

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:	- (1952)
Heft:	1184
Rubrik:	Our next Issue

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: 20.02.2026

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

WOMEN'S INFLUENCE IN SWITZERLAND. An N.S.H. Lecture.

Not for the first time the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique has devoted its last meeting to the position of women in Switzerland. But never has it heard better sense about this important question than from Mademoiselle Alice Briod, joint-director of the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger at Berne. In common with practically everyone in her audience at the Vienna Café the speaker deplored the fact that women still have no right to vote in what otherwise might rightfully be called the most democratic of democratic countries in the world. But Mlle Briod has herself come round to this point of view only these last few years in connection with the struggle for a more understanding treatment of the national status of Swiss women who marry foreigners, a struggle that still continues with the pending revision of the law on Swiss citizenship. The main battle has been won in obtaining the consent of both chambers to the principle of an option to retain Swiss citizenship despite the marriage to foreigners. But it required years of effort to which the N.S.H. at home, the Secrétariat des suisses à l'étranger, the Swiss colonies abroad and other organisations in the home country have contributed so much. And the conditions of exercising the option are still subject to acute differences in Parliament. If women already had the vote in Switzerland, Mlle Briod reflected, the struggle might have been very much less strenuous.

This conversion to the support of women's suffrage illustrates clearly the reason why Swiss women have so far not shown as keen an interest in this question as those of other countries, as was pointed out by one speaker in the lively discussion that followed the lecture. Apart from the question of the vote Swiss women have relatively little to complain of regarding their equal rights with men in civil law, as well as regarding the practical matters of the community in which they are particularly concerned, such as housing, health and education. These equal rights in the eyes of the law have been established in Switzerland a generation ago that knew nothing of the vote for women, and these practical matters have found satisfactory solutions that could hardly have been bettered on a basis of universal suffrage. Women, according to the lecturer, have evidently found other ways and means to influence the course of things, ways and means with which many of them seem still quite

satisfied. Only when the men prove unreasonable or obstinate in resisting reforms in accordance with changing conditions and opinions, such as regarding the possibility of retaining Swiss citizenship when marrying a foreigner, Swiss women manifest more interest in the question of the vote. It might subside again after a generous revision of the law of citizenship, but the lecturer had her audience largely if not entirely on her side in considering that sooner or later the suffrage question also must be solved in accordance with the trend and demands of modern life.

Dr. E.

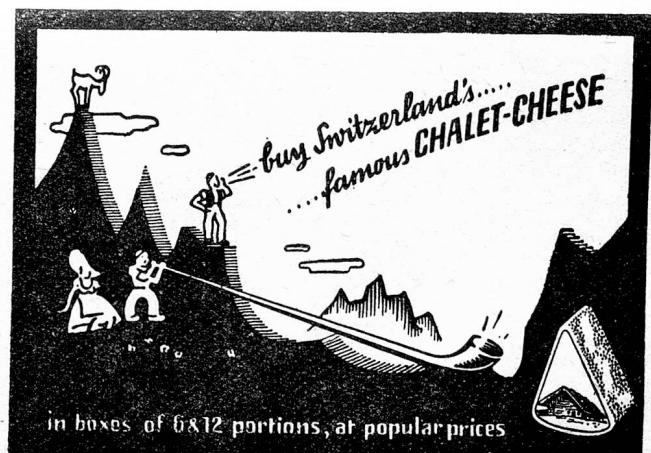
CORRECTION.

In the report about the Service of Installation of Pfarrer H. Spörri, published in our last issue (page 6468) a printer's mistake has occurred, on the last line but one, it should read: "diversity may well exist in unity, which in its *turn* (not terms) etc.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, July 11th, 1952.

We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and most helpful donations over and above their subscription: P. Lequint, Mrs. O. A. Stanton, F. Bassi, H. Tanner, J. Froehlicher.



GLENDOWER HOTEL

GLENDOWER PLACE, S. KENSINGTON, LONDON, S.W.7

100 Rooms with running water and telephone.

Terms : from 25/- per day }
 from 6 guineas per week } inclusive.

Room and breakfast from 17/6.

Telephone: KENsington 4462/3/4.

Telegrams: "Glendotel Southkens" London.

Small Private Dinners,
Christening Parties and
Wedding Receptions
Catered for
Fully Licensed.

.. SCHMID & FAMILY.