

**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:** - (1941)  
**Heft:** 992  
  
**Rubrik:** Swiss Convent in London

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## SWISS CONVENT IN LONDON.

Few of our compatriots, even Catholics, are aware that in the fashionable district of Hampstead, only a few hundred yards from *Swiss Cottage Station*, a *Swiss Convent*, controlled and staffed by Swiss Nuns, has been in existence for just over three years.

The Nuns are Sisters of the Holy Cross order whose mother house is at Ingenbohl (Schwyz). The Convent was primarily installed as a hostel and boarding establishment for young Swiss ladies, studying at Colleges, University or other centres in the London Metropolis.

The house, No. 3, Fitzjohn Avenue, N.W.1, previously the residence and studio of the famous Hungarian artist, De Laslo has spacious rooms and gardens and is ideally situated for such a purpose. The outbreak of war and consequent absence of Swiss students, has unfortunately compelled the sisters to open their house to boarders other than Swiss, and it is a compliment to the Sisters that the present guests, drawn from the professional and higher civil service class are highly satisfied with their hosts and surroundings.

The one time studio, attached to the Convent is now used as a temporary church, dedicated in honour of St. Thomas Moor, a martyr saint of England.

The Sisters, anxious to do some work in fostering Swiss solidarity in the colony, arranged for an afternoon tea on Tuesday, September 2nd, at which the guests of honour were the Swiss Minister and Madame Thurnheer, Colonel and Madame Bon, the company numbering in all about 24 (restricted to this number owing to space, time and rationing difficulties) was recruited from the different stations of life in the Swiss Catholic Community.

After viewing the lovely garden and the adjoining church, the party was treated to an excellent tea with home made dainties and cakes.

The Swiss Minister in a "homely" in "Schwyzer duetsch" thanked the Superior (Sister Wick, Sister of Nat. Councillor Wick, Lucerne) for the invitation and treat, for the work they have done and are doing here, and particularly in Switzerland, and in the various missions abroad. He related how as a little boy he was told by his Mother to respect the Sisters in black — with the little white showing in their hoods — for the noble work they have set themselves to do in the field of charity, hospitality and education, proof

of which he later found plenty, at home and on his diplomatic mission in the Far East.

Father Wuermes of the Catholic Missionary House "Bethlehem" Immensee, stationed in this country whilst awaiting his call for Missionary work in Africa — thanked the Minister for his words and related how many of our Swiss Missionaries in the Far East received help and hospitality from Mr. and Madame Thurnheer whilst they were in Japan.

Father Lanfranchi, the "unofficial" R.C. Chaplain to the Swiss Colony, thanked the visitors for their visit and on behalf of the Sister Superior gave an open invitation to all Swiss who are interested to visit the Convent.

A final inspection of the House concluded a most delightful afternoon. Sister Superior informed the Mother House at Ingenbohl by cable of the visit and best wishes of the Swiss Minister and the Colony to the Order.

## THE S.M.S. EMPLOYMENT DEPT.

The Annual Report from S.K.S.A. (Schweiz. Kaufm. Stellenvermittlung, Ausland) gives interesting details of the activities of the four branches still maintained abroad, i.e. Paris, London, Milan and Brussels. In Paris the number of applicants for positions was much larger than in the previous year but only about 20% could be placed; in London the candidates were little less (427) but practically all of them (404) found employment. Amongst the latter are only 54 Swiss which shows how quickly the alert London Manager, Mr. J. Pfaendler, has been able to take advantage of the changed conditions.

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## MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

**WANTED.** Young Swiss Girl for Household, no cooking, good wages. Apply: A. Schneider, Dorothy Café, Malvern.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, September 27th, at 1.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting, followed by Mr. G. J. Keller's "Comment on Current Events," at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, October 4th, at 1 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. (See Advert.)

Saturday, October 11th, at 2.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting, at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Printed and Published by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO., LTD., at  
23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.

## SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

(A Company limited by Shares incorporated in Switzerland)

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