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## PERSONAL.

The "Swiss Observer" is glad to welcome a new member of the London Colony in the person of Mr. Max Homberger, Doctor of Laws of the University of Zurich, who has joined the staff of the London office of the Swiss Bank Corporation as an additional Manager. Mr. Homberger has behind him a record of distinguished advancement in the service of the Corporation. He became a Sub-Manager at the Zurich office in 1948 and was, at the beginning of 1950, transferred to the General Manager's section of the Bank in Basle. We trust that Mr. Homberger's appointment to London may prove another valuable step in his advancement, and that he will find, like so many of his predecessors, that London has many attractions to offer to those who make it their home.

\* \* \*

We extend heartiest congratulations to Mr. E. M. Hamilton (alias von Arx) of 7, The Willows, Chorlton Ville, Manchester, on his forthcoming 80th birthday (May 22nd).

## OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 29th May 1959. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: G. N. Ross, Mrs. M. Cassel, A. W. Sommer, Mrs. A. Rietmann, Mrs. R. R. Callingham, Swiss Club Balloch, W. A. de Vigier, C. A. Aeschmann, Mrs. M. Werder, R. A. Strahl, A. Kunzler, Swiss Club Dunfermline, H. Markwalder (Tanga).

## SWISS SPOTLIGHT.

By PIERRE BÉGUIN.

An attempt is being made in the canton of Vaud to achieve unity once more between the Protestants and to effect a fusion of the two Reformed Churches, which separated more than a century ago.

For a long time past there have been two main Protestant Churches in the French-speaking cantons: a National Church — which is closely linked with the State and is the expression of an official religion — and a so-called Free Church, born, more than a century ago, of the desire to be absolutely independent of all political power. The scission was so real and so profound that there were not only two churches in each canton, but also two Faculties of Theology.

The question of the union of the Church with the State, or that of their separation, was not, however, the sole element which differentiated these two churches. A distinction also existed between them from the theological or dogmatic point of view. Thus, the Free Church demanded from all its members an act of adherence, a profession of faith and the express acknowledgment of a certain number of dogmas. The National Church, on the contrary, is a multitudinous Church, i.e., a Church which considers as being its members all those Protestants who are not openly separated from it.

Nevertheless, this division into two adjoining Protestant Churches is now in a fair way to disappearing. A fusion of the two Churches was realised in the canton of Neuchâtel more than twenty-five years ago. In Geneva, the Free Church gave up maintaining a Faculty of Theology of its own thirty-five years ago. In the canton of Vaud, the two Churches have been striving for several years to achieve a fusion. Recently

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