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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, THANKSGIVING AND REPENTANCE

Our National *Busstag* was celebrated on Sunday, 19th September, by an ecumenical service in which both linguistic communities packed the church at Endell Street. Pastor Marcel Dietler delivered a beautiful sermon on the bearing of the three terms "prayer, thanksgiving and repentance" on Swiss life. He was unmitigating on one of the means by which Switzerland had earned her prosperity, namely the benefits derived from the capitals dishonestly slipped into Swiss banks from poor and needy countries. He said that our national prosperity was not matched by our happiness as a people and recalled that Switzerland's suicide and divorce rates were among the highest in the world. He stated, to the agreement of many among his congregation, that the Swiss were among the "least-smiling people".

On a more personal level, he said that total and undivided commitment to the teachings of Christ was the only way of knowing Him and discovering the power that He gives of living up to His commandments. He ended his sermon by relating a recent spiritual experience that came to him during quite ordinary circumstances, and during which he was seized by the reality of the Lord's personal love. He told his congregation that such experiences, or any other spiritually fulfilling experience, were not the privilege of a few mystics and churchmen. They were open to every person that sincerely "hungered for the Lord".

Our Ambassador, Dr. A. Weitnauer, was among the congregation. Service was followed by a friendly lunch in the hall, symbolically deprived of sweet.

(PMB)

THE "JEUNE GENEVOIS"

This Genevese Fast Day (*Jeûne genevois*) is a holiday. Paradoxically, this is the pretext for all sorts of rejoicings and Genevese continue to celebrate a day of which most of them have forgotten the meaning—now, this day of fasting, far from being a day of rejoicing, is a day of mourning.

It was enacted in 1572 by the Consistory of Geneva, directed at that time by Théodore de Bèze, in memory of thousands of French Protestants put to death in France on 24th August, 1572, in the massacre of the Saint Barthélemy (St. Bartholomew) ordered by Charles IX at the instigation of Catherine de Medici and Henri de Guise. News of

the massacre caused distress and great resentment in Geneva, capital city of the Huguenots and inhabited by a great number of French Protestants. Strong fears of attack by the French and the massacre of the inhabitants were dreaded, but happily nothing happened.

Since then, the "Jeûne genevois" has always been observed, except during the few years of French occupation at the beginning of the XIXth century.

It has been definitely fixed for the first Thursday in September and is, with the Escalade, the most ancient Genevese anniversary. Yet, unlike the Escalade, no official manifestation has been foreseen for this anniversary.

(P.S.)

MRS. BAERLOCHER

We have the sad duty of announcing the death of *Mrs. Marguerite Caroline Baerlocher*, widow of Charles Baerlocher, a citizen of St. Gallen, who passed away on September 5th at the age of 89. The funeral was held at Enfield Crematorium on September 9th and her ashes were scattered beside those of her late husband at the Mortlake Crematorium. She leaves two sons and a daughter (Mrs. M. G. Ilsley, of 10 Grove Road, London E.4) and two grandchildren. We should like to assure them of our heartfelt sympathy.

CITY SWISS CLUB: AN IMPORTANT SPEAKER THIS MONTH

The President of the City Swiss Club has asked us to bring to the attention of our readers the forthcoming *monthly meeting* to be held on Tuesday 19th at 6.30 for 7 p.m. at the Dorchester. The speaker will be Dr. Frank Ellis, M.S., F.R.C.S. a consultant surgeon at Guy's Hospital, Director of the Kidney Transplant Programme at this hospital, Hunterian Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons and visiting Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of California in 1965. Professor Ellis is furthermore the author of 40 papers on surgical topics and has carried out numerous visiting lecture tours of America, Europe and Asia.

The kidney transplant programme at Guy's Hospital is now approaching its hundredth transplant in three years and is one of the most active in this country. It is a leading programme within a co-operative group of transplantation units covering the whole of the South of England. It has pioneered new methods of detection and of preventing the rejection of transplants.

The subject of Mr. Ellis' talk to the members and guests of the City Swiss Club is to be called "*spare parts surgery*". Let us hope that members will turn up in force to listen to this most important speaker!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

The following subscribers have been and are celebrating their birthdays in October: Mrs. H. Jenne (Andeer, GR), on the same day as Mr. P. Lehrian who was 74 on 9th October. Mr. P. Savoie will be 81 on 17th and Monsieur l'Ambassadeur J. Revilliod (Geneva) will be 66 on 20th of the month. Dr. E. M. Bircher (Bissone, TI) will have his 76th birthday on 23rd October.

Also on 23rd, Mr. Emil Ritzmann, of 20 Bodenweg, Arlesheim, BL, will celebrate his 70th birthday. He used to be with the Swiss Bank Corporation and was a very active member of several Swiss societies in London. He is still a keen gardener, and he and his wife are just off on a trip to Miami to visit their daughter.

Two couples who used to be in London are celebrating their 29th wedding anniversaries on 24th October. They are Monsieur l'Ambassadeur and Madame Jean de Stoutz (Moscow) and Monsieur and Madame Enrico Tosio (Karachi).

Mr. N. H. Leuzinger will be 74 on 31st October and on 4th November Mr. O. Jasser will be 65. On 6th November Dr. and Mrs. Egli will have been married for 35 years, and Mr. Oertli will be 75 on 10th November.

Best wishes and many happy returns!

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