.

HEDY'S CORNER

Very frequently one reads in the newspapers about the excellent work done by such organisations as those for the blind, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, paraplegics, etc.

However, there are two bodies which I have not ever seen mentioned in the newspapers; they are the New Zealand Asthma Society and 'Medic Alert'. (Of course I do not read every newspaper in this country!) There may be compatriots however to whom these societies would be very useful.

The Asthma Society — and nearly everyone of us knows of someone at least who suffers from this distressing complaint — does wonderful work. Their bi-monthly publication gives a wealth of information about research progress, new methods, the organising of children's camps and suchlike. Furthermore, there are always articles by the medical profession about this complaint. Once in a while meetings are arranged for sufferers and/or next of kin, where lectures of great interest are given by specialists and people may ask questions. The Society lists its objects thus: Acquiring accurate information on incidents of asthma in New Zealand. To gather knowledge of treatments and research carried out in other countries. To publish this information to members. To establish research in New Zealand. To provide practical assistance to asthmatics. There is a small annual subscription. For details write to either N.Z. Asthma Society, P.O. Box 35102, Wellington, or P.O. Box 27124, Auckland 4.

The N.Z. Medic Alert is invaluable for anyone with a chronic complaint who would be in danger of threat to life in case of being unable to personally give information to the doctor (i.e. unconsciousness, shock, delirious insulin shock). Diabetics, heart patients, epileptics and hosts of other chronically ill people may write to Medic Alert, P.O. Box 40028, Upper Hutt, for information. You either may wear a metal disc on chain or bracelet. On the disc vital information as to your complaint and medication is set out. Information of life-endangering allergies is also engraved on the disc. It can be a life saver. Such identification makes for peace of mind.

—H.B.