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Giron's, who beckoned me to tell it to all my readers!

Mr. Berner finished his speech and was loudly applauded. The photographer snapped away and asked all the factory employees to cluster round Mr. Berner in front of the stage for a glorious family picture. Then the dancing was resumed. There was more singing and more crooning by male and female local artists. We danced an exhilarating "slop" (which is far from a sloppy dance) and ended the day when the first chimes of the coming morning had rung.

Giron Frères of Accrington have had good and bad times. Two years ago, I was told, the situation was far from encouraging. Today, business is booming again thanks to a surge in the popularity of velvet. "Hot pants" in velvet have created such a strong demand that the firm will have more than enough to cope with on the British market alone. It traditionally exports to EFTA countries, and in particular to Scandinavia. The Fins, I was told, were very good customers (perhaps because it is cold in Finland). A new trend has now started to use velvet for shirts and trousers. Giron Frères of Accrington beat their only British competitors, "Martin" of Blackburn, in developing adequate velvet for trousers first. So the situation for the coming year looks very promising and it is our greatest wish that this should continue. I also hope that Mr. Willy Berner will have every success in continuing to uphold the prosperity and the traditions of quality of his firm. Up with velvet and long live Giron Frères!

(PMB)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Due to the postal strike, our birthday and anniversary announcements did not appear on time.

Belatedly, we send best wishes to Mrs. E. Jamieson who was 71 on February 20th, and Monsieur Armin Daeniker, Berne, who was 73 on 24th February. On 26th, Mr. Oscar Grob, KSG, was 71. Mr. F. Gerber is in the odd position of only having a birthday every four years—he was born on 29th February, 1892—so he missed out this year.

On 1st March, Mr. F. G. Sommer was 79, and on the same day Mr. and Mrs. A. Boog celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary. Mr. E. Hardmeier was 73 on 3rd March. Mrs. L. Gradmann was 73 and Mr. R. Marchand (Bienne) 79 on 9th March. Mrs. A. Streit had her birthday on 13th March, and Mr. F. Conrad was 75 on 15th March. Dr. Hans Egli was 72 on 17th and Mr. R. Chappuis 75 on 17th March.

Best wishes also to Mrs. N. Pfändler who was 83 on 29th March, Mr. Albert Ferber was 60 on the same day. Mr. J. F. J. Ammann was 85 and

Mr. R. H. Senn 60 on 30th March. Mr. F. E. Brunner was 79 on 31st. 1st April was the birthday of Mrs. M. R. Lang (82), the 2nd of Mr. F. Streit (73) and of Mr. P. Lerch (71). On the same day, Mr. and Mrs. G. Keller celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary. Mrs. H. Kriesi was 79 on 5th April.

The former Federal Councillor Prof. Dr. F. T. Wahlen (Berne) will be 72 on 10th April, and Mrs. Ch. Rabes will have her birthday on 11th April. Dr. Theo. H. C. William Preiswerk, CBE (Basle), and Mr. L. Portmann will both be 78 on 13th April. Mrs. W. Schedler will have her birthday on the 20th of the month, and Mr. E. Zwicky will be 74 on 22nd April. On 23rd, Mr. G. Keller will be 66 and Mr. J. B. Brutsch 82. On the same day, Mr. and Mrs. G. Bouverat will celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary.

Best wishes and many happy returns to all these readers and to any others who will celebrate their birthdays soon.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Annual General Meetings:

The Swiss Rifle Association, Wednesday, 31st March, at the Glendower Hotel at 6.30 p.m. sharp.

The Swiss Mercantile Society, Wednesday, 7th April at 7.15 p.m. at 35 Fitzroy Square.

The Swiss Benevolent Society, Monday, 19th April at 6.30 p.m. at 35 Fitzroy Square.

The Anglo-Swiss Society, Thursday, 22nd April, Dorchester Hotel at 6.45 p.m.

The Swiss Club Manchester, Grand Hotel, Monday, 26th April, at 8.15 p.m.

The City Swiss Club, Tuesday, 27th April at the Dorchester Hotel, 6.30 p.m.

The Federation of Swiss Societies, Friday, 30th April (time and place indicated in next issue).

SWISS CULTURAL EVENTS

Sunday, 4th April. Recital by the Turkish violinist Ayla Erduran and the Swiss pianist Roger Aubert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.15 p.m.

Tuesday, 6th April. The Legend of the Eiger's Evil North Face presented with film and slides by Leo Dickinson at the Queen Elizabeth Hall at 7.45 p.m.

Tuesday, 13th April. Piano recital by Albert Felber at the Queen Elizabeth Hall at 7.45 p.m.

Sunday, 18th April. Stravinsky's "The Soldier's Tale" with libretto by C. F. Ramuz at the Playhouse Theatre in Oxford, 8 p.m.

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 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 à 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: 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.