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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

A DEPARTURE



Mr. Walter Fischer and his wife have returned to Switzerland. They have over so many years been good friends to countless young Swiss over here that our loss is a particularly heavy one.

Mr. Fischer was born at Reinach (AG) in 1896. Having obtained the Commercial Diploma at the Kantonschule Aarau, he continued his studies at the Handelshochschule St. Gallen. Thereafter he joined the Banque de Nyon for two years' practical experience. The young man soon felt the urge to acquire experience abroad. In 1918 he started work with the Société Laitière Maggi at Paris — where he experienced the bombardments by the "Grosse Bertha", a long-range missile of the German Army — and later on he joined the Banque de Mulhouse at Paris for a year.

At the end of 1919 Mr. Fischer came to London, where he joined the Swiss Bank Corporation — for a few years only as he then thought. We know, however, that he was promoted in due course and remained there until his retirement at the end of last year.

In London our friend was soon called to follow Christ as his Master, and the marks of this can be clearly seen in his life. His love for children prompted him to do much Sunday School work. He was instrumental in the founding of the German Swiss Sunday School in the early 1920's; there were soon great numbers, and in 1934 and 1938, after having collected the necessary funds, he took parties of children to Switzerland for a Swiss holiday. On the latter occasion, thirty children having been entrusted to him, he felt he could not carry all the responsibility alone but needed a nurse to assist him. This nurse was duly found. — She became his wife in 1939!

In 1934 Mr. Fischer was elected to the Kirchenrat of the Schweizerkirche, and in 1938, when both Churches were merged, he joined the Consistoire.

Two years after his arrival in London, Mr. Fischer joined the Swiss Y.M.C.A. and, from 1923 to 1932, was Hon. Secretary thereof. In 1944 he became President, a position he faithfully continued to hold until his departure. His faith, fidelity and friendship have been an effective witness to scores of young men.

Countless people were Mr. and Mrs. Fischer's guests, some for longer periods, some only for an evening. Numerous parties were organised at their home, and the work involved in all this for Mrs. Fischer can only be known and appreciated by a few; it was immense. No. 6 Hillcrest Avenue is no longer an open door to all. The help and presence of our friends will be sadly missed but not forgotten.

Now that the further education of their younger children calls them back to Switzerland, our sincere wishes and thanks accompany Mr. and Mrs. Fischer. May God reward and bless them!

W.S.

PERSONAL

We wish to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Carl Nater, of Hurtwood, Wentworth, Surrey, on the forthcoming marriage of their daughter Nelly to Mr. John Samuel Tee. The wedding will take place at Christ Church, Virginia Water, on Saturday, 15th September, at 2.30. We wish the young couple every happiness.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations in addition to their subscriptions: Mrs. F. R. Bechtel, Mrs. H. Graf, Mr. Albert Ferber, Mr. H. Pfirter. We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

ATTENTION PLEASE

The General Post Office have returned to us a few copies of the last issue of the "Swiss Observer" which seem to have lost their wrappers on the way. As we are unable to trace the subscribers concerned we shall be much obliged if any readers who did not receive a copy would let us know, or indeed at any other time, as copies do go astray in the post.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 7th September. We should appreciate it if readers could let us have any manuscripts or news items for publication by Wednesday, 29th August. The editor will be away till the end of the month.

REMINDER

A number of our subscribers are in arrears with their subscriptions. We should be most grateful if they would kindly send in their renewals as soon as possible. With the rising cost of printing and material we depend more than ever on the support of our readers. We shall gladly send specimen copies of "The Swiss Observer" to friends and relatives who might be induced to become subscribers. May we also suggest that the paper would make an attractive present to Swiss living in this country as well as to English friends who are interested in Switzerland and in the happenings in the Swiss Colony here.