

**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:** - (1954)

**Heft:** 1238

**Artikel:** Centenary of Jeremias Gotthelf

**Autor:** [s.n.]

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693558>

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and 229,297 members (226,341 in 1953); out of 134,425 active members, there are 32,989 women and 42,372 schoolchildren of both sexes. Several sections are particularly active in North and South America.

The 24th International Rally at Geneva (November 3-6). The Geneva section of the Swiss Automobile Club organizes this meeting which is numbered among the tourist trials valid for the European championships. Competitors will be able to choose between different itineraries, with starting points as follows: Kolding (Denmark), Nuremberg, Liège, Schaffhausen, Milan, Bordeaux, Geneva, Manchester and Barcelona. Contestants will assemble at Rheims, from where the itinerary will be the same for all as far as Geneva, with the organization of special tests (speed, reliability, hill climbing and "stalom").

"The Automobile Yearbook". A new periodical in French, English and German has just been published under this title, by Mr. Ami Guichard, head of the Imprimerie Centrale in Lausanne. The first number which contains 225 pages and is remarkably well illustrated, includes articles by many contributors of note, among them Mr. André Siegfried of the Académie Française; it is not intended exclusively for experts, but is aimed at a wider public of all those interested in motoring.

The Head Office of the Swiss Touring Club in Geneva has noticed that a number of foreign drivers and motor-cyclists do not seem to understand the

marking of level-crossings in Switzerland; they interpret the red lights simply as a warning sign, and not as a signal to stop, as is actually the case. Several accidents have occurred as a result of this and the Swiss Touring Club, very commendably, has circulated to all travel agencies and transport concerns as well as tourist propaganda organizations, an illustrated leaflet giving all the relevant details.

#### NEW SWISS MINISTER APPOINTED.

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Armin Daeniker, Swiss Minister in London, in succession to Monsieur Henry de Torrenté.

Monsieur Daeniker, who was born in Zurich in 1898, began his diplomatic career in 1925, and occupied posts in Berne, Riga, Shanghai and Tokio before he was appointed in 1936, Chargé d'Affaires in Teheran, and, in 1948, in Delhi. He has been Swiss Minister in Stockholm since 1952 and was recently head of the Swiss Delegation on the international committee for the repatriation of prisoners of war in Korea.

#### CENTENARY OF JEREMIAS GOTTHELF (1797-1854).

An N.S.H. Lecture.

On the occasion of the centenary of the death of our eminent Swiss novelist and short story writer, Jeremias Gotthelf, the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, London Group, has been invited by the official Swiss cultural Institute PRO HELVETIA to organise a gathering for a lecture by Dr. H. M. Waidson, lecturer in German at the University of Hull, who has recently published a book in English on Gotthelf. In order to attract also an English audience the N.S.H. is glad to have the cooperation of the Anglo-Swiss Society in holding this lecture on November 1st at Londonderry House (details see advertisement). Other interested circles at the various universities, etc. are being invited. After the lecture some passages from Gotthelf will be read in German by Dr. Guido Frei (Rundfunk-Studio Zürich) and in English by Miss Selma Yaz Dias. The lecture will of course be in English. In the interval coffee and biscuits are available at 1/-. All Swiss and English friends are cordially invited to attend this event of homage to a great Swiss writer. Admission free of charge.

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