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THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE SWISS ABROAD

As was reported in the last issue of the "Swiss Observer", the Commission of the Swiss Abroad elected a new Director of the Secretariat in Berne in succession to Dr. H. J. Halbheer. The new man was chosen from amongst fourteen applicants. He is Dr. rer. pol. et lic. phil. Edmond Müller, citizen of Sion/Valais. He was born in 1903 and studied law, philology and economics at the Universities of Geneva, Munich, Lausanne and Breslau from 1922 to 1929.

Fourteen years he was lecturer of Breslau University and later in Cairo. He also worked as political correspondent. He was one of the founders of the Press Institute of Cairo University and in charge of the curriculum.

From 1944 to 1956 he was on the board of several companies, especially of the "Société Viticole et Vinicole d'Egypte" and concerned in the revival of the old Egyptian viniculture in the Libyan Desert. For the ten years from 1946 he was special political correspondent of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung".

He was active in many international organisations. In April 1947, he was in charge of the office of the 37th Congress of the Interparliamentary Union in Cairo, at the request of the Egyptian State. He represented Egypt at the International Wine Office in Paris and at vinicultural congresses in Santiago de Chile and Mendoza (Argentina). He was elected Director of the International Wine Office as from 1st January 1957 on the recommendation of Chile, Germany, Greece, Italy, Austria and Switzerland. But this as well as many other activities he had to forego after he was appointed by the International Red Cross Committee to be their delegate to the Arab League and the High Command of the Algerian FLN. After the Suez crisis he was at the head of the Delegation of the International Red Cross Committee with the United Arab Republic (over forty collaborators).

He was sent on special humanitarian missions to Damascus, Beirut and Cairo, which took him right up to 1964. In October of that year he took part at the "Etats-Généraux des Communes d'Europe" in Rome and at the session of the Council of the "Banque Européenne de Crédit Intercommunal" at the invitation of the President of the European Commune Council.

Dr Müller has also spoken repeatedly at meetings of various cultural organisations in many countries, as well as over the wireless. He is the author of a number of publications:

"Introduction à la Défense spirituelle de la Suisse" (NSH — Kairo 1943), "Rilke l'Européen" (Editions Horus — Kairo 1944), "Ramuz et les Lettres françaises" (Ed. Revue du Caire 1945), Under the name of "Edmond Valère" (Editions de la Baconnière): "Anathèmes — A la Recherche des Principes de la Cité humaine" (1951) and "Commune helvétique et Communauté humaine" (1963).

From his career and his varied interests and achievements it can be seen that he is, as the President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Dr. G. Schuerch, put it, "a real N.S.H. Man". We wish him many years of successful activities in the interests of the Swiss living away from their mother country.

Mariann.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Every Sunday 7 to 11 p.m. — The Swiss Catholic Youth Club — Social at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

Every Thursday, from 6 to 7.30 p.m. — Discussion Circle in English — Young men specially invited. Tea from 6 to 6.15 p.m. Swiss Y.M.C.A., London Central Y.M.C.A. Building, Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

Every 1st Wednesday in the month — Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres — meeting at Swiss House, 35 Fitzroy Square, W.1, at 7 p.m.

Every last Thursday of the Month — Swiss Club Manchester — Ordinary Monthly Meeting from 6 p.m. at the Midland Hotel, Manchester.

APRIL:

Friday, 9th, 6 for 6.30 p.m. — Schweizerbund — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by DINNER at 7.30 p.m. — Glendower Hotel, S.W.7.

Saturday, 10th, 8 p.m. — Royal Festival Hall — Fernande Kaeser plays Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Michael Hall.

Thursday, 15th, 8 p.m. — Royal Festival Hall — Karl Engel plays Mozart's Piano Concerto in C with the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra conducted by Mladen Basic.

Good Friday, 16th, 11 a.m. — Swiss Church (French-speaking community) — SERVICE with HOLY COMMUNION — Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2.

Good Friday, 16th, 11 a.m. — Swiss Church (German-speaking community) — SERVICE with HOLY COMMUNION — St. Mary Woolnoth Church, Lombard Street, Bank, E.C.3.

Good Friday, 16th, Swiss Catholic Mission — Liturgy of the Sacred Passion, Adoration of the Cross — COMMUNION SERVICE 3 p.m. — St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1.

Friday, 16th, 5 p.m. — Royal Festival Hall, — Hazel Schmid is one of the soloists in Bach's St. Matthew Passion, performed by the London Choral Society and the Philomusica of London, under the conductor John Tobin.

Easter Sunday, 18th, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. — Swiss Church (German-speaking community) — SERVICE with HOLY COMMUNION — St. Mary Woolnoth Church.

Easter Sunday, 18th, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. — Swiss Church (French-speaking community) — SERVICE with HOLY COMMUNION — Eglise Suisse.

Easter Sunday, 18th, 7 p.m. — Swiss Catholic Mission — HOLY MASS with Sermon in German and French — St. Ann's Church.

Tuesday, 20th April — City Swiss Club — MONTHLY DINNER AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — Dorchester Hotel, W.1.

Sunday, 25th, 7.30 p.m. — Royal Festival Hall — Geza Anda plays Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1 with the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Malcolm Sargent.