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DEPARTING FRIENDS

It was in 1952 that Monsieur and Madame Félix Ansermoz arrived in London to begin a career which firmly bound them to this country and the many friends they made in the 16 years of residence here. They are leaving us now, Monsieur Ansermoz retiring prematurely from the services of the Confederation in order to take up some other work with the British Quaker Movement at Tananarive in Madagascar. It was there that the young Vaudois who had studied at the Universities of Lausanne and London and who had worked as tutor in America for six years (he also holds a doctorate in American Literature), served for two out of the eight years in the service of the Society of Friends. He was in charge of a school and looked after the boys' section whilst his wife, who had had similar training, was head of the girls' department. Following their stay abroad, the Ansermoz returned to Switzerland, where he was Secretary of the International Quaker Centre. The next six years were spent in the Federal Political Department in Berne. In 1952, he was appointed Chief of the Labour and Welfare Section of the Swiss Embassy in London, and ten years later, Monsieur Ansermoz was promoted to Counsellor.

It was only natural that he should be actively engaged in the foundation and running of the Swiss Hostel for Girls, of which he was Honorary Secretary. He was also a member of the Swiss Benevolent Society and of the Welfare Office for Swiss Girls in Great Britain (both since 1952). Monsieur Ansermoz was a member of the Swiss Rifle Association, and both he and his wife most loyal members of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. Madame Ansermoz was very active in religious and social spheres, especially with the YWCA and the International Travelers' Aid, and she has at all times been a staunch supporter of her husband, not least in his efforts to retard the aging of the Swiss Community and in helping young people to feel at home here. Many young people owe their work permits to the efforts made on their behalf by Monsieur Ansermoz and his Department.

May we hope that one day our friends will be back here? In the meantime we wish them God-speed and a happy retirement even if — typically — it will still be full of, we hope, rewarding and satisfying work.

MM

NEW BABIES

It is with great pleasure that we announce the arrival of a son Andreas to Mr. and Mrs. A. Mehr of 58 St. John's Road, Wembley, Middlesex. The little brother to Markus was born on 27th November. We send congratulations and best wishes to the young family.

* * *

We have great pleasure in announcing the arrival of another grandchild to Dr. E. M. Bircher, Bissone (Ticino). The little baby girl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bircher, is the sixth granddaughter and seventh grandchild of Dr. Bircher, and we extend best wishes and congratulations.

"SWISS OBSERVER" PUBLICATION DATES

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 24th January. All articles and reports should be to hand by Tuesday, 14th January. Short news items only can be accepted after that date.

Our next issue but one will be published on Friday, 14th February. All contributions for that number should be in not later than Tuesday, 4th February.

OBITUARY

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of **Mrs. Germaine Chapuis** of "Y'aMieux", Broomhills Road, West Mersea, Essex. She had been seriously ill and died at Colchester Military Hospital on 13th December, aged 74. The Chapuis had celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary in hospital. The funeral took place at the Colchester Crematorium on 19th December, with the Rev. A. Nicod officiating.

Carlo and Germaine Chapuis retired to Essex a few years ago, but before that time, they had been a very popular couple in the London community. How well we shall remember the graceful Vaudoise with her genuine charm and sunny smile, always ready to give a helping hand, quietly, efficiently and unobtrusively. Her activities in the Swiss community were many. Our deep sympathy goes out to her husband in his grief. May it be some consolation to him that all those who had the privilege of knowing his wife, will keep a warm memory in their hearts.

* * *

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of **Mrs. E. C. Schmid** of 35 Shirley Drive, Hove 4, Sussex. She died shortly before Christmas, and we send our sincere sympathy to Mr. Schmid and their daughter Yvonne in their sad bereavement.

BIRTHDAYS

We have just heard that Mrs. Helena Rittmeyer celebrated her 69th birthday on 28th December. We have already mentioned two special birthdays in our last issue, the 70th of Mr. W. Renz on 2nd and the 80th of Mr. J. Christen (Oberwil/Zug) on 3rd January, but we mention them again because the exact dates were omitted. Our wishes were none the less sincere, as are those for Mrs. Helene Tschuy who celebrates her 68th birthday on 16th January, and to Capt. T. D. Richardson, O.B.E., who will be 82 on the same day. Many happy returns to them all as well as to any other reader whose birthday falls within the next fortnight.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

Miss B. A. Bujard, Mrs. H. A. Clarke, Mrs. S. E. Degerland, Mrs. D. Huber, Mrs. D. Payne, Mrs. Ph. Walker, Monsieur le Consul Brunner, The Rev. P. Wipf (Sissach, BL), and Messrs. W. Allenspach, G. R. Bernhardt, P. Bessire, J. Bonjour, F. Bovet, R. Friedrich (Ebikon, Lucerne), H. Furger (Zurich), W. Galli, N. H. Leuzinger, C. Nater, R. E. Zurbrugg.

We are most grateful for their kind and generous support.

The Editor would also like to express her sincere thanks for all the kind and encouraging messages, good wishes and presents. She was deeply touched by her readers' kindness and reciprocates their wishes for a happy new year.