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on this matter. The war had sharpened the live interest of readers for their paper, as exemplified by a letter signed "Gallus" on August 17th. He wrote: "Dear Mr. Editor. But for the news contained in the last number of the SO, I am afraid that very few of us would have had any idea as to how the folks at home spent the 1st August this year. I for one was glad of the reassuring account and am grateful to you". This correspondent ends with a poem called "Rückblick auf den 1. August".

The only death that appears to be reported in those five months was that of Mr. G. E. Cornioley, born in Neuchâtel in 1854, and founder of the London branch office of Henri Picard & Frères, a Chaux-le-Fonds watch undertaking. The death of Lieutenant Rudolf Homberger, a Swiss pilot felled by a German aircraft, was erroneously reported. This was corrected by a letter from Mr. P. Bucher. He wrote that Lieut. Homberger was recovering from serious injuries. He was the son of Mr. Ernst Homberger, former Chairman of Britannia Iron & Steel Works in Bedford and President of George Fischer. The obituary column of the SO was less furnished in 1940 than it unfortunately is today.

#### RADIO LONDON AND ITS SWISS EQUIPMENT

Mr. George Simmons, a young mustachioed British radio reporter invited me out of the blue for an interview at Radio London. Having worked for three years for the Swiss Short Wave Service in Berne, he had learned of the existence of our paper and thought it worth while to interview its Editor. One interview was to be sent to Berne, for the benefit of the stray English speaking listeners of the Swiss Short Wave Service across the world, and another for the London audience of this relatively new local radio station which shares time with Radio One on UHF, Radio London.

Our interview was warmed up by a conversation over a cup of tea on "Journalism in Switzerland". Mr. Simmons claimed that there was too little "news" in Switzerland and that this makes his job correspondingly less inspiring. He also complained of his former salary, which was of only two thousand francs a month, compared with the £3,500 which he now gets as a producer on Radio London.

We then had a guided tour of the station and stopped in the editing room, the nerve centre of the place in which all the seamy stories from London were collected, processed and edited for broadcasting. Half a dozen journalists and writers were nonchalantly relaxing among heaps of paper and obviously enjoying themselves. We went up a flight of plush stairs to the studio and watched a pretty speaker smile to herself as she read her text behind sound-insulating glass panels. A short look round the bristling electronics of the room was enough to dis-

cover a *Kudelski* tape recorder, made in Cheseaux, Vaud, and the best tape recorder on the market. The turntable used in Radio London music broadcasts is a *Thorens* apparatus, the cart-ridge of which is made by *Lenco*. In a neighbouring studio where the recording apparatus is a little more bulky, the machines were from *Studer*. I'm sure that with a little more perseverance I should have discovered more Swiss-made equipment, such as *Revox* recorders.

The interview was performed in a cosy living room isolated from the recording technician by the usual double glass panel. The listeners on the Swiss Short Wave Service will hear me speak (when, I have no idea) on the 50 years of glorious history of "The Swiss Observer". Londoners, if they tune in to their local radio, should hear me one day philosophise and stutter on the "Press of the foreign communities in Great Britain". I pray that the Poles or Hungarians of London whom I mentioned as relevant examples, will not seek to find me and eliminate me!

(PMB)

#### CITY SWISS CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER

Mr. Alfred Kuhn spoke for many City Swiss Club members when he said that he had never seen so many members present at any function in his two years of presidency. More were present even than at the Annual Dinner and Ball, whose attendance was made up by a majority of guests. The Dinner lasted from 7 p.m. until well past 9 p.m. and the atmosphere in the Orchid Suite of the Dorchester Hotel was particularly lively throughout these two hours. The City Swiss Club has certainly as much zest as any of the other Swiss institutions in London.

#### LE CERCLE GENEVOIS

The *Escalade* was celebrated by a small party of Genevese and friends of Geneva in the Ladies Annexe of the Law Society—and a particularly suitable venue it turned out to be. We were 21, a smaller attendance than usual, but this didn't impair the success of the evening. For two new Anglo-Swiss couples, one of which has resided in England for fifteen years, this was the first Swiss function in this country. These new friends had heard of the "Cercle Genevois" through the consular bulletins. The chocolate "marmite" had been brought especially from Geneva by a faithful member. It had an exciting story behind it since it was not easy to transport such an unusual object by plane in our hijack-ridden days. The attempts by Madame Curchod to break it with a wooden spoon having failed, it became incumbent upon your Editor to smash it to smithereens with one well calculated blow. The marzipan fruits and chocolate splinters spattered about the room. Monsieur and Madame René Keller, who are citizens of Coligny, were un-

fortunately not able to come, but they were represented by Mr. Bruggman, Commercial Consoller at the Embassy, and Mrs. Bruggman.

(PMB)

#### ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

The guest speaker at the Anglo-Swiss Society's winter dinner was Professor L. W. Forster from Cambridge. Professor Forster, who had read English at the University of Basle for a number of years, had come to speak to us on "Some Swiss Writers and their Attitudes".

The kernel of his thesis was that Switzerland, and in particular her creators, had adopted an attitude of *detachment* in order to maintain their cultural identity. Detachment seemed to have been the archetype of the Swiss creative mind in Professor Forster's view. The history of Swiss letters was above all conditioned by the overwhelming neighbourhood of the powerful cultures of France, Italy and Germany. Professor Forster's exposé was more descriptive than discursive and had its poetic chapters. In fact, the only Swiss writer, besides Frisch, Durrenmatt and Bixler which he chose to name to illustrate his point was an unknown Swiss emigré who had returned to the homeland after a life spent in Argentina, Eugen Gomringer. This poet was one of the protagonists of *Concrete Poetry*, of which Professor Forster aptly and eloquently read a typical example. It is a poem on "The Swiss" with the minimum of vocabulary and syntax:

*Schwiizer  
luege  
aaluege  
zueluege  
nöd rede  
sicher sii  
nu luege  
nüd znäch  
nu vu wütem  
ruig bliibe  
schwiizer sii  
schwiizer bliibe  
ne luege*

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Another eminence present was the writer Sir Arthur Briant. He added a few words after Professor Forster's exposé, which he highly appraised, and found that there were many parallels between the sanguinary histories of Scotland and Switzerland.

### ANOTHER DEPARTURE FROM THE EMBASSY

The exit from the Swiss Embassy continues. Our Ambassador and Madame René Keller, who have together played such an important part in the life of Great Britain's Swiss Colony, will be followed by Mr. and Mrs. Franz Muheim.

Mr. Muheim, First Secretary of Embassy, is also being recalled to Berne, and if my information is correct, he will be serving there under the same Chief as here in London, in the Section for International Organisations of the Federal Political Department.

Mr. Muheim is a native of Berne and has studied at the Universities of Fribourg, Geneva and Paris. His entry into the service of the Swiss Foreign Office dates back to 1960. His first posting abroad took him to Belgrade as Attaché d'Ambassade, whereupon he returned once again to the Federal Capital as Secretary to the Secretary General of the Political Department, Ambassador Micheli. From 1963 to 1967 Mr. Muheim was en poste in Rabat, and from 1967 to his forthcoming departure he and his charming wife have been part of the diplomatic scene in London.

During his years in London Mr. Muheim has been one of those Swiss diplomats who are particularly painstaking to obtain solid and reliable information in various fields of his activity. He was even in a position in a recent telephone conversation with me to tell me point blank certain likes and dislikes of mine. To my surprised question how he had acquired such knowledge, came the reply: "Ah, diplomats have to be well informed."

This will, no doubt, stand him in good stead and lead him further and further in his career. Those who have known him during his time in London will, I am certain, like to join me in wishing "The Muhems" all possible success.

*Gottfried Keller.*

### THE YORKSHIRE SWISS CLUB VISITS SANDOZ

On the 16th November 1970, following up a new series of activities, the Yorkshire Swiss Club visited the large modern laboratory, manufacturing and administrative site of Sandoz Products Limited at Horsforth, near Leeds. This visit had been arranged between Mr. Ermanni Berner, the vice-president of the Club, and Mr. Richard Mueller, an employee of Sandoz, and a former president of the Yorkshire Swiss Club.

The evening turned out to be a very great success. Fifty-five club members and their friends assembled in the brightly lit modern reception hall of the Administrative Building. It was particularly gratifying to find a large number of young keenly interested people amongst the party.

Mr. F. Illingworth, the joint sales manager of the firm, met the visitors and gave a short introduction into the Sandoz background.

The Sandoz Chemical Company Limited as it was then known was incorporated in England in 1911 and has been from the outset a subsidiary of Sandoz, Basle, Switzerland. The present site at Horsforth had been developed prior to 1960 and it was in 1960 that the firm finally transferred its activities from Canal Road in Bradford to the new premises. Today about 600 employees work at Horsforth in the Dyestuff/Chemical Section, the Pharmaceutical Section and the Administrative Departments.

The visitors were split into four groups, three of which were shown around the Laboratory and Administrative block by Mr. F. Illingworth, Mr. B. Ellse and Mr. J. Holland. The Application Laboratories for Dyestuffs and Chemicals were particularly attractive to see in view of the many brightly coloured exhibits which had been prepared by the textile, leather and paper departments. The range of high quality leather dyeings and sheepskin rugs which were on view for the occasion attracted much interest and delight, and the ladies in the party were particularly interested in the wide range of material and colourful dyeings which can be obtained by applying modern technology to textile, leather and paper.

Another point of particular interest was the dyehouse where semi bulk quantities of textile material can be experimentally treated and the wide range of products and the high standard of technical services to the customers became apparent.

The fourth group was formed by visitors who were more interested in production technology. They were taken round the Chemical Manufacturing Building by Mr. Richard Mueller who first took the visitors to the roof of the five-storey manufacturing building, explaining the general layout of the site which was sufficiently visible in the moonlight to distinguish the various buildings. Following this the party was led storey by storey down the building in the same way as the raw materials run from vessel to vessel and manufacturing stage to manufacturing stage, until at the end of process they are run off into containers, mainly on the ground floor of the building and are then despatched to the customers or to the storage building.

Afer these tours the visitors were entertained to refreshments in the canteen. This airy, modern and pleasantly decorated canteen where approximately 500 meals are served every day was a very suitable assembly point for all the visiting groups. Over a cup of tea Mr. Berner mentioned that our President was unable to be with us but that he wished us all a successful and happy evening. Mr. Berner, also in the name of all the members and friends present, expressed his thanks to Sandoz and in particular to Mr. A. D. Ferns the Managing Director, to Mr. Illingworth and the other guides who had sacrificed their television evening for the benefit of the members of the Swiss Club.

*(Ermanno Berner)*

### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The speaker at the December meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society was Mr. Walter Stettbacher of Glasgow, an old friend of the SMS and indeed, of the Swiss Observer, in whose columns he has sent many accounts of his mountaineering adventures in the past. Mr. Stettbacher showed us a series of colour slides on Majorca and the Ticino. He has certainly learnt to make the best

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