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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

MRS. MARIANN MEIER ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT OF THE NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

The latest "Open Meeting" of the Society took place at the Swiss Hotel for Girls on 24th October, when three new films were shown by courtesy of the Swiss National Tourist Office: "Stamps—The Colourful World in Miniatures", a 16-minute film on colour on the work of Swiss graphic artists and engravers; "Summer Hits" (12 minutes), showing the unrivalled sporting facilities of St. Moritz in summer; and Heiniger's trilogy "Switzerland", a 20-minute film in superb colour with music by Rolf Liebermann. These films were preceded by two short Pathé Pictorials on the Matterhorn Centenary (1965) and the Tour of Switzerland "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" (1968).

The President, Dr. H. W. Egli, then announced that Mrs. Mariann Meier had accepted nomination as the Society's new President and had been elected by the Council. Mrs. Meier needs no introduction to our members; the Society has been very lucky to count on her indefatigable support over many years past. With our congratulations, we all wish Mrs. Meier a happy and successful term as President of our Society. (J.S.)

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS IN THE SWISS OBSERVER

This year we shall be repeating our presentation of Christmas greetings and hope to be as successful as last year. We shall be booking space for Christmas greetings in the Double-Christmas-Number appearing on December 12th at the disposal of those of our readers interested in this convenient way of reaching a wide circle of friends, and of being remembered by compatriots all over the world. At the same time, the arrangement is a means of additional support to the paper. Those of our readers who wish to be included should kindly forward name and address to our office not later than Monday, 24th November, together with remittance of £2. Your prompt decision would be highly appreciated!

COLLISIONS AT SEA EXPLAINED AT THE CITY SWISS CLUB

The guest speaker at the October dinner of the City Swiss Club was Mr. L. C. Taylor, sales director of the Decca Radar Company. The subject of his exposé was "collisions at sea" and the ways of preventing them.

It is incredible to learn that there are still a great number of ships destroyed through collisions at sea. Mr. Taylor explained to us how, in

spite of radar, it is still possible for two ships to plough into each other. He illustrated the point with the disastrous collision that took place between the "Andrea Doria" and the "Stockholm" on 25th July 1956.

Decca invented the first true motion radar in 1956. Formerly, radars had only indicated relative motion, or the motion of ships with respect to each other. Thanks to the new device, it is possible to have an immediate display of the course of an oncoming ship and read directly at what distance it will pass by.

Mr. Taylor said that some sea channels were getting so crowded with ships that it was becoming indispensable to install ship traffic regulations and radar beacons from inshore stations, just as on the approaches of an airport. He showed us a few radar pictures of the English Channel taken from Dungeness. It was thickly dotted with ships. In five years, some 40-odd collisions had taken place in the Channel and they are aligned along a "collision slot" off the English coast, which represents the most economical route for shipping in both directions. To reduce these collisions, shipping authorities in Great Britain had tried to implement voluntary regulations, whereby ships going up-Channel were to stay near to the English or French coast, and ships going down were to sail along the centre of the Channel. 80% of shipping was complying to these regulations.

To prevent collisions in future, it will be necessary to generalize radar devices that give a clear display of the course of other ships and that leave the least possible to the intellect of the helmsman. Mr. Taylor said that a responsible officer should be present on the bridge of an important ship. He mentioned that much of the new electronic gadgetry designed to increase the safety of ships met with a great deal of conservative opposition among those who lived in ships and shipping.

Answering to a question, Mr. Taylor said that Decca shipping radars were unchallenged in Europe. An encouragement to the balance of payment. (P.M.B.)

A SCOTLAND YARD INVITATION

On 24th November, at 7.15 p.m. at Battersea Town Hall, the International Police Association is holding a meeting at which one of their members will be reading a paper on the Administration of Justice in Liechtenstein.

The Association is formed of Police Officers throughout all the western countries and those within the London area send one of their

number overseas each year to make a brief study of some particular aspect of police work. This year an officer from the Thames Valley Constabulary chose to visit Liechtenstein and will be discussing the results of his examination at this meeting with an invited audience of his colleagues and their guests. M. Stauffer, the Cultural Attaché at the Swiss Embassy has kindly promised to attend and the Association is anxious to welcome any members of the Swiss and Liechtensteiner community in London who may care to come along.

You are offered an interesting evening and the talk is followed by a cheese and wine function at which you will be able to get to know your hosts. If you are thinking of going, the organiser, Mr. D. Eastwood, from New Scotland Yard, asks that you give him a ring on 01-764 9273 so that he may have an idea of the numbers to cater for.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

At the approach of Christmas, the SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, the two Communities of the SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON and the SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION appeal as in the past to their many friends in the Swiss Colony.

However, there is a difference this year. As many of you will have seen from the Annual Report of the Swiss Benevolent Society, it is no longer possible, for a variety of reasons, to distribute used clothing. This does not mean that we no longer want to bring some extra pleasure to our less fortunate compatriots. We shall try to send out as many parcels as possible and we need your help for our Christmas Action as much as ever. We shall greatly appreciate any donations or gifts of new clothing and unperishable foods, i.e. tinned food, processed cheese, biscuits, chocolate, etc.

Gifts in kind will be received gratefully by the Swiss Benevolent Society, if possible not later than the 25th November and donations in cash, postal orders or cheques may be forwarded to any of the following addresses: SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, 31, Conway Street, London, W1P 5HL The Rev. A. NICOD, 7, Park View Road, London, N.3. The Rev. M. DIETLER, 1, Womersley Road, London, N.8. The Rev. P. BOSSARD, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, London, S.W.1.

CONVALESCENT HOME IN SWITZERLAND

On 17th September, fifteen children, boys and girls aged 5 to 15 years left Gatwick Airport *en route*

for Arosa. They came from Northumberland, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, and Greater London area. They were children suffering from persistent asthmatic, bronchial and other chest complaints which had not been remedied in Gt. Britain, and were recommended by hospital doctors, medical practitioners and medical officers of industrial concerns as likely to gain special advantage from convalescence in the Swiss Alps. Each child will stay at least three months in the care of a splendidly run Swiss Convalescent Home, and in special charge of the Society's own English companion teacher.

Since its inauguration some thirteen years ago, the Society has taken 206 children, each of whom has spent at least three and some six months in the mountain air of Switzerland. There have been many most encouraging results, a very fair percentage of the children taken having regained complete good health, whilst all benefited enormously by this treatment.

The Society hopes to take more and more such children, all of whom must of course qualify not only on medical grounds, but by the financial circumstances of the parents, as only children of those genuinely unable to afford the cost are considered. It is also intended to give the children a longer period of convalescence as this would make all the difference to their chance of a complete recovery. When funds permit, this will be done.

Alpine Sun for British Children has no paid administrative staff, and office accommodation, rent, light and heating etc is provided free of charge, so that the bulk of the money contributed goes for the direct benefit of the children.

The Hon. Administrator Mr. Alan J. Gowing, 8 Rowan Walk, Bromley, Kent would welcome any donations, however small, towards this work for sick British children.

(Mr. Gowing is a subscriber of the S.O. and is a great friend of Switzerland. We should like to recommend the organisation warmly. Ed.).

The winter schedule of Swiss Broadcasting Corporations' European and Overseas Services

The new edition of "Switzerland Calling", the SBC's programme-schedule covers the period from November 2nd 1969 to May 2nd 1970. Totalling 50 hours each day our broadcasts can be heard throughout the world in the following transmissions:

The European Programme (on the 31, 48 and 75 meterband) with some direct transmissions to Africa

Rebroadcasts from the three national services in Swiss-German, French and Italian, programmes in English and Esperanto, magazine programmes for the Swiss Abroad, news bulletins as well as general and political information.

Overseas Programmes

Programmes in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French and Arabic are beamed around the world and include international and home news, political commentaries, actuality reports and entertainment features, serious, light and Swiss country music concerts and special programmes for DX-ers, jazz-fans and the Swiss Abroad.

Programmes for the Swiss Abroad

"Schwiizerspiegel", "Reflets suisses" and "Prisma Svizzero" will continue to bring to the Swiss living outside Switzerland maximum information on Swiss events.

Frequencies, reception areas and times, together with additional information on the programmes are indicated in the four versions (English/German, Spanish/French, Portuguese/Italian and Arabic) of "Switzerland Calling", which can be received free of charge from **SBC's European and Overseas Services, Post Box, CH-3000 Bern 16.**

SWISS WELFARE OFFICE

The 20th anniversary of the Swiss Welfare Office for Girls has been marked by a cocktail party given at the residence of the Embassy by the Ambassador, Mr. René Keller, on Thursday, 30th October. The Embassy, the Consulate and the Committee of the Welfare Office were largely represented. Many of the pillars of the Swiss Colony of London were also present.

CITY SWISS CLUB

in conjunction with the

SWISS ECONOMIC COUNCIL

104th Annual Banquet and Ball

FRIDAY, 21st NOVEMBER 1969

at the

DORCHESTER HOTEL, PARK LANE, LONDON, W.1

RECEPTION 7.30 p.m. · DINNER at 8 p.m. · DANCING until 2 a.m.

with ARTHUR SALISBURY and his Orchestra

TOMBOLA



CABARET

BLACK TIE

TICKETS at £3-10-0. are available from

**Mr. L. F. Ackermann, Swiss Bank Corporation, Swiss Centre, 1, New Coventry Street, W.1
and Mr. L. F. Jobin, 10, Kelvin Drive, St. Margarets, Twickenham, Middlesex.**