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also reached about half the Swiss population abroad by the four-yearly handout of official information. This will also reach the Swiss of English-speaking countries.

Personal assistance and information continues to remain one of the most important concerns of the Secretariat, which has dealt with a great many individual cases. The year has seen important changes as regards Old Age Pension. It is now possible to subscribe to AHV after 41. Invalidity benefits have been equalised with those implemented at home.

The 49th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad took place in Brunnen and dealt with the particular situation of the Swiss abroad, submitted to the influence of the Motherland and their country of residence.

The Youth Service of the Secretariat, apart from its counselling and information through the "Weltwoche", organised four holiday camps in which 186 teenagers participated. The hundred young Swiss abroad who had come voluntarily from 24 countries to carry out their national service were not forgotten. They received a traditional parcel of goodies and some of them accepted an invitation to an outing to Mitholz. Eight recruits took part in the Assembly for the Swiss Abroad at Brunnen.

The Solidarity Fund for the Swiss Abroad had 516 new members subscribing a yearly 57,650 francs and laying down a sum of 413,550 francs. Nine Swiss nationals in Egypt, Bolivia, Algeria, Chile and Sudan had reason to be thankful for their mem-

bership to the Fund. They were entitled to draw assistance valued at 145,000 francs. Both columns of the income and expenditure account of the Secretariat stand at 739,988 francs. The main items of expenditure are "Echo", which costs 224,790 francs to run (but has an income of 201,735 francs), the Youth Service (128,000 francs), communications with colonies abroad and personal counselling (83,000 francs). Nearly 44,000 francs were spent on the Brunnen Assembly.

Revenue (besides that of "Echo") mainly comes from the Foundation for the Swiss Abroad (305,000 francs), and a Federal subsidy of 105,000 francs. Excess of expenditure was slightly short of 14,000 francs.

(PMB)

## NEWS FROM THE COLONY

### 30 YEARS OF SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION

*In a recent survey of Swiss Events in London 30 years ago, we omitted to mention the creation of the Swiss Catholic Mission, which was founded on the National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving 1942. It was on this day that the foundation AGM was held. In the following, Father Bossard recalls an event which was not recorded in the "Swiss Observer" at the time:*

When, in 1936, Rev. Attilio Lanfranchi was appointed Chaplain for foreigners at the Westminster Cathedral, it became more and more desirable and necessary for the Swiss Catholics to have a chaplain of their own to look after the many Swiss aged and infirm. A decisive move came from the Swiss Benevolent Society. Under Colonel Bon, who was then president, and Mr. J. J. Boos, a small committee, was formed in April 1942 and supported by the Swiss Minister, Mr. W. Thurnheer, an appeal was made to Cardinal A. Hinsley of Westminster to release Rev. A. Lanfranchi from Cathedral duties in order to devote his time to the service of the Swiss Colony who had approximately 2,000 Catholics. The request was granted under the condition that the Swiss provide for his maintenance and that suitable accommodation could be found. It was stressed that the Committee together with their Chaplain would work in close collaboration with the Swiss Benevolent Society, the Eglise Suisse un die Deutsch-Schweizerkirche in the true Swiss Spirit of tolerance and co-operation for the spiritual and moral welfare of the Colony.

With great effort, untiring and often frustrating work, Rev. Lanfranchi, supported by the members of the committee, began to organise the Swiss Catholic Mission, undertook the spiritual and social work among the Swiss with great zeal, baptising the children, hearing confessions, celebrating weddings, attending to numerous sick calls and many funerals, especially during the war.

He made social contact with many young Swiss and established a Swiss Youth Club in Westminster, then known as "Alpenrosen-Club", and was even able to form and conduct a church choir. Besides that a suitable and permanent accommodation had to be found, which proved a very difficult task for the Committee. Different churches, presbyteries and private accommodation had to be tried out until, in October 1952, with the co-operation of the Swiss Minister, M. de Torrenté, St. Ann's Church in Abbey Orchard Street was made available. It became a centre of contact and pastoration for the Swiss in London until 1972.

After having prepared the foundations solid and strong Rev. A. Lanfranchi returned to Switzerland and was replaced in 1958 by Rev. J. Scherer who continued and consolidated the work, especially the care for the many young people who come to London in ever increasing numbers.

Unfortunately St. Ann's Church in Abbey Orchard Street was not in a position to celebrate the 20th anniversary as residence of the Swiss Catholic Mission. It was sold and closed down on 18th February, 1972 for demolition. It still stands untouched, but empty and sealed, perhaps for a few more years to come.

But the work of the Swiss Catholic Mission is carried on in 48 Great Peter Street and it is hoped that the new premises, as old as they are, will soon become a home and a centre of contact for the Swiss Youth in London in close collaboration with the Swiss Protestant Community and the local Community of the neighbourhood.

Paul Bossard

### ALFRED SCHMID

In the issue of 25th August we reported the death on 10th August of Mr. Alfred Schmid, of "Westfield", School Lane, Hatfield, Herts. With him a well known personality has gone from the Swiss community in London, although bad health had for some time kept him from attending special events of the kind he used to delight in coming to.

Alfred Schmid was born on 2nd September, 1887 at the "Schwert", Oberstammheim, Zurich. By tradition he was destined to a career in catering, and he certainly made a success of it. He served his apprenticeship as cook at the Hotel St. Gotthard in Zurich, followed by a period as cook in Paris ("Chez Laurens") and at the Deauville Casino.

In 1914, he did his military service in the Swiss Cavalry, but he got leave of absence very soon and came to London at the end of that year. During the First World War, all public restaurants had to be closed by 8 p.m. and all dinners were held in private suites on the floors. Thus the duties of Floor Head Waiter were of great importance, and it was as such