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EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

30th October, 1951.

To the Editor,

Swiss Observer,

23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

Dear Mr. Stauffer,

In the last issue of the "Swiss Observer" you published a short paragraph announcing a farewell dinner to Mr. Bon *offered by the Swiss Colony*. At the same time the City Swiss Club sent out circulars giving details of this dinner *arranged on behalf of all the Swiss Societies in London*. This dinner is for men only.

I must protest very strongly. I already voiced my disapproval publicly some time ago when a good-bye dinner for men only was arranged for Monsieur de Graffenried and I can only repeat what I said on that occasion. The Swiss Colony does *not* consist of men alone, and it is an insult to us women to infer it. When the men choose to invite us to a dance or when our help is needed at a charitable or patriotic function nice compliments are lavished on us. But these sound hollow and almost insincere at a moment like this when we are ignored. I have never been a suffragette, but such treatment must turn almost any woman into an ardent feminist.

Of course, various reasons have been put forward, such as extra expense to the men if wives are asked, difficulties in getting accommodation, etc. But I also consider it a very poor compliment to Mr. Bon to leave out his wife in the invitation.

And there is another point. Many of the Swiss Societies have lady members. They are glad to have our membership both in fees and active support. Of course, the City Swiss Club have male members only. And if the dinner were given by the City Swiss Club to take leave from a distinguished former president there could be no complaints. But if arrangements for such a gathering are left in their hands by the other Societies and they make them on behalf of the Swiss Colony they should remember that only very few

of the Societies are without lady members. I myself am a member in my own right of four Swiss Societies, and I suggest, therefore, that it is grossly unfair to arrange such a dinner for men only in the name of all the Swiss Societies in London. In fact, in Mr. Bon's "own" Society, the Swiss Benevolent, we have a considerable number of ladies on the committee, and a great many more are working hard all through the year for a good cause.

Many of the wives may not partake actively in the Colony. But even they play their part by bearing patiently with their husbands' absence. To ignore them, as well as the lady members of Societies, is lacking in common courtesy.

Yours sincerely,

MARIANN.

(Mrs W. Meier.)

* * *

(This dinner had to be arranged at very short notice. It was intended to ask the Ladies too, but, although efforts were made, no suitable accommodation could be found at the last moment. Ed.)

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An Appeal . . .

The SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY and the SWISS CHURCHES in LONDON appeal once more to their compatriots for their kind contributions in kind or cash, in order to provide a little extra cheer for Christmas to our Swiss in need. All kinds of wearing apparel, household goods and furniture would be much appreciated and gratefully received.

Please send parcels, if possible not later than the 6th December, 1951, to 31, Conway Street, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1, and cash remittances to:

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, 31, Conway Street, W.1. • The Revd. C. Reverdin,
7, Park View Road, Finchley, N.3. • The Revd. H. Blum, 1, Womersley Road, N.8.
The Revd. Father A. Lanfranchi, 58, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

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