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yours every Sunday night at six'. So I gave a series of six concerts and they gave me carte blanche, and never once quibbled at my choice of programme. So I gave them something of everything I had in my repertoire — I introduced new English names to the Australian public; I gave recitals of German Lieder, French Song, Spanish and of course Folk Song.

"In 1950 it was the centenary of William Wordsworth's death and the composer William Wordsworth, who is a descendant of the poet's brother, composed a song cycle with string quartet to the famous "Daffodil" verses, and the London verses. I broadcast these during the celebration week. At this time I also made a record of Eric Satie's "La Mort de Socrate", a work of really astonishing simplicity to accompany exalted prose. I presented it for the first time in this country with Constant Lambert at the Institut Français with Norman Franklin at the piano. As far as I know I am the only person who has sung Louis Duret's little masterpiece "Image de Crusoe" in England, and Duret is the least known of the six. The verse is by St. Leger, who was born on just such a Caribbean isle as Crusoe's, and there is the smell of the sea, of the palms and the sand in it.

"I also recorded some early songs of the great Georges Enesco, *ce cher grand maître*, the last of his kind and his class — an able composer, a great violinist, pianist, conductor, and teacher. It was Miron Grindea, with his instinctive vision of the born impressario, who brought us together.

"Another young student composer who came to me at this time was Philip Cannon. It was his bride who found the old troubadour songs which he set for voice and harp. It was this work which cemented my friendship with the Countess Benckendorf, Korchinska, the wonderful harpist, who played it with me.

"In 1952 I sang at the Edinburgh Festival. After a week of heavy modern Germanics, I gave a recital of French song from the Troubadours to Poulanc. And Gerald Moore and I were able to make the audience laugh and sing the refrain of "Troupieaux" with me. That is the first time — and probably the last — that an Edinburgh Festival audience has been made to sing a chorus! I made an unpublished record of it with Benjamin Britten at the piano, and dedicated it to my two sons. Richard Rodney Bennett, then only sixteen, who heard me sing at the Edinburgh Festival, sent me an excellent song to a French poem. I put it in a programme I gave at the Institut Français! He has since scored many successes including an Opera at Sadlers Wells. I met his mother the other day and she thanked me warmly for having been the first artist to help Richard at an early age.

"Monsieur Henri Jourdan, head of the Institut Français, asked me to celebrate the first twenty-five years of my singing in England, and later he asked me to celebrate my thirtieth singing year in this country."

#### WELFARE OFFICE FOR SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Every Sunday 7 to 11 p.m. — The Swiss Catholic Youth Club — Social at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Stratton 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:

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.

Sunday, 25th — Swiss Rifle Association — SHOOTING — Bisley (Siberia Range).

Sunday, 25th — Swiss Club Manchester — EASTER OUTING.

Tuesday, 27th, 8 p.m. — Royal Festival Hall — Nikita Magaloff plays Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with the Halle Orchestra conducted by Sir John Barbirolli.

Wednesday, 28th, 7.30 p.m. — Wigmore Hall — PIANO RECITAL — ALBERT FERBER (Schubert, Glazounov, Balakirev).

Thursday, 29th — Swiss Club Manchester — MONTHLY MEETING.

### MAY:

Sunday, 2nd, 6.15 p.m. — Swiss Catholics — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — Westminster Ball Room, 30 Stratton Ground, S.W.1.

Sunday, 2nd, 7 p.m. — Swiss Catholic SPECIAL EASTER SERVICE: Sung Mass and Sermon in German, French and Italian — St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1.

Sunday, 9th — Unione Ticinese — TEA DANCE — Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. — Tickets at £1 from Mr. F. A. De Maria, 4 Luxemburg Gardens, W.6.

Sunday, 9th — Swiss Rifle Association — SHOOTING — Bisley (Siberia Range).

Wednesday, 12th, 7.30 p.m. — Wigmore Hall — SONG RECITAL — HAZEL SCHMID (soprano) — (Schubert, Wolf).

Thursday, 13th — Swiss Club Manchester — FILM SHOW.

Thursday, 13th, 7.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — OPEN MEETING — Dr. Kurt Gasteyer — "Swiss Security in the Nuclear Age" — Swiss Hostel for Girls.

Tuesday, 18th — City Swiss Club — DINNER AND CARD EVENING — Dorchester Hotel, W.1.

Sunday, 23rd — Swiss Rifle Association — SHOOTING — Bisley (Siberia Range).

Sunday, 30th — 7 p.m. — Unione Ticinese — SOCIAL and BUFFET — Swiss Hostel for Girls.

**JUNE:**

Sunday, 13th — Swiss Rifle Association — SHOOTING — Bisley (Siberia Range).

**JULY:**

Friday, 2nd July — City Swiss Club — DINNER AND DANCE — Great Fosters.

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PFARRER: M. Dietler, 1, Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone: MOU 6018.

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**SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION**

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WEEKDAYS: Holy Mass at 7.30 a.m.

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Every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month from 3 to 6 p.m.

Every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 3 to 6 p.m.

At any other time by appointment.

CHAPLAIN: Rev. Joseph Scherer, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. Tel.: ABBey 2895.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE**

The Swiss Observer is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 14th May. We shall be glad to receive reports and articles not later than Wednesday, 5th May. Short news items only can be accepted later.

The present issue has to be prepared during Holy Week. Whilst we shall do everything possible to get it out on time, it may appear with a slight delay owing to the Easter Holiday. We apologise for any inconvenience.

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**"SWITZERLAND'S AMAZING RAILWAYS"**

By CECIL J. ALLEN

This railway classic has been enlarged and improved to such an extent that it is in many respects a new book. The text and appendix of tables — unique in the literature of Swiss mountain transport — have been brought up to date throughout: times, distances, termini, etc., have all been revised wherever necessary. The previous illustrations have been carefully checked, 24 new plates replace existing ones, and eight extra plates have been added, making over 200 dramatic and revealing pictures of Swiss railways and landscapes.

Recent developments in Swiss Railway engineering techniques have been extensive, especially in the building of new and progressively more daring suspension lines to even greater altitudes. These developments are reflected in a new chapter Mr. Allen has written, bringing his engrossing story completely up to date. Cecil J. Allen, himself a railway engineer, is one of the most prolific and experienced of present-day railway writers. This book is based on forty years' first-hand knowledge of Switzerland's railways.

A reviewer of the last edition of "Switzerland's Amazing Railways" in "Highways and Bridges" said: "This is a fascinating book of rare vintage, rare because so seldom does a first-rate travel book combine engineering progress and technique, and rare, because so seldom does even a first-rate travel book possess such magnificent photographs in such generous abundance. It is a testimony to the skill, daring and ingenuity of Swiss engineers, and to the breathless beauty of their delightful country."

The book is published by Thomas Nelson & Son Ltd., 36 Park Street, London W.1. Price 42/-.

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