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sion to the Court of St. James's. For 2½ years he and Madame de Fischer, as well as their three young daughters, stayed in the British capital and took part in the Colony's activities.

We wish Monsieur de Fischer a memorable birthday and many happy returns of it.

(MM)

### MENTAL ABERRATION!

Although we were present at Mr. Th. Dudli's exposé at the June meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society, we somehow managed to report in the last issue that he had been speaking at the *Anglo-Swiss Society*! There can't be anything Freudian about this slip. To all those members of the Anglo-Swiss Society who thought they had missed a good function, as indeed it was, we apologise and shall do our best not to describe this Society's next event under the heading of "Anglo-Swiss Society".

### BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

The following couples will be celebrating wedding anniversaries within the next few weeks: Mr. and Mrs. W. Pellet on 16th July (1918), Mr. and Mrs. W. Scheddler on 17th July (1935). On 27th July, Mr. and Mrs. F. Dela-loye (1913), and on 11th August Mr. and Mrs. V. Bataillard (1919).

On 17th July, Father P. Bossard will have his birthday, and on 21st July, Mr. J. Zimmermann will be 81, and Mr. B. Truninger (Zurich) will be 64 on 4th August. Mrs. A. Schmid of Glendower Hotel fame will have her birthday on 6th and Mrs. A. Bachofen will be 71 on 10th August.

Mr. Victor Bataillard of 20 Keyes Garden, Newcastle, will have a very special birthday on 2nd August. He will be 90. He is a mechanical engineer from the Federal Institute in Zurich and arrived in Great Britain in 1908. A very happy birthday to him and many happy returns to all our readers whose birthdays fall within the next few weeks.

### SWITZERLAND

*Ah, sweet land of sunshine strength  
and might  
From the valley low to towering height  
Beauty joy and mystery  
Tell me how you came to be  
I will guess—and surely I am right.*

*When the wicked Lucifer did fight  
With his Angels in the heaven's night  
All the great foundations rocked  
And a bit of heav'n was knocked  
off, tho' Gabriel tried to hold it tight.*

*Then did all the angels look with fright  
But they all agreed, that it was quite  
Futile to regain this bit  
So the great Archangel writ:  
'Piece of heaven fallen out of sight'*

*See the lakes all shining bright  
And the mountain peaks all tipped  
with white  
Land where first the Angels trod  
Switzerland was kissed by God  
That is why 'tis always bathed in  
light.*

J.M.V.

(This poem has been sent to us by a reader and composed by his late wife.)



### ERNST KUEBLER

We have the sad duty of announcing the passing away of *Mr. Ernst Kuebler*, of Sulzbergstrasse 6, Winterthur, at the age of 84. He was buried on Thursday, 1st July in the Rosenberg Church of Winterthur. Mr. Kuebler was a prominent Swiss of the North and is well remembered in Manchester. We should like to extend to Mrs. Kuebler and his large family our deepest sympathy.

### FEDERATION OF SWISS SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

*The following is a report on an extraordinary meeting of Presidents and representatives of member organisations in London, held on 30th June at Swiss House, Fitzroy Square, W.1.*

*As a number of important decisions were arrived at, which are of great interest to the Colony at large, this report has been sent to all Federation members and to "The Swiss Observer".*

The meeting responded to this new Federation President to express its views on alternative possibilities left open after the probable abandonment of the original FORUM scheme at the Swiss Centre. Pending its formal announcement the consideration of alternative possibilities has become a matter of urgency, as Dr. Egli explained, in order to enable an appeal being made to the FORUM donors to leave part of the whole of their contributions, made or promised, standing

for the possible use of an alternative scheme to be pursued expeditiously.

The meeting responded to this new situation with an evident determination at least to fully explore what could be done, for which it promptly authorised the necessary steps and preliminary expenditure.

One possibility discussed was a possible request to Swiss Centre Ltd. to grant the Colony the free use of the so-called COLONY ROOM at the back of the FORUM as originally planned as a pied-à-terre for the young Swiss and meeting place for the Colony. It emerged that the Churches could no longer provide the promised supervision of such a room at the Swiss Centre because they have now found an interim solution of their problems elsewhere. This important condition for the running of the COLONY ROOM not being met the Meeting concluded that this possibility is not practicable. The President was asked to notify the owners accordingly and inform them of a RESOLUTION of the Meeting deploring the probable non-realisation of the FORUM scheme and expressing the hope that the interests and image of Switzerland will not be allowed to suffer by the alternative uses to be made of the premises in question.

The other possibility discussed at the Meeting concerns the JOINT SCHEME suggested some months ago for the solution of our various accommodation problems in one impressive building in a reasonably central position.

The essential minimum of the scheme would be a combination of the Church requirements with a COMMUNITY CENTRE for social and cultural use as planned in the FORUM but on a more modest scale. The main hall holding perhaps 250 persons with a stage and appropriately fitted out would be available to the Colony and its Societies as well as for concerts and exhibitions, etc. on week days. The CHURCHES would hold their Services in smaller rooms and in the main hall only when exceptionally large congregations are expected. As additional facilities for joint use a Canteen and Bar, a games room, etc. should be provided. The erection of some flats on upper floors for the pastors and a housekeeper should also be considered.

Everyone recognises that the Joint Scheme would of course benefit enormously from an eventual PARTICIPATION OF OTHER LIVE ORGANISATIONS, especially the Swiss Mercantile College and the Swiss Hostel for Girls, both of which are also in urgent need of improved accommodation. If they are willing they could join in the Scheme on the basis of owning and running their own parts of the building using shared services only as found convenient or more economical.

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