

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

**Band:** - (1935)

**Heft:** 690

**Rubrik:** Home news

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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595.

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 14—No. 690

LONDON, JANUARY 12, 1935.

PRICE 3d.

## PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM	{ 3 Months (12 issues. post free) : 3/6
AND COLONIES	{ 6 " " 6/6
	{ 12 " " 12/-
SWITZERLAND	{ 6 Months (26 issues. post free) : Frs. 7.50
	{ 12 " " 14.—

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto Basle V 5718).



## HOME NEWS

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland and Tribune de Genève).

### FEDERAL.

#### BRITISH MINISTER ENTERTAINED BY THE SWISS GOVERNMENT.

Sir Howard William Kennard, who is leaving Berne to become Ambassador at Warsaw, was the guest of honour at a luncheon given by the Federal Council. The function took place at the "Frischingpalais" which has recently been given to the Confederation, by the late Emmanuel de Watteville. The diplomatic Corps was present in *corporo*, and a souvenir was handed over to the departing diplomat, by the French Ambassador, on behalf of his colleagues.

#### MILITARY PROMOTIONS.

Lieutenant-colonel Paul Wacker from Basle, and Major Marius Corbat from Veudlinecourt, both members of the Federal Instruction Corps have been appointed members of the General Staff.

#### SWISS FILM BID.

With the formation in Berne of Progress Film A.G., a new company starts a production career which bids fair to exercise an influence on the international film market.

Films of world-wide instead of merely domestic interest are to be made and a start is planned with "The Eternal Mask" a study in insanity and the battle between life and death.

An all-Swiss cast and production line up has been assembled.

#### SKIING CONDITIONS IN SWITZERLAND.

Conditions for winter sports have further improved during the past days as from 12 in. to 24 in. of snow have fallen above the 3,000ft. level. Above that height snow is from 2ft. to 3ft. deep and powdery, so that conditions for skiing are excellent in all the Swiss resorts. Although the temperature is not very low — from 31deg. to 17deg. Fahrenheit — skating is good everywhere.

#### HOSPITAL CARS OF THE SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAY.

The Hospital cars of the Swiss Federal Railways are veritable hospitals on wheels. The section for the sick passengers occupies the centre of the car; adjoining on either side are a room for the physicians, two compartments for nurses and other persons accompanying the patients, an electric kitchen with refrigeration and other equipment and medicine cabinets, linen closets, etc. are other conveniences.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

Dr. Scherrer, formerly rector of the "Lehrerseminar" in Küsnacht has died at the age of 81. Dr. Scherrer was a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Zurich; in the army he reached the rank of a colonel of artillery.

\* \* \*

Dr. Ed. Monnier, a well-known surgeon, and head of the surgical section of the childrens' hospital in Zurich, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary.

#### BERNE.

The death occurred in Berne of M. F. Hürzeler, Manager of the "Gewerbekasse," at the age of 74.

#### BASLE.

Dr. Karl Langbein, has been elected rector of the "Knabenprimarschule" in Basle, in succession to Dr. F. Holzach, who recently resigned from his post.

Dr. Langbein was born in Basle in 1893 and was for many years a teacher at the "Mädchen-gymnasium."

The death is reported of Dr. Hans Völlmy at the age of 70. Dr. Völlmy was President of the Appeal Court in Basle and a member of the Grand Council over which he, at one time, presided.

\* \* \*

From Richen comes the news of the passing away of Dr. Rud. Metzner for 29 years Professor of Medicine at the University of Basle.

\* \* \*

The cantonal government has appointed M. E. Müry-Dietschy as President of the Basle "Mustermesse" in succession to the late M. Aemmer.

#### AARAU.

Landammann Xaver Stalder has tendered his resignation as a member of the cantonal government, for reasons of health. M. Stalder entered the cantonal government in 1914, he is 67 years of age.

#### ST. GALLEN.

During the last year an amount of altogether 910,663 frs. has been bequeathed by various donors for charitable purposes, or nearly 500,000 frs. more than in 1933.

\* \* \*

M. Max Müller-Koller, senior partner in the firm of Müller-Staub, Söhne has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. M. Müller is Vice-Chairman of the Federal Bank and a director of the Escher-Wyss, A.G.; the "Vereinigten Zürcher-Molkereien," etc., etc.

#### GRISONI.

With the death of Pater Maurus Carnot, at the age of 70, the canton of Grisons loses one of its most distinguished writers. Pater Carnot was born in 1865 at Samnaun (Grisons), he entered the cloister of Disentis in 1885 and was for over 50 years a teacher at the convent school. He was the author of numerous novels and plays, as well as the editor of the "Il Pelegrin."

\* \* \*

The Davos section of the Swiss Alpine Club has decided to equip Kesch Hut, 8,655 a/s, on Piz Kesch, with a telephone. Practically all the important points of view in the vicinity of Davos can now be reached by telephone. This includes the hostelry on the top of the Weissfluh, 9,337 feet a/s, the Parsenn Hut, 7,349 feet a/s, also the upper stations and restaurants of the popular new Davos-Parsenn cable railway. Skiers running down the Parsenn-Prättigau routes find telephones at various rest points. Telephone service is also available on the Strela Pass, in the new Vereina House, on the Silvretta and other famous haunts in the Davos-Klosters mountain region.

\* \* \*

The new skating rink pavilion at Davos was inaugurated recently and spells the last word in modern conveniences and equipment. It is a truly palatial structure, solidly built of native fir, which in the Davos climate lasts almost forever. The surface of the outward walls is an intricate scale of hundreds of thousands of small shingles of yellowish tinged wood and the whole exterior presents a striking individuality. The name Davos appears twice and the initials I.S.C.D. (International Skating Club, Davos) once on the facade in large letters of red eternite, the same material being used for a huge clock-dial and its hands, and for a time-indicator facing the ice-hockey stadium. The latter will show the timing of the periods of the game in progress. In the interior there is unobtrusive beauty everywhere.

#### VAUD.

M. Paul Perret, has been elected President of the cantonal government for the year 1935.

#### VÁLAIS.

A banquet in honour of M. Couchebin, the newly elected President of the Federal Tribunal was held at Martigny on Sunday last. Members of the cantonal government and the town authorities attended in great numbers.

#### TICINO.

Owing to the continued illness of Bishop Bacciarini in Lugano, the Pope has appointed Monsignore Alfredo Noseda, for many years a priest in Morbio Inferiore, to act as Apostolical administrator of the canton of Ticino.

#### CESAR ROUX †.

By the death of César Roux at Lausanne on December 21st, at the age of 77 years, international surgery loses one of its most remarkable figures. Born in 1857 at Mont-la-Ville in the Jura, Roux remained all his life a Vaudois in speech and sympathies. He learned his surgery under Theodor Kocher at Berne and soon came to excel his master in speed and ingenuity. At the age of 30 he was placed in charge of the surgical service at the Lausanne Hospital and five years later became professor of surgery in the University. Though he wrote almost nothing he was a great innovator in surgical technique, and Lausanne soon became a place of surgical pilgrimage. Behind this professional achievement was a human being of singular attraction. "Though almost dwarf in stature," writes one of his old pupils, "César Roux had a tremendous personality. His great dexterity, shrewdness, and above all his innate kindness, inspired unbounded affection and admiration in those who were fortunate to know him; though his devoted assistant and students could be rooted with terror at his scathing tongue. His energy was amazing: he taught daily for two hours at 7 a.m. in summer and 8 a.m. in winter to a packed audience in the demonstration theatre. His essentially practical teaching was hampered by a system whereby the ward work was almost entirely post-graduate. From the students Roux expected common sense and common observation; the man with extensive text-book knowledge but devoid of the principles of clinical examination was apt to have a bad time when first called in to examine a case in the theatre. And Roux's teaching was not a thing to be forgotten. He used to enrich our poor experience with Rabelaisian anecdotes, with chalked diagrams which seemed to grow in the round, and with a magnificent opportunism. One night the electricity of the whole town failed; next morning at 8 we were shown the living remnant of the workman who shorted the circuit."

He was firm and gentle with all patients, reserving his irritation for his assistants — whose efficiency was in fact normal. Roux was himself fearless, honest, and quite intolerant of meanness; it is said that when a distinguished colleague who called him in consultation to Paris suggested sharing his fee Roux agreed at once, adding that his railway fare was 50 francs and his fee 5. A casual acquaintance, meeting him in the street and angling for a free consultation, was told to close her eyes and open her mouth, when Roux slipped away and left her gaping on the main bridge of Lausanne. His home was entirely pleasant to visit; his wife, a fellow-student from Berne — one of many expatriated Russian Jewish intellectuals — was an admirable hostess. There were two brilliant daughters, a physicist and a surgeon, a former much-abused assistant. Roux's thick silvery hair, big moustache, and spectacles made him look like a fierce helpful gnome from Grimm's fairy-tales. His picture in the municipal art gallery showed a younger man with fiery red hair. He had been an energetic reformer and came at last under the ban of one of his own reforms, retiring when his abilities were still at their height and no one could wish him to go. The final loss of this shrewd and lovable little man, with his sharply intelligent mind and his peasant dialect, impossible to follow exactly yet so vividly expressive, is mitigated only by the fact that he has long become a heroic legend."

*Lancet.*

#### CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 1935

for the

#### DINNER AND DANCE

at the

MAY FAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.