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Hedy's Corner

OLD AGE

At fairly frequent intervals one finds articles of constructive advice about preparing for retirement age. We are urged to find out what we are really interested in, what our dreamed-of realised hobbies would be, because these are the years when we have time for all the things we longed to do, but lacked the leisure time: perhaps travel, read books, join some club or society, arts and crafts, concerts etc. Excellent advice as far as it goes, however all these articles have forgotten to add the word 'BUT'.

. . . but we have to be at least in reasonable health in those parts of our body which are to serve our hobby.

Travel? BUT my health is not stable enough. Read books? BUT my eyes have developed diseases of age. Arts and crafts? BUT my arthritic hands will not serve me. Join a society or club? BUT my chronic complaint leaves me too listless. Concerts, light entertainments and shows? BUT my ears are getting deaf.

And so one could go on with the reverse side of the "Golden Years."

Of course these days medical science has the means of pushing our age beyond the biblical three scores and ten. Not all the array of pills and potions are without side effects although they give us relief from the specific complaint.

All this sounds like the 'non plus ultra' of pessimism which also is

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bad for our health!

To my mind we must bear the little word 'BUT' in mind together with a preparedness to re-adapt. There are many staggeringly and shiningly examples of what victories the human mind can achieve in overcoming adversities in ill-health.

There are groups of trained people, their aim to assist with our specific problem. There are many societies where we can find understanding and companionship. There are groups 'in the wings of life' as it were, which also can give a meaning to our problems and constructiveness.

The word BUT need not be printed large, but, in small letters should be tucked away in a corner of our minds not negatively but to make it easier to adapt. The saying that "you cannot teach new tricks to old dogs" is wrong. Old dogs CAN still teach themselves!

A Summary of the Founding of the Swiss Clubs in N.Z. and Other Related Events.

By Walter Risi

(Continued from January)

Before going on with the Manaia Golden Jubilee Festival in 1932 I would like to mention an outstanding event which took place toward the end of 1913 when 17 new arrivals from Central Switzerland arrived and enlivened the scene of the colony. The people who arrived were: Arnold Engelberger, Remigi Niederberger, Alois Kaeslin, Werner Frank, Franz Odermatt, Louis Mathis, Jack Scheuber, Paul Zimmermann, Fidel Zimmermann, who came from Nidwalden; Marie Schuler, who became Mrs Alex Kaelin, Johanna Schorne, Mrs Paul Zimmermann, Joe Tschuemperlin (Joe Chamberlain) from Kt. Schwyz and Bahny Brunold, Joe Fischer and Jakob Ruetimann, from other parts of Switzerland. Marty Beeler was on a visit to Switzerland and acted as the group leader on the journey. Kaspar Hermann arrived on his own a year earlier.

Five years before, Fred Sattler arrived and enticed his widowed mother and five sisters to come out and they became Mrs Rosa Engelbeger, Mrs Josphine Werder, Mrs Emilie Corkill, Mrs Paulin Rogers (now Mrs Byrne). Kathrina died single at an early age. Fred Sattler married Miss Mary Byrne, eldest daughter of Mr Jim Byrne, one of the early settlers from Ireland.

It was really the war years which stopped the flow of immigrants temporarily but in 1919 Len Chamberlain arrived to be with his brothers Dominik who came as early as 1905 with Xaver Holdener and his other brother Joe, who arrived in 1913.

On 20th August, 1920 a new group arrived, only to enforce the earlier arrivals. Miss Anna Blattler, who married John Schumacher,