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GUY DE POURTALES †.

On June 12th, Guy de Pourtalès died at Montana, 57 years of age. The activities of this brilliant writer, who came of an old Neuchâtel family were in the sphere of European literature. Born in Germany he was connected with Wagner and the Wagnerian circle. From there he went to Paris, musically developed, and as an officer he fought in the last great war. Then came his biographies of Liszt, Chopin, Wagner and Ludwig II., which seem to be built on a musical plan, somewhat hiding their fine psychological background. In 1937 Pourtalès received the Grand prix de roman de l'Académie française for his book "La pêche miraculeuse."

Here, as in his enchanting book "Contes du Milieu du Monde," he breaks away from biographic writing to develop his wonderful talent for narrative. It was the painting of Conrad Witz in Geneva which inspired his title "Wunderbaren Fischfang." His writings of the people and scenery along the lake of Geneva, about the puritans and eccentrics show his great and intimate knowledge of French-speaking Switzerland. "Gaspard des Fontaines," the story of the banker's son from Berne is one of the merriest of Bernese tales.

At that very moment when all the world wanted to call out to that fine and delicately ironical narrator: "More of your enchanting and happy 'Contes du Milieu du Monde'," the tie which linked him to us was broken. The most noteworthy thing, however, is that Guy de Pourtalès who is a Swiss, became even more profoundly Swiss in his books: "A Swiss away from his country, to whom the magic springs of his homeland sang a simple and much-beloved song."

LETTER BOX.

E. B. Nairobi. — Many thanks for your lines of May 30th. You will probably have gathered by now that for the present we are going to press once a month only and that the subscriptions rates have been doubled. Your own will expire with No. 1001. We have noted with great pleasure the addresses of the three new subscribers; their subscriptions becomes due again with No. 1018. As there seem to be quite a number of our compatriots residing in your district we surmise there are also a number of flourishing Swiss Clubs and we should be delighted to publish some news from this Swiss corner of the world.

J. J. — Many thanks for the "Baseldütsch" which we should like to print but we fear that the English censor has not deemed it necessary to make himself conversant with this dialect.

A. L. B. — The Swiss Radio programmes are mostly out of date when they reach our office and it seems hardly worth our while to extract items of interest to the London Colony in view of the unsatisfactory reception generally experienced in this country. The Swiss transmissions work on the short-wave band which is not included in the ordinary wireless set so far sold in this country.

DONATIONS.

We are again indebted to the following subscribers who have kindly added to the fixed subscription rate various amounts towards increased cost of production:— F. Kung, C. Rutz, Louis Musy, Mrs. H. Ellison, O. Frei, W. Beckmann, H. Schwander, Miss A. Hohlfeld, Miss A. L. Borel.

CORRESPONDENCE.

27th June, 1941.

Mr. P. F. Boehringer,
23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

As you know I am a regular subscriber to your "Swiss Observer," and I appreciate your paper.

I am also a regular listener-in to the "Schweizerische Landessender" news service. I am not very elated about the choice of news items my compatriots are — for some time past — forced to listen to as it is mainly Axis dope. Is it because, as I read in the "Times" some time ago, Berlin had made representations to the Swiss Government about their radio news not being enough "Axis" and "New Order?" For instance, the Swiss Radio, last night in their 7.30 p.m. service, gave the following items, originating:—

<i>Axis etc.</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Allies & U.S.A.</i>
8 from Berlin	1 from Rio	1 from London
4 " Vichy		
3 " Rome	1 " Buenos A.	1 " New York
1 " Madrid		
16	2	2

His Excellency, the Swiss Minister, might point out to our Government that some Swiss living abroad are not very impressed with such a one sided conduct of giving news to their compatriots at home.

Yours faithfully,

J. D. BERNOULLI.

* * *

2nd July, 1941.

Dear Mr. Boehringer,

I am so glad to see that you are through all the present difficulties, still able to publish "The Swiss Observer," in these times, surely a great task and cause of anxiety.

I am convinced, that every Swiss will do his bit, however small the contribution, to help you with your good work, of keeping the Swiss Colony together.

Please accept the enclosed cheque with best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) H. Ellison.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, August 2nd at 2 p.m. — Swiss National Day Celebration at Central Hall, Westminster, S.W.1.

Sunday, August 3rd, at 11 p.m. — Bilingual Thanksgiving Service at Eglise Suisse, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

Sunday, August 3rd, at noon. — Low Mass and Sermon at St. Peter and St. Edward, 43, Palace Street, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Wednesday, August 13th, at 7 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Monthly Meeting — at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, August 16th. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique. In lieu of Monthly Meeting visit to "Sunshine Home" for blind babies at East Grinstead.

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