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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWISS CHILDREN'S PARTY

The Swiss Children's Annual Christmas Party, held on 4th January and attended by 101 children, was, as usual, a great success. Besides a series of coloured slides depicting the Christmas Story, and some beautiful Swiss films, the highlight of the afternoon was the performance given by a conjurer who kept the children highly amused with his tricks, old and new. An attractive tea, enjoyed by all, was followed by a visit from Father Christmas. He told the children not to forget to collect their presents on the way out. On behalf of the committee, I wish to thank all the generous contributors who enabled us to organise this party.

E.H.

APPRECIATION

The following letter has been sent to the Editor by the new Secretary of the Swiss Benevolent Society, Mrs. A.-R. Sharp.

"Dear Mrs. Meier,

"Before Christmas, you again gave us generous space in the "Swiss Observer" for our Annual Appeal.

"As usual, the response was most encouraging. Both individual members of the Swiss Colony and Swiss Societies helped by sending us a wide variety of gifts as well as money.

"So packing became a very pleasant operation indeed, and our faithful team of six helpers spent three very busy days wrapping up all the presents. 132 people benefitted from nearly a hundred parcels which were finally ready for distribution. Thanks to a few helpful drivers, more than two-thirds of them were delivered personally, thus giving our friends the added joy of a Christmas visit.

"Our particular thanks go to the *Réunion de Couture* and the *Frauenverein* who, in spite of all the hard work for the Bazaar of the Swiss Church, found time to prepare for us various beautiful garments.

"All this work would not have been possible but for the help of you and many others, and for this we are deeply grateful."

Yours sincerely,

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
for the Committee,
A.-R. SHARP.

31 Conway Street,
London W.1.

SIXTH RADIO WORLD SHOOTING CONTEST OF THE SWISS ABROAD

For some time, we have carried a "Forthcoming Event" for next summer, viz. the Federal Shooting Contest at Thun from 7th to 27th July. We have just received a request of the Swiss Shortwave Service (Schweizer Kurzwellendienst, RWSF, Postfach, 3000 Berne 16) to tell our readers that the *Wettkampfreglement* is available at the above address. This is the sixth time that a special contest for the Swiss abroad is organised over the radio. At the last one in July 1963, over 600 men and women shots from 33 places on all the continents took place. There is no need for a group to be well-established, in fact, teams specially formed for this event are just as welcome, and the minimum number is three per group. Among the promised prizes are Army binoculars donated by the Federal Military Department.

BIRTHDAYS

Many happy returns to Monsieur A. Daeniker, former Ambassador in London, now retired in Berne, who will be 71 on 24th February; and Mr. O. Grob, K.S.G., who celebrates his 69th birthday on 26th inst. Mr. F. Gerber was born in 1892 — but as it was on 29th February, he misses out this year. Best wishes to these old friends and any other readers whose birthdays fall within the next fortnight.

PERSONAL

We are happy to announce the marriage of Miss Gay Pfaendler to Mr. Philip Gahan, at St. Martin's Parish Church on 11th January. Miss Pfaendler is the only child of the late Mr. Milton Pfaendler and his wife Joyce, and granddaughter of the late Mr. J. Pfaendler and Mrs. Nina Pfaendler who is still a loyal reader of the S.O. Miss Gay was the only third-generation Pfaendler in England and Switzerland, and with her marriage, the family name dies out. Congratulations and best wishes to the young couple!

OBITUARY

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. J. G. Harding, of 47 Broomwood Road, S.W.11, whose husband died a few weeks ago. Our condolences also go to their daughter.

* * *

We have just heard of the death some time ago of an old reader, Mr. Ernest John Rupp, of 162 Gloucester Road, Bristol, 7. He was a well-known figure in the town where he had built up a cooked-meat business. He left the successful concern to two women who had baked pies for him for over 30 years. He will be much missed.

* * *

Another death which has only just come to our notice, is that of Mr. Theodor W. Meyer, O.B.E., of Schiferliweg 78, Berne. He was connected with the Red Cross during the war (in London).

Our sincere sympathy goes to his wife, son and daughter-in-law.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

Mrs. L. Chapuis, Miss M. Duff Ingram, Mrs. C. Kensett, Mrs. I. Milli, Mrs. A. McPeake, Miss E. Ruettimann, Miss E. Spengler, Monsieur F. Muheim, Monsieur P. Stauffer and Messrs. L. F. Ackermann, H. Andrea, G. Bouverat, J. B. Brutsch, P. Bucher, C. L. Coulet, W. Diener (Nyeri, Kenya), R. D. Diviani, C. Fer, E. P. J. Gruhn, C. F. Gyax, T. Haller, W. Hebeisen, O. Kaegi, R. J. Keller, V. Kraus, A. Mehr, A. U. Obrist (Basle), H. Racheter, H. Rast, J. A. F. Regamey, A. Respinger, R. Voegtli.

We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.