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Swiss Church (member of the Consistoire since 1965 and President of the German-speaking Council since 1967). Despite the much lamented early death of her husband in 1961 Mrs. Meier intensified her work for the Colony and Switzerland when she was appointed editor of the "Swiss Observer" which exacting position she filled with distinction from May 1962 to August 1969, having previously proved her writing talent as author of "The Young Traveller in Switzerland" which was published subsequently in several foreign languages as well as in three English editions. Mrs Meier was soon after elected as Delegate of our Colony to the Commission of the Swiss Abroad in Berne—its only woman-member until last year. 1967 the Commission appointed her member of a study-committee on information. 1968 she spoke in Basle on behalf of all Swiss abroad on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the N.S.H. and since April 1968 she is a member of the Committee of the annual "Bundes-feierspende, a particularly flattering appointment of trust. A member of the Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad since its inception, Mrs. Meier succeeded her husband 1962 as Delegate for the U.K. and since 1968 is member of its administrative council. Her retirement from the editorship of the "Swiss Observer" in August 1969 was to become the N.S.H.'s great opportunity to persuade Mrs. Meier to take on its presidency.

(E)

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE COLNOY

Whoever pretends that the Colony only consists of aging Swiss or ex-Swiss may change his mind when he goes to the Christmas Fête organised for the children of the Colony at St. Mary's Hall, in the Y.M.C.A. Headquarters of Gt. Russell Street.

A good hundred lively children were filling the rows of St. Mary's Hall. The party began with a lesson read out by Pasteur Nicod, this being followed by a prayer, which the children endured bravely, but not without a lot of fidgeting and gaping with eager eyes in every direction.

Then Mr. Arnold Brun spun the tale of the fourth Magi, the one who came too late at the cradle of Bethlehem. A very inspiring story, beautifully illustrated by a running projection of colour-slides, which received the full attention of the young audience.

A conjurer made his boisterous appearance and immediately displayed a remarkable gift for getting the children to participate in his show. In fact, he took more time tattling with them and playing the clown than in performing his tricks. But that was what the children enjoyed and, by the time the

few adults in the hall were starting to stretch themselves, he asked the children whether they wanted another trick. He was answered with an overriding and resounding cry of "yes"! He ended his performance with something which children always love to see: drawing familiar and funny pictures very quickly on a board.

Tea-time had rung, and the young crowd went to enjoy their cakes, biscuits, orangeade, jelly and other goodies. Then Monsieur Godet appeared, disguised as Father Christmas. He told the story of the descent of Santa Claus, got a gleeful clap from those little hands, and sent the children rushing to their presents.

A very enjoyable fête, as much fun for the adults present as for the kids!

(PMB)

ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE

Having participated to the James Bond happening atop the Swiss Centre (see Christmas number) and knowing that the film would show familiar Swiss sceneries, I gave in to the temptation of going to see "On Her Majesty's Secret Service".

Never have I heard such differing judgements expressed on a film: I heard some say the film was utter trash, and others who thought it terrific. The reasons advanced for hating the film were its silly plot, its namby-pamby main actor (as you know, Sean Connery has retired from the rôle of Bond and has been replaced by a less virile but quite endearing character called George Lazenby), its absolute irrealsim and a general weariness of the James Bond menu. Reasons for loving the film were its beautiful alpine setting, some tremendous technical stunts and the humour (of a caricatural nature) involved in meeting again with James Bond memorabilia.

Therefore, I suspect that those who take life with seriousness, who tend to judge the quality of films on the value or morality of their theme will dislike the film: its defects will loom awfully large. Those less serious and more careless people who agree, like me, that nonsense can be good fun, will probably enjoy it.

From the "touristic" point of view, I was not deceived. In this respect, the film was almost as good as the SNTO shorts shown at the monthly meetings of Swiss societies in London. One recognizes Murren, Lauterbrunnen, Berne and the Schildhorn teleferic, whose summit-station happens to be the hideout of the diabolical Blofeld (this, for Swiss viewers means a hard strain on realism). We get a good view of the Oberland as James Bond climbs to Blofeld's abode in a helicopter.

On the technical side, I will

remember a few swift, percussive and neat punchups, a terrific ski-chase (Bond's pursuers tearing down vertiginous slopes and firing away with their machine-guns at the same time!), a few moments of delightful macabre humour, a shattering car-race on an ice-rink and a closeup of an avalanche.

You most probably won't fall for my vulgar pleasures, but go and see the film all the same, for the sake of the Oberland!

(PMB)

CHINESE EXPERIENCES

On the "Sunday Times" review of 4th January, we read the amazing story of a Manchester resident of Swiss origin, Alfred Bosshardt. His parents were Swiss, but he was born and brought up in Manchester. At the age of 23, receiving the missionary call, he left for China, where he was one of the 1,300 missionaries of the China Inland Mission. During his ministry in that forbidding land, he and his missionary wife were attacked and robbed by bandits many a time, but one day in 1934, it was no usual bandit who stopped and plundered them: Alfred Bosshardt and his wife had unknowingly fallen, in the course of a missionary tour, on the path of the communist army of General Ho Lung. This peasant army, constantly harassed by Nationalist forces, had trecked interminably across the arid wastes of central China. This march received far less publicity than the celebrated "long march" on which Mao Tse Tung lead his beleaguered forces some 6,000 miles from the Kiangsi to Yenan, in the Shensi. In the same way, the communist army of General Ho Lung zigzagged for endless months between the provinces of Hunan and the Yenan. Alfred Bosshardt and his wife spent 560 days, trudging some 2,500 miles, suffering incredible physical hardships. Following an attempted escape, they spent a year in Communist gaols in undescribable circumstances. Mr. Bosshardt is now 73 years old, lives in a Manchester suburb, and continues to be active as a church worker.

SWISS HOLIDAYS FOR SWISS CHILDREN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Foundation "Pro Juventute" in Zurich is again organising a holiday for children of 7-15 years, of Swiss parentage who live in the United Kingdom, provided always that there is a sufficient number of participants.

As usual, these holidays will start at the best and most attractive time to enjoy Switzerland, i.e. towards the end of July, and are scheduled to last six weeks according to arrangements made by "Pro Juventute".

As regards board and lodging in Switzerland, "Pro Juventute" offers various schemes, such as:

- (a) Board and lodging at reduced prices in a recognised children's home, selected by "Pro Juventute", available for children up to 11 years of age, only for children holding Swiss passports.
- (b) A stay of about 4 weeks in various holiday camps, available for children of about 12-15 years of age, only for children holding Swiss passports.
- (c) Free board and lodging with Swiss families for a limited number of children whose parents are unable to pay either the whole or part of the cost. Only children holding Swiss passports can be considered under this scheme.
- (d) Children who are in the happy position of holding a written invitation from relations or friends in Switzerland are welcome to join the party for the journey both ways.

In cases where parents would value such holidays for their youngsters but are not in a position to defray the cost of the journey, the Swiss Benevolent Societies would endeavour to provide the necessary funds. This should be stated in the application which should be sent in writing at the latest by 25th March to:

- (a) In the London Consular District: Mrs. B. Kaluza, 14 Amberley Court, Christchurch Park, Sutton, Surrey;
- (b) In the Manchester Consular District: Consulate of Switzerland, Sunley Buildings (18th floor), Piccadilly Plaza Manchester 1.

The parents will then be supplied with all relevant information.

English girl aged 21 requires pen friend male/female of same age, if possible in Davos area as she is visiting Davos in July this year.

Suzanne E. Leigh, 7 Deyncourt Gdns., Essex.

WELFARE OFFICE

for

SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN (For Information, Advice or Help)

11 Belsize Grove, London N.W.3.
(Nearest Underground Station:
Belsize Park)

Telephone: 01-722 4260

RECEPTION HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
2 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

There is also a possibility for longer stays in Switzerland in the case of illness, operations, treatment of speech and sight impediments. Other cases which may be considered by the *Ferien- und Hilfswerk für Auslandschweizerkinder* of the "Pro Juventute" and the "Schweizerhilfe" Foundations, are those where proper schooling is lacking or where there is a bad family background. Applications in these cases should be made to the Swiss Embassy in London or the Swiss Consulate in Manchester by early March.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Every Thursday, from 6 to 7.30 p.m. — Discussion Circle in English — Young men specially invited. Tea from 6 to 6.15 p.m. Swiss Y.M.C.A., London Central Y.M.C.A. Building, Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres: Monthly Meetings every first Wednesday of the month at 34 Fitzroy Square, W.1. — 7 p.m.

JANUARY

Tuesday 27th. Swiss Club Edinburgh 8 p.m.
187 Canongate. Fondue Party.

Tuesday 27th. City Swiss Club. Card Evening.

Wednesday 28th. "Music without Distraction" presentation. Westminster Abbey, 8 p.m. English masters.

Thursday 29th. NHS, talk and film on "Swiss Mountaineering Schools" by Mr. D. Bertholet from Verbier.

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 17th. Queen Elizabeth Hall. 7.45 p.m. Performance of Ernest Bloch's Concerto Grossa.

Thursday 19th. Nouvelle Société Helvétique Open meeting.

Friday 20th. Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 p.m. A performance of Rudolf Kelterborn's "Lamentations" by the Camerata String Orchestra.

Tuesday 24th. City Swiss Club. Soirée Familiale.

Tuesday 24th. Swiss Club Edinburgh. 187 Canongate. Wurst-Abig and Sing-Song.

Wednesday 25th. Royal Festival Hall 5.55 p.m. Organ recital by Lione Rogg (J.S. Bach).

BIRTHDAYS

We send congratulations and best wishes to the following subscribers and any other readers who will be celebrating their birthdays soon. Mr. H. Reymond will be 84 on 25th January, Mr. E. Luterbacher 83 on 26th. On 1st February, Mr. A. Schmid (Norfolk Court Hotel) will be 83, and on 11th February, Mr. A. Bleiker who spends the winter in Spain, will be 73. Mr. E. Weber is at present at Menziken (Aargau), and he will be 74 on 12th February.

We are pleased to announce the birth of a baby son Pietro Michelangelo Dante to Mr. and Mrs. Dante M. E. Brenni, of Birmingham (26th December). Best wishes to the happy family.

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches a 11h15 et 19h00.

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

PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à 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 01-346 5281.

* * *

SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, at 10 a.m. At St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. at 7.30 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 7.30 p.m.

"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.

MOTHERS' REUNION: 1st Wednesday in the Month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTER: Pfr. M. Dietler, 1. Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone 01-340 6018.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION

CHURCH and SERVICE: St. Ann's Catholic Church, Abbey Orchard Street (off No. 25 Victoria Street), S.W.1.

SUNDAYS: Holy Mass at 9 and 11 a.m. in English. At 6.30 p.m. for the Swiss community with regard to the different language groups.

HOLIDAYS of obligation: Holy Mass at 7.30 and 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS and THURSDAYS: Holy Mass at 1 p.m. afterwards time for consultations.

CONFESIONS: German, French, Italian and English:

Sundays: one hour before Evening Mass.

Saturdays: 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m. or by appointment.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB — Meeting every Sunday after Evening Mass (8-11 p.m.) at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Stratton Ground, S.W.1.

CHAPLAIN: Paul Bossard, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. Tel.: 01-222 2895.