

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: - (1940)

Heft: 954

Rubrik: News at random

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 16.09.2025

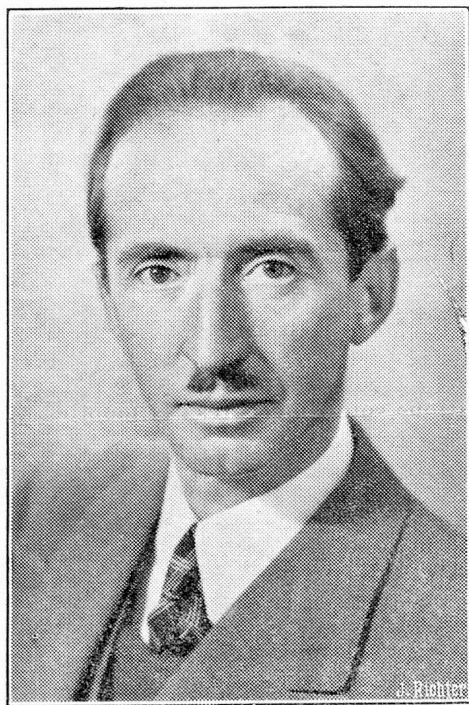
ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Le Comité

Heavy losses have been incurred by a Geneva bank and private industrialists through defalcations. A clerk, F. J. Wasesca, said to hail from the Grisons, managed to multiply the amount of bank drafts by occasionally adding a zero and doctoring the written figure. 120 so enriched drafts have so far been discovered and the amount involved is in the neighbourhood of a million francs.

* * *

A learner, in charge of a petrol tank lorry, lost control of his vehicle when descending the steep incline leading into Ursy, near Romont. The lorry came to a standstill in a carpenters' shop and the escaping petrol caught fire destroying the whole of the building; the driver perished in the flames.



The new Federal Councillor Dr. Enrico Celio was born on June 19th, 1889, at Ambri. After absolving the local schools and the College at Balerna he completed his early education with the jesuits at Milan and the benedictins at Einsiedeln, at the same time as Federal Councillor Etter. He studied literature and law at the universities of Milan, Florence and Fribourg. Returning home, Dr. Celio was entrusted with the editorship of the catholic-conservative "Popolo e Libertà." In 1924 he was for the first time elected a member of the National Council but in 1932 he had to relinquish his seat on being chosen — in succession to Cattori — president of the Ticinese Government as the cantonal constitution forbids contemporaneous membership of the Federal Parliament.

Drink delicious "Ovaltine"
at every meal—for Health!

Telephone:
MUSEUM 2982

Telegrams
FOYSUISSE LONDON

FOYER SUISSE

12, BEDFORD WAY,
RUSSELL SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1.

Quiet position in centre of London.

Central heating and hot & cold water throughout.

Continental cooking.

Single rooms with running hot and cold water including heating and bath from 27/- per week.

Management: SCHWEIZER VERBAND VOLKSDIENST.

A NOTABLE BICENTENARY.

(Little notice was taken in the Swiss press of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Dr. H. B. de Saussure. A number of laudatory articles appeared in English papers; the first one reproduced here is from "Nature" (17.2.40) and the description of the ascent of Mont Blanc is taken from "The Manchester Evening News" (19.2.40).)

On February 17th occurs the bicentenary of the birth of the celebrated Swiss naturalist and geologist Horace Bénédicte de Saussure. He was born at Conches, near Geneva, in which city he passed most of his life and in which he died on January 22nd, 1799. As a boy he was a diligent collector of plants and minerals, being stimulated in his studies by his uncle, the naturalist Charles Bonnet (1720-93). At the age of twenty he made his first tour to the glacier of Chamonix, an excursion regarded generally as dangerous. This was the beginning of his many journeys in the Western Alps and his travels in England, Germany, Sicily and Italy. At the age of twenty-two he was given the chair of physics and philosophy at the Academy of Geneva, and this post he held until 1786 when he resigned and was succeeded by his pupil Marc-Auguste Pictet (1752-1825). Among his earliest writings was a volume on electricity published in 1766. Year by year he extended his knowledge of the Alps, and in 1787 on August 2nd with Michel Cachet he ascended Mont Blanc. The first Englishman to make the ascent, Mark Beaufoy (1764-1827), reached the summit a week later. In 1788 Saussure spent about a fortnight on Col du Géant and between 1789 and 1792 climbed Monte Rosa, the Breithorn, and other mountains. The upheaval in Switzerland due to the revolutionary movement in France drew him for a time into political life, but in 1794 most of his activities were brought to an end by a stroke of paralysis. From this he never really recovered.

Saussure's great work "Travels in the Alps 1779-1786" was described by von Zittel as a model of clear language, exact observation and cautious reasoning. His "glowing descriptions of the Alpine world removed the prejudice against the 'Montagnes Maudites', and awakened a feeling of enthusiasm for the infinite wonderland of beauty and delight in the higher altitudes of the Alps. Apart from his achievements