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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.

After 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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use of an excellent camera and the slides which we were given to see were worthy of any professional. The meeting was disrupted at the beginning by a power-cut and the traditional snack could not take place. But Mr. Stettbacher's part of the programme was left unhampered by these strikes to the enjoyment of an unusually large attendance.

THE HOTELPLAN

After his enlightening colour-slide exposé, I had a short conversation with Mr. Stettbacher. Knowing that he relied on Hotelplan for his regular holidays in the Engadines and in Majorca, I asked him to send me a few lines for the benefit of our readers on this holiday and travel organisation for which he professes the highest respect. (Ed.)

When you travel in Switzerland as an individual, and wish to stay at a hotel, whether you enquire for bed and breakfast for a single day or for several days, or for a full board, you will almost invariably be given the top price, although you may have asked especially for a cheap room, and although the hotel may be quite empty. As you know, the official Swiss Hotel Guide normally mentions a price range, for instance bed and breakfast from Fr. 20 to 25, but I repeat that although you may ask for a cheap room, the hotelier will size you up for a while and then decide that you can pay the highest rate.

I have noticed that the Swiss hoteliers in this country are proceeding along the same lines. Some 10 years ago, when a Swiss-owned hotel mentioned in its advert in the Swiss Observer that bed and breakfast could be had for 26/- onwards, I asked for the cheapest room to be reserved for me for a night, from 1 o'clock in the morning to 7 o'clock, as I would be arriving by air after midnight. The price quoted was about 80% above 26/-. When I remonstrated with the owner, he replied: "I strongly protest against your untrue statement; I would have charged you only 79% more than advertised, and not 82% more as you state".

You may also know that early in 1969, most owners of tea-rooms, restaurants etc. decided to include the tips into their prices. Numerous restaurateurs added not only 15%, but 20, 25, 30 and even 35%. A Swiss M.P. raised the matter in Parliament, and while a "Bundesrat" replied that he deplored this action, no doubt nothing was done about it.

And yet most of the above gentry would probably be annoyed if you told them that their action was unfair and certainly unchristianly.

If you take advantage of the Hotelplan "Schoener Leben fuer alle" you avoid all this. You get fixed prices, everything is arranged beforehand, even transport for you, and you know exactly where you stand. When I started using the Hotelplan 4 or 5 years ago, they claimed that they would fix

you up at pre-war prices, and I think that on the whole this still applies today. The prices quoted do not include drinks.

While I believe that this scheme is primarily intended for Swiss Pensioners, many young people, also from abroad, do take advantage of it.

As a result of my suggestion, one of the leading dentists on the South Coast had a holiday in Sils-Maria at the Hotel Edelweiss. It was a wonderful experience for him and his family.

Three Scottish ladies aged between 60 and 70 also stayed at the Hotel Edelweiss for a month, and they too were enthusiastic about it. They would like to go there again next year, but the cost, and the continuous inflation in this country, may prevent them from doing so.

The Hotels available, and the prices applicable, are usually published at the beginning of the year, in February or March, in the "Brueckenbauer" which is a Migros publication. If anyone in this country wishes to take advantage of the Hotelplan, it would be advisable to write early in the year to:

Hotelplan, Abt. "Schoener Leben" Postfach 8031 Zurich.

By leaving it late, an applicant will probably find that everything has already been reserved. (You can also obtain a prospectus from Hotelplan, 26 Old Bond St., W.1.—Ed.).

The low prices quoted generally apply from early May to end of May, or beginning of June to early July, and again from around the 23rd August to the end of September or the middle or end of October, but in many cases one can get rooms reserved at the height of the summer season against payment of a supplement. These are in the following localities:

Alt St. Johann, Arosa, Beckenried, Davos, Lenzerheide, Locarno, Lugano, Lugano-Sorengo, Lungern, Montana, Melide, Muzzano, Interlaken, Sils-Maria, Wengen, Zermatt, and Zuoz. Also in Catolica in the Adria and in Cambrils, Spain.

I have listed below 4 examples of the cost of a Hotelplan holiday during 1970:

| Locality | Hotel | Price per week inc. longation train | Pro per week |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Alt St. Johann | Edelweiss | 204 | 177 |
| Arosa | Dell' Angelo | 189 | 162 |
| Locarno | Hof | 186 | 159 |
| Sils-Maria | Roessli | Fr. 149 | 122 |

These prices include the cost of travel from Zurich to destination.

The above prices are for double rooms; for single rooms there is in most cases, but not in all, a supplement of Fr. 10 per week.

In the above prices, tips are included, although if one is satisfied with the service, it pays to give small tips, preferably at the beginning. I found, however, that some of the owners of the hotels discouraged guests from giving extra tips, as waiters in Switzerland have rather high fixed wages, which in

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

SATURDAYS: Ecumenical Service at 6.30 p.m.

SUNDAYS: Holy Mass at 9 and 11 a.m (in English). At 6.30 p.m. (mostly in German).

CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS: preferably on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in the afternoon or by appointment.

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2. on Suns. at 9, 10, 11 a.m. 12.15, 6, 7 p.m.

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.