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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SWISS Y.M.C.A.

Eighty years ago, early in the month of May, the Swiss Section of the German Young Men's Christian Association was founded in London. The founders were Mr. Rudolf Horner, coming from Paris and in London only for a short time, and Mr. Albert Zuellig, father of "our" Mr. Albert M. Zuellig. During the decades, many devoted men have looked after the interests of the young Swiss members, and names like Samuel Zwingli, Carl Bertschinger, Jean Scheuermeier, Emil Walser will remain engraved in the annals of the organisation. In later years, it was Mr. W. Fischer, now retired at Reinach, Aargau, and Mr. W. M. Strub, at present in Lausanne, who guided the affairs of the group whose fortunes, like that of any live body, have gone up and down. To-day, Mr. Gordon Burkhalter is at the helm, and he has a group of faithful young men supporting his endeavours which he pursues with painstaking devotion.

Whilst sizeable celebrations usually take place when an organisation is 25, 50, 75 and 100 years old, it seems nevertheless right and proper to remember the Swiss Y.M.C.A. in London on their 80th anniversary, and to speed them on to the next decade with best wishes.

MM

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting of the S.R.A. was held at the Glendower Hotel, London S.W.7, on Friday, 22nd March.

Mr. J. C. Wetter was in the chair. Mr. Ch. Abegglen, Honorary Secretary, read the minutes of the last General Meeting and the accounts were presented. They closed with a small surplus thanks to the generosity of one of the senior members in granting an interest-free loan.

As always, an interesting survey of the activities of the Association in 1967 was rendered by the President. Seven shooting practices were held at Bisley during the past year and 3,680 rounds of ammunition were fired, as against 4,150 in 1966. It was gratifying to know that the Association numbered 68 active members and the President expressed the hope that everyone of them will endeavour to exercise their skill at Bisley in 1968, for which the following Sundays have been chosen, viz: 28th April, 1968, 12th May, 16th May, 16th June, 1st September, 15th September, 29th September.

The President informed the meeting that the old committee was prepared to carry on, and it was re-elected *en bloc*. (Mr. H. Schmid was confirmed as Press-Reporter of the Association.)

Mr. J. C. Wetter warmly thanked his colleagues on the committee for the support they had so spontaneously given him during his year of office. A hearty vote of thanks to the committee was proposed by Mr. Adolf Schmid.

The members then adjourned for an excellent dinner.
H. Schmid.

"SWISS OBSERVER" PUBLICATION DATES

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 24th May. We shall be glad to receive reports and articles not later than Tuesday, 14th May. Short news items only can be accepted later.

Our next issue but one will be published on Friday, 14th June. Contributions for this issue should be to hand by 4th June.

READING OF FRENCH-SWISS AND FRENCH POETRY AND PROSE

Commendable Co-operation

On Tuesday, 14th May, at 8 p.m., the Anglo-Swiss Society and the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique jointly present a Reading of French-Swiss and French Poetry and Prose in the original version. This is a splendid opportunity to hear some of the rich literature of the French language, especially since the reading will be given by the well-known Swiss actor and broadcaster JEAN BER. The *Soirée* will be held in the pleasant Drawing Room at 4 St. James's Square, S.W.1.

Admission is by programme at 5/- each, obtainable in advance from the Secretary, Anglo-Swiss Society, 77 Gloucester Place, W.1. (Please enclose stamped addressed envelope.)

OBITUARIES

The Unione Ticinese announce with deep regret the death of their oldest member: Mr. Georgio Cattaneo died in his 87th year on Wednesday, 17th April. He was a chef by profession. Being a bachelor, he leaves no family, and no next of kin are known.

* * *

We deeply regret to have to announce the death of another faithful old subscriber in the person of Mr. G. Poglia, of 16 Tolmers' Square, London N.W.1. He died three months ago, and we extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Poglia who has gone back to Switzerland.

* * *

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Joseph Mennessier, former correspondent in London of the "Journal de Genève", in addition to the two French dailies "La Voix du Nord" and "Ouest-France". In his work, he was always fair and efficient, and his love of Switzerland and the Swiss community in this country was genuine. It is only two months ago that Mr. and Mrs. Mennessier retired to their native country ("Les Remparts", 13-Les Baux-de-Provence, France) where he died on 8th April.

A few weeks ago he wanted to renew his subscription to the S.O. which, he said, he and his wife "*read with great pleasure, as we still consider ourselves as closely associated with the Swiss Colony in London as ever.*" We missed the Mennessiers when they left, and now even more so, and our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Mennessier and their daughter in their sad bereavement.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for adding donations to their subscriptions and/or for taking out or renewing gift subscriptions for friends or old-age pensioners:

Mrs. A. Baume, Miss M. Dreier, Mrs. L. L. Jaggard, Mrs. K. S. Leuch (Grindelwald), Monsieur E. M. Bircher (Bissone, TI), Monsieur F. Burgunder (Los Angeles), Monsieur G. Franel (Berne), and Messrs. V. Berti, F. E. Brunner, O. J. Brunner, A. Bruschi, L. J. Faivre, J. Frei, C. A. Fuchs, W. O. Gasche, W. Graf, F. Heller, H. Jauslin, H. Kriesi, H. H. Landolf, C. de Maria, P. E. Meister, O. H. Morton, R. R. Schmid, E. F. Schwenter, J. Steiner.

We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.