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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWISS YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Reflecting upon the activities of our YMCA in retrospect of 1967, it is appropriate to emphasize that our motto has been

" RENDER SERVICE ".

In stating this, it will be realised by the reader that the service which our Group is called upon to render is very manifold, i.e. finding accommodation for young compatriots, helping them to settle down and inviting them into our homes when homesick or lonely. Many of these services have been very disappointing as some of the young men may use our service but not take part in our activities.

As pointed out by our President at the August Conference 1967, our Group has experienced seven fat years but the last two years were lean ones. In spite of the small membership, we have met every Thursday evening for fellowship. Special attention was given to the theme "WHAT A CHRISTIAN BELIEVES . . . ". We are thankful that our member, Albert Bertin, never fails to turn up whenever the school holidays are on. Among the many interesting lectures he gave on history were the three revolutions: "The French, The Industrial and The Russian". Mr. Ellis, the London City Missionary to Smithfield Market, has spoken to us on several occasions on the work he is doing among the porters, and salesmen of the biggest meat market in the world. Albert Bertin has told us that he has been coming to the Swiss Y.M.C.A. for the last twenty years but that he had never heard Mr. Ellis talk on the same subject twice, and yet his message is to proclaim the gospel. The main object of our meetings however was to deepen our faith in God, as we felt that it was the best preparation for the tests of life which man has to face. To know what God has to say about our life is of paramount importance to anyone who has been thinking about the purpose of life at all. We are grateful that Rev. K. Kulik takes an active interest in our Group and that we can call on him whenever we are without speaker.

We are thankful that we are allowed to use all the facilities of the Central YMCA. Many of our friends have realised that one is not allowed to neglect soul, mind and body. In order to keep them trained the Central YMCA is the best place to do this. We also share the monthly meetings of the Bankers' Christian Union whenever their meetings fall on a Thursday.

Our Summer- and Christmas parties were held at 47 Whittington Road and greatly appreciated by the participants. We received a number of messages for Christmas from friends who have gone through the Swiss YMCA in the past. Four of our friends are working at the moment for the Basle Mission in various jobs at different places.

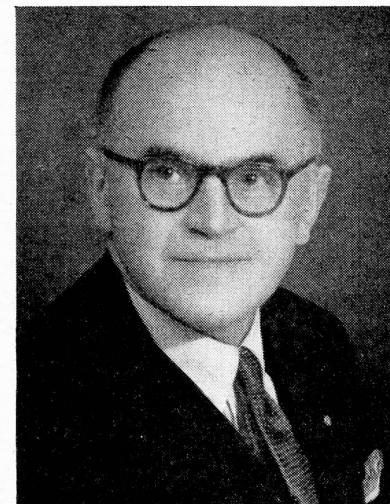
We wish to thank our donors in London but especially those in Switzerland for having so kindly continued their support. A special thanks goes to the Committee of the August Conference who so kindly agreed to meet all the expenses, i.e. annual rent, tea money, outings into the countryside, parties expenditure and others.

Our message to our friends abroad is: "*Make the YMCA known among the young men who come to London, we should be delighted to meet them*". We in London are using every opportunity to make our Group known among the new arrivals.

Before closing our report we want to tell you that our Group has had a wonderful start. The number of our members has gone up to 15, thanks be to God.

The motto for 1968 is "WATCH AND PRAY", reader please take up this motto, also.

GORDON BURKHALTER, President, Swiss Y.M.C.A.



FRED STREIT 70

We send heartfelt congratulations to Mr. F. Streit, of "Berna", 9 Orford Gardens, Twickenham, Middlesex, on the occasion of his 70th birthday on 2nd April. Fred Streit has been in this country since 1921, a staunch Bernese who has shown his attachment to his native country by taking part in an active and useful way in many Swiss organisations in London. His professional career as a banker was highly successful. He joined the staff of Barclays Bank Ltd., Chief Foreign Branch, London E.C.3, on arrival in Britain, and he was appointed Principal of the Central European Department in 1947. At the end of May 1958, he retired from the position he had held with great distinction.

In the Swiss community, he is well known as Chairman of the First of August Committee, an office he still holds having been Hon. Treasurer for many years. He was a co-founder of the London Swiss Philatelic Society, and as its President, after 11 years he was elected that year's Chairman of the Presidents' Assembly (now the Federation of Swiss Societies in the U.K.) in October 1953. Now he is the Philatelists' Honorary Patron. For many years, he sat on the Education Committee of the Swiss Mercantile Society and was elected member of the Council during the war. It was typical of Fred Streit that on 11th October last year, the very day of the Streits' 40th Wedding Anniversary, he attended the Monthly Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society in order to take part in the little celebration arranged for him and three other members who had been presented with a stained glass panel by the "Schweizerischer Kaufmännischer Verein" for 50 years of membership.

Fred Streit is as active as ever, and on this day of celebrating the completion of seven decades, we wish him and his devoted wife many more years of happiness and the best of health, and may his happy twinkle and lively sense of humour never desert him.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

On 30th March, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kriesi, of 132 Cockerell Road, Arbury Estate, Cambridge, are celebrating their Golden Wedding. Mr. Kriesi has been in this country since April 1912, and his wife will be 76 on 5th April. We wish them a happy Golden Wedding and a memorable birthday.

Congratulations and best wishes go to Mr. and Mrs. G. Keller, of 24b Maresfield Gardens, N.W.3, who will be celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary on 2nd April.

The following subscribers will be having their birthdays soon: Mr. Jules F. J. Ammann will be 82 on 30th and Mr. F. E. Brunner 76 on 31st March; Mr. L. W. Krucker will be 72 on 11th April. Two of our loyal old friends will be 75 on 13th April, Mr. L. Portmann and Dr. W. Preiswerk, C.B.E., Basle.

Mrs. Nina Pfaundler, of 61 Woodland Rise, Muswell Hill, N.10, will be 80 on 29th March. She is the widow of Mr. J. J. Pfaundler, a well-known personality in the Colony. His activities were shared most efficiently and loyally by his wife Nina. Mrs. Pfaundler is still interested in what happens in the Swiss community, and she has many activities she pursues with assiduity.

To all these readers and any others who will be celebrating their birthdays within the next three weeks, we send best wishes and many happy returns.

We have just heard that Mrs. Lina Gradmann, of 51 Wessex Gardens, N.W.11, celebrated her 70th birthday on 9th March. She is the widow of a former engineer with Sulzer Brothers in London, and both Mr. and Mrs. Gradmann were very active in the Swiss community at one time. Even up to a short while ago, Mrs. Gradmann rendered valuable services to the Youth Group of the German-speaking Swiss Church. Belatedly, but very sincerely, we wish her many happy returns of the day.

ALBERT FERBER AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

An interesting Piano Recital not to be missed

As readers will have seen from "Forthcoming Events" in previous issues, our compatriot and eminent pianist Albert Ferber will give a piano recital at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Thursday, 28th March, at 7.45 p.m.

Mr. Ferber has played successfully in many parts of the world. Since his last recital at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in May last year, he has been invited to play in Ireland, Germany, France, Jamaica and U.S.A. He has also given no fewer than seven recitals for the BBC. A new record on SAGA is to be issued soon. By attending his recital next week, his compatriots have an opportunity of showing their appreciation not only of his art but also of his ever-ready kindness to play to audiences at Swiss functions. Incidentally, the recital takes place on the eve of his birthday, and we wish him many happy returns of the day.

In addition, or better as a primary reason for attending, there is an interesting programme which should induce any music lover: Variations on Righini's air "Vieni amore" and two sonatas (E major Op. 109 and E flat major Op. 31, No. 3) by Beethoven, followed by Scriabin's Sonata in F minor Op. 6. The *Polonaise*-

Fantaisie in A flat major Op. 61 by Chopin will be played next, and the recital will end with Debussy's *Nocturne* in D flat major and "L'isle joyeuse".

Tickets at 15/-, 10/- and 7/6 are available from the Royal Festival Box Office (01-928 3191) and usual agents. Postal applications should be accompanied by a stamped-addressed envelope.

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS : à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches a 11h00 et 19h00.

SAINTE-CENE : le premier et troisième dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

PERMANENCE : chaque jeudi de 15h00 a 18h00.

REUNION DE QUARTIER : huit veillées en automne et au printemps; voir "Le Messager".

CLUB DES JEUNES : tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNION DE COUTURE : le 2^e mardi du mois.

LUNCH : tous les dimanches a 13h00.

VISITES : sur demande.

PASTEUR : A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London N.3
Téléphone 346-5281.

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SERVICES IN GERMAN : at St. Mary Woolnoth Church, Lombard Street, Bank, E.C.3, every Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION : every first Sunday of the month at evening service only. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

CONSULTATIONS : every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

DISTRICT GROUPS (W.4 and S.E.21) and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON : see "Gemeindebote".

SERVICES IN ENGLISH : every fourth Sunday at 7 p.m. at St. Mary Woolnoth.

"**KONTAKT**" (Youth Group) : every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 6.30 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

SWISS Y.M.C.A. : see Forthcoming Events.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE : every first Tuesday of the Month.

VISITS : by request.

MINISTER : Pfr. M. Dietler, 1 Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone 340-6018.

Situations Wanted or Vacant

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Young enterprising Shipping Company looking for **Secretary**, English/German/French. Preferably Swiss National. Interesting position. Reply BOX No. 68 "The Swiss Observer" 23 Leonard Street, London E.C.2.