

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1970)

Heft: 1589

Rubrik: Swiss Church = Swiss Catholic Mission

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even more so his high ideals of true patriotism have enabled him to work for the creation of a Cultural Forum of Switzerland in London, a great scheme which is nearing fruition, and which will help to improve the image of our country.

I now have the honour and pleasure of presenting Dr. Egli with a small token of our gratitude. We asked him to make a choice, and he has done so in his usual unassuming modesty. (Presentation of book).

Above all, I have the privilege of announcing that the meeting earlier this evening has unanimously elected Hans Egli as *Honorary Vice-President* in recognition of his services.

Dr. Egli has retired both as President of the NSH and eminent correspondent of the *Neue Zuercher Zeitung*. He is still President of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the U.K. He will now devote his efforts even more to the Forum. But we hope that he will also be able to enjoy plenty of leisure, and we wish him and Mrs. Egli many more years of good health and happy togetherness.

Ladies and gentlemen — Your Honorary Vice-President — at multes annes! (end of Mrs. Meier's address).

The Ambassador, Monsieur René Keller, who had come for the reception with Madame Keller, rose to tell us of his first contact with NSH in war-time Prague, where he was a young vice-consul. In those days the "Nouvelle Société Helvétique", a rebirth of the historical "Société Helvétique", was not established as firmly as it is today, and certainly not in Prague. His job was to create a Prague NSH for the benefit of the handful of Swiss who were there. He acted as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-President and public relations man for both this society and the Swiss community in Prague. As there was no Press reporter, his despatches to "Echo" were vetted by the Chairman and approved by the Consul. This gave a measure of the scope of his promotion as Honorary President of the London NSH!

Monsieur Keller reminded us that another step had been officially taken in this direction by replacing "ministers" by ambassadors. Monsieur de Torrenté, who was Minister when Monsieur Keller first came to London in 1954, very much enjoyed the former title, even though it involved persistent enquiries on his denomination.

Monsieur Keller ended his address by reading out the "Tages Anzeiger" report of Mrs. Meier's speech at the assembly of the Swiss abroad at Lenzburg. He praised the tremendous effort of the London NSH towards the realisation of the Swiss Forum and proposed a toast to Dr. Egli.

(PMB)

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. C. Voegli, of 21 Seidenstr. 8400 Winterthur, has asked us to thank all those who have sent her letters of sympathy following the death of her late husband, Charles Voegli, for their kindness and regrets that she has not been able to thank each one of them individually.

Mrs. M. K. Harper has drawn our attention to the **National Model Railway Exhibition** which will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, from 31st March to 4th April. As usual, Mr. M. K. Harper will be exhibiting models of Swiss locomotives and rolling stock. He has, this year, won the Model Railway Club's Vice-Chairman's Trophy with a 1/26 scale model of a Berne-Neuchatel coach.

PAUL LERCH, 70

Mr. Paul Lerch, one of the pillars of the Yorkshire Swiss Club, will be 70 on April 2nd. He is the husband of the Secretary of the Yorkshire Swiss Club and both have done a great deal for this Society over a period of many years. Mr. Lerch was born in Brittnau (Ag) and was one of a family of ten children. He made a locksmith's apprenticeship, spent the first world war in the fortress artillery of the Gothard and then went to work for Sulzer Brothers. Specialising in marine engines, his work led him to such far away places as the West Indies, Japan and South America. He eventually became a foreman at the Leeds Sulzer works and a machine assembler with very high responsibilities. He spent the war repairing damaged allied merchant ships. He has now retired and lives in Leeds. We congratulate him for this anniversary and wish him many more long years.

(PMB)

OTHER CELEBRATIONS

Mrs. Nina Pfaendler will be 82 on 29th March. On March 30th, Mr. and Mrs. Kries will be celebrating their 52nd wedding anniversary. Mr. Jules F. J. Amman will be 84 on 30th March and Mr. F. E. Brunner will be 78 on the 31st. Mrs. Marie Rose Lang will be 81 on 1st April and Mr. Fred Streit 72 on the 2nd. That same day, Mr. and Mrs. Gottfried Keller will be celebrating 32 years of marriage. On 11th April, Mrs. Ch. Rabes will be having her birthday, age not disclosed! To these and other readers who will be celebrating an important day very shortly we send our warmest congratulations.

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the passing away of Mr. Freddy Mermoud, at Montbrillant, 1815 Baugy (Vd) at the age of 77. He died on January 22nd. He had lived in London for many years and had retired in Switzerland four years ago.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

Secours Mutuels des Suisses a Londres. Monthly Meetings every first Wednesday of the month at 34 Fitzroy Sq., W.1., 7 p.m.

APRIL

Friday 3rd. Swiss Church, Endell St., 18th Century music for strings and harpsichord by the Frenkendorf Ensemble under the patronage of the N.H.S., 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 8th, Swiss Mercantile Society Monthly Meeting. (No talk on the "History of the Thames" as indicated in the last issue. This talk took place in the March meeting) 35 Fitzroy Sq., W.1.

Sunday 12th. Annual General Meeting of the Committee of Swiss Catholics at 48 Gt. Peter St., S.W.1 at 7.30 p.m. Before this, at 6.30 p.m. there will be a traditional Easter Service at St. Ann's Church.

Tuesday 14th. Swiss Club Edinburgh. 7.25 p.m. at 187 Canongate or 7.30 p.m. at Sheep's Head Inn, Duddington, for the Skittle Evening and the Edinburgh-Dunfermline match.

Sunday 26th. Swiss Rifle Association, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Siberia range at Bisley.

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 2e 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.

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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 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

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

MAY

Sunday 3rd, 4.30 to 11 p.m. UNIONE TICIN-
ESE DANCE, Dorchester Hotel — Harry
Vardon's Band — Tickets (inclusive of Tea)
25/- obtainable from Secretary, E. P. Mor-
ganti, 10 Newport Buildings, Shaftesbury
Ave.

Wednesday 13th. Swiss Mercantile Society
monthly meeting.

MUSICAL EVENTS: On Tuesdays 7th and
14th April, GEZA ANDA will be the solo-
ists of concerts given at the Royal Festival
Hall, 8 p.m.

SCHWEIZERBUND

On 6th March, the Annual General Meet-
ing of the "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club) took
place at the Glendower Hotel, attended by 16
members. The Club, which despite the lack of
premises of its own remains active with a Standing
Committee, had 44 paid-up members at the
end of 1969. Mr. V. Berti, President, was in the
chair, and he was re-elected together with his
fellow officers (Mr. L. S. R. Asch, Hon.
Treasurer, and Mr. J. Schmid, Hon. Secretary).
After all business was settled, the Club's mem-
bers and friends enjoyed an excellent dinner.

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

THE SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Swiss Rifle Association held its Annual General Meeting as usual at the Glendower Hotel. Unfortunately, only 12 out of 83 members were present and the Committee regretted the absence of such prominent members as Lucien Jobin and Bernard Jaeggi. Letters of apologies were received from the absentees, many of whom were abroad.

Mr. J. C. Wetter, the retiring President, greeted his guest of honour, Colonel Von Frischling, the Military Attaché at the Embassy, and made it known that I had been appointed as the Association's new Press reporter, in succession to Mr. J. Schmid.

The minutes of last year's AGM were read by Mr. Charles Abegglen, the Honorary Secretary, and approved. Mr. Wetter asked Mr. Peter Fischer to read out the President's Survey for 1969. The brilliant results at the shooting festival at Thun and the 6th Radio World Shoot were among the main events reported. The Association had met eight times and shot 5,620 rounds of ammunition against 3,360 in 1968. It had welcomed 16 new members and lost 12, 8 of them having left England, 2 having resigned and 2 passed away. The balance-sheet was examined and showed a very satisfactory financial situation.

Mr. Wetter then announced his definite resignation from the presidency of the Association, thanked the members for their past support and announced that Mr. Marcel Bucherer

would be ready to succeed him. Mr. Oscar Grob, who acted as interim chairman, thanked him for all he had done for the Association and motioned his election as Honorary Past President. This was unanimously accepted.

Mr. Bucherer thanked the members present for their vote of confidence and outlined the programme for this year. He unfolded the new Feldschiessen target and expressed the hope that a match with the .22 rifle could be organised between the Swiss Rifle Association and the Kensington Rifle and Pistol Club this season. There were unfortunately too few members present to pass any decision about this.

Mr. F. Magnin suggested that Mr. Alfred Schmid who, at a lively 84, is the doyen of the Association, be elected "second Vice-President" (next in rank after Mr. Peter Fischer, who remains Vice-President). Mr. Schmid wasn't showing much enthusiasm for this new honour and Mr. Wetter suggested that, by investing Mr. Schmid with this new and queer title, we would be creating an unnecessary precedent. He turned down the idea and got the approval of the meeting.

Mr. Schmid had brought the menu of the 7th Annual Meeting of the Association, which took place in 1930, and we could all appreciate that its fantastic list of courses compared rather well with present AGM menus. He also showed us the booklet of the Swiss Rifle Association's rules. This booklet, now out of print, used to be given to all new members. Mr. Schmid also raised the problem of the Association's pub-

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