

Swiss Mercantile Society

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BERTHA M. BERTSCHINGER †

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Charles Bertschinger of 47 Barrels Down Road, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. She died peacefully at home in her 83rd year on 21st January. Many of the older generation among our readers will remember her well from the days she shared a rich life with her husband, and when she often acted as "mother" and generous hostess to many young Swiss coming to London for the first time.

It was in the "Swiss Observer" of 13th March 1953 that the then Editor paid tribute to the late Mr. Charles Bertschinger who had been an active member in the Colony. He was instrumental in founding the "Foyer Suisse" and acted as a lay preacher in the Protestant German-speaking community during the first world war (services were in Schwyzerdütsch by request of the Foreign Office) and later helped in founding the "Schweizerkirche".

Now his devoted wife, a remarkable woman, has gone to join him twelve years after his death. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family in their bereavement.

SWISS CHILDREN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Once again the Victoria Hall, Bloomsbury, echoed to the sound of happy laughter as over 100 children of the Swiss Colony participated in the Annual Christmas Party. Mr. Arnold Brun was our able compère, and the afternoon commenced with his commentary on a series of colour slides illustrating the Christmas Story in a vivid and original manner.

Following this item, the children were absorbed by the skilful display of the puppets. Young and old enjoyed the merry antics of Nursery Rhyme and Fairyland. Afterwards, through the courtesy of the Swiss National Tourist Office, an excellent programme of colour films took the children to their native land.

Tea was then served, during which Father Christmas made his traditional appearance to the delight of the younger children, and so, too soon, it was time to go home with the "cornets" filled with a present and good things to eat.

Our sincere thanks are tendered to all those whose generous financial support made the party possible, and to the many willing helpers who made the event a success. We should, however, like to see more children at the party and if any reader of the "Swiss Observer" knows of any children of Swiss origin, aged between 4 and 14, who would like to join us, the Secretary will be very happy to receive their name and address: Mrs. Jacqueline Zwicky, 29 Friars Walk, Southgate, N.14. Telephone ENTerprise 1346.

J.Z.

THE N.S.H. HONOURS SOPHIE WYSS

On 18th February, the Swiss Community will have a chance to express their appreciation of the work done by a compatriot, Madame Sophie Wyss, the distinguished lieder singer from Neuveville. She will talk on her career and work in England. Our Colony will thus be afforded an opportunity to pay its due homage to this great artist who has done much for the Swiss musical reputation in England as well as for the younger generation of British composers. (See advertisement.)

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

On account of the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill on Saturday, 30th January, the Annual Dinner and Dance of the Swiss Mercantile Society was cancelled. The new date fixed for it is Saturday, 13th March, and it will take place at the Dorchester Hotel as arranged. Tickets already obtained for the original date will be available for 13th March. Members who have already obtained tickets and will not be able to attend the Dinner and Dance on the new date, are asked to kindly return them to the Secretary. A refund will be sent.

PERSONAL

We wish to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. John Hogan Grob on the arrival of a son Mark Richard (brother for Ralph) on 16th January at Glasfryn Maternity Hospital, Llanelly. At the same time, our congratulations go to Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Grob, 60, Seafield Road, N.11, the proud grandparents.

* * *

We have just heard that Mr. and Mrs. J. Eusebio of 66 Greenways, Hinchley Wood, Esher, Surrey, celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 27th January. Our readers may be aware that Mr. Eusebio writes the "Notiziario Della Svizzera Italiana" and is known as *Poncione di Vespero*. We extend our congratulations to the happy couple and wish them many happy returns of the day.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 26th February. We shall be glad to receive reports and articles not later than Wednesday, 17th February. Short news items only can be accepted later.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique
London Group

Thursday, 18th February, at 7.45 p.m.

Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9/11 Belsize Grove, N.W.3

THE DISTINGUISHED LIEDER SINGER

MADAME

SOPHIE WYSS

WILL TALK ON HER CAREER AND
WORK IN ENGLAND

(In English)

illustrated with songs and records

All Swiss and Friends are Welcome