

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: - (1948)

Heft: 1087

Artikel: The last farewell at Northolt

Autor: Keller, Gottfried

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-689693>

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: 04.04.2026

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

THE LAST FAREWELL AT NORTHOLT.

On Sunday last, 11th April, round about lunch-time a number of Swiss gathered at Northolt Aerodrome to say farewell to Monsieur and Madame Ruegger. It goes without saying that most members of the Swiss Legation were there with their ladies. They were joined by Dr. Linsel, who had recently attended Mme Ruegger, and several other members of the Colony. It was an unbelievably beautiful spring day with hardly a cloud on the sky. On the tarmac were no fewer than three Swissair planes, two Dakotas for Zürich and a large Skymaster for Cointrin, as well as a British-European-Airways Viking, ready to fly to Geneva. What with these planes and practically the whole Legation transferred to Northolt and a fleet of cars with large and small Swiss flags flying, it was definitely a Swiss occasion.

Saying Good-bye to somebody one has learned to know well, to respect and — I hope I am forgiven the word — one has grown very attached to is never easy. It was not easy either when Monsieur and Madame Ruegger appeared about 15 minutes before the plane was due to become airborne. Madame Ruegger, wrapped up in furs and shawls, looked frighteningly pale — and sad. One could not speak to her any more. It was just a matter of shaking her hand once more and getting that warm look we have all come to know so well. It was not very different with Monsieur Ruegger. Obviously the last days had been an enormous strain on him: the farewell all round, the visit of Monsieur le Conseiller Fédéral Max Petitpierre, the illness of his wife, the forthcoming change from his diplomatic mission to a different one of possibly even more importance. Moreover, Monsieur Ruegger had, with characteristic thoroughness and conscientiousness, spent his last few nights in London dictating letter after letter, attending personally to the last detail, until nothing remained to be cleared up. Monsieur Ruegger too was visibly moved when he finally shook hands with all his collaborators of the Legation and those who had joined them.

After they had both disappeared in the building to attend to passports, customs and other formalities, the party walked round to where they had to come out to walk to the waiting Skymaster that was to take them to Cointrin. Madame Ruegger was through in record time and one saw her, tended by her doctors, walking to the plane and disappear — after one last look round — up the gangway. Then came Monsieur Ruegger, accompanied by Monsieur Escher and his personal secretary, Monsieur Alfred Rappard. He, too, walked very slowly to the airplane that was to take him home from his successful — all too short — mission in London. A beautiful, huge Bouquet of lovely flowers for Madame Ruegger was then carried to the aircraft. I do not know who actually sent it to her, but it seemed to me a symbol of the deep affection of Swiss colony in England had for both of them.

Gottfried Keller.

Uncle: "How do you like riding on my knee, Tommy?"

Tommy: "It's all right, but not so nice as a ride on a real donkey."

CARE OF CHILDREN IN SWITZERLAND.

Pestalozzi-Dorf, etc.

One field of activity, about which very little is known as yet in our Colony, where our home-country is excelling is that of the care of children. The formation of man's soul, mind, habits and physique takes place in his childhood. The proper care of children from their earliest age, therefore, is the most important thing to do to help improve the world and the future of mankind. Switzerland, having been spared two wars, was in a particularly favoured position to attend to this problem, not only for the benefit of Swiss children but also for that of children from war devastated countries. She has done much interesting work in this field, culminating in the establishment of the Pestalozzi-Dorf for the rescue of refugee children.

A Swiss woman-doctor, Dr. Charlotte Carey-Trefzer, who two years ago married an Englishman and came to live in this country, had much to do with child-health and child-welfare work in Switzerland, and was actively assisting in the establishment of the Pestalozzi-Dorf. She will tell us a lot about these things next Tuesday night, 7 p.m., at the Vienna Café (see advertisement) at the Open Meeting of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. This is a proud chapter in the books of Swiss achievements and most fascinating to all who care for the vital basic problems of mankind. This is an occasion when we can bring our British friends with the assurance that we can be proud of what they will hear.

ALL TRAVEL SERVICES

(Proprietors: ALLTRANSPORT & STORAGE LTD.)

**ALLTRANSPORT BUILDING,
LITTLE TRINITY LANE, LONDON, E.C.4**

Telephone: **CENtral 5200** (15 lines)

Summer Holidays

JERSEY. ALL TRAVEL SERVICES have reserved block accommodation at the Hotel Metropole, St. Helier — one of Jersey's first class Hotels — and offer a fortnight's holiday, with Air Travel both ways in a 30 seater aircraft, at an inclusive charge of 35 gns. per person. Departures take place on June 5th and 19th, July 3, 17, 31, August 14 and 28th. As accommodation is limited, early application is advisable.

SWITZERLAND. Air Tickets (BEA, Swissair, etc.) issued at regular fares.

Business Travellers

Consult ALL TRAVEL SERVICES (Travel Consultants to Business Houses) for all your requirements!

Me redt au Schwyzerdütsch!