

# A memorial service to John H. Berger †

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## SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB).

Our Committee gathered on Monday, the 6th inst. in full strength to attend the farewell dinner given in honour of our President, Mr. Hugo Muller, who is shortly returning to Switzerland to settle there permanently. Mr. Muller acted as our President for only one and a half years, and in this short time he proved himself a born leader. With untiring energy, tact and straightforwardness in his make-up, he not only gained many friends, but succeeded in putting the "Schweizerbund" again on the map, and regain for it most of its former popularity. In spite of obstacles, set-backs and ill-will all round improvements in the Club's amenities soon became apparent, and long lost friends and old members began drifting back to 74, Charlotte Street. Once more the Schweizerbund became a home from home, and it is entirely due to Mr. Muller's personality, as well as hard work, that this has been achieved. Thus Mr. Muller richly deserved the praise and appreciation bestowed upon him in speeches during the evening as well as on previous occasions. He moulded round him a nucleus of committee-men on whom he could rely and who were eager to give him every assistance. All of us, including Mr. Muller himself, regret that he cannot continue to enjoy the fruits of his labours and has to say good-bye to the numerous friends he made during his stay with us. Mr. Muller is about to embark upon a different venture, namely that of matrimony. Free advice from the married section of the Committee on "how to be happy though married" was plentiful and varied, but all were unanimous in their good wishes for Mr. Muller's future, and expressed the hope to be able to welcome Mrs. Muller "to be" at the Club in the not too distant future. Until then: God Speed! Amidst warm handshakes the gathering dispersed, but not without complimenting our Steward, Mr. Wyss, on the excellent dinner and a drop of "special" which well fortified us all to withstand the rigours of a perfect English summer evening.

In conclusion, again best wishes as well as true happiness and au revoir to our President and friend, Mr. Hugo Muller.

*Sec.*

## NEW CHAIRMAN OF NESTLE'S MILK PRODUCTS LIMITED.

To mark the occasion of the election of Mr. J. W. Gwynn, Chairman of the Board of Nestle's Milk Products Ltd. to the Board of the Nestle & Anglo-Swiss Holding Co. — the first Englishman to achieve this honour — a dinner was given at the Savoy Hotel on Friday, the 24th May. The guests, with their wives, numbered about 200, and represented the staffs of the London and Provincial Offices and Condenseries and Factories in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. With few exceptions, the guests averaged between 30 and 40 years' service with the Nestle Company, one of them even being able to boast of 56 years.

A speech of congratulations was delivered by the Managing Director, Mr. R. S. Worth, C.B.E., and was followed by the presentation of several handsome pieces of plate in silver.

## A MEMORIAL SERVICE to JOHN H. BERGER †

was held on Sunday, June 2nd, 1946, at 12.15 p.m., after the usual Church Service of the Schweizerkirche at Kingsway Hall. It took place in the Lecture Hall, which was filled to capacity by the many friends of our dear departed, and opened with the playing of Chopin's Funeral March. The Rev. H. K. Blum, after a short prayer, invited the large congregation to join in singing Hymn No. 321 "Ich bin ein Gast auf Erden". There followed a reading from the Holy Scriptures and a prayer, after which the speaker announced that his first sad duty was to thank those present for the friendship they had given to him, whose life had ended at so early an age and for having contributed in any way to brighten and enrich that life. He also wished to thank all John's friends for the many tokens of sincere sympathy, shown to the sorrowing wife and aged mother in their great loss.

The Rev. Blum then gave us some personal notes about our departed friend: That he had been born as the second son of his parents and received his first education at the hands of his father, who was a teacher at Pohlern near Thun. Later he attended a Secondary School at a neighbouring village and eventually spent 5 years at the Technicum at Bienne. He concluded his studies at the Engineering College at Mitwaida in Saxony and then entered the firm of Hasler at Berne. Two years later he took a position with Scintilla at Solothurn who, soon recognising the great talents and outstanding integrity, sent him to their Branch at Brussels. From there he came to London, for Scintilla, in 1923 and, already two years later, was placed in full charge, a position he held ever since, with great distinction and success.

During the early years of the war, John's duties took him to U.S.A., where he stayed with his wife — whom he had married in 1934 — for 1½ years, returning to his post in London subsequently. Not having been blessed with any children of their own, John Berger and his wife adopted a little boy (Johnnie) who is alas still too young to realise his great sad loss. John has borne his grave illness with patience and fortitude and, when he realised that the end was near, encouraged those who were nearest and dearest to him to be brave.

The Rev. Blum spoke with deep feeling of the great qualities of our departed friend and how his fine character and unfailing kindness to all was appreciated by his large circle of friends. He also stressed his fruitful activities in the Swiss Colony and especially his work in and for the Schweizerkirche.

The presence of such a large number of his friends at this Memorial Service from the City Swiss Club, the Swiss Male Choir and the Helvetica Lodge testified in what high esteem John Berger was held.

The Male Choir then rendered "Der treue Kamerad" by Attenhofer very feelingly, as a last farewell to their late member and friend, in whose life music had ever played an outstanding part.

A final prayer and the Benediction brought the simple, but impressive Service to a close and the large congregation quietly dispersed in the knowledge of having rendered the last sad tribute to a good man, a steadfast friend and a true and loyal Swiss.

Peace be to his ashes!

*W.D.*