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sonality of Father Christmas may change from year to year, but we felt that this year he was the very same as the previous one, and so must have thought some of the Simon children. Soon the time arrived for our saintly man to leave us, so that he may convey the good news of happy tidings to many more children in the wide world, and when he left, our warm and loud applause accompanied him, showing to him our sincere feelings of thankfulness and how our thoughts may follow him on his wanderings.

Mrs. Trudi Bolliger, the wife of our absent President, helped by Mrs. M. Themans, proceeded then with the distribution of the many individual parcel gifts and no one was forgotten. The impatient rustling of paper, the opening of boxes, all these pleasant noises told us that the children took eager possession of their small but treasured possessions, which must have given them a foretaste of what may be waiting for them in a few weeks time. Some more surprises were in store for us when balloons, in many colours and shapes, lots of them, were distributed to young and old, objects for much merriment . . . until the time for the goodbyes had arrived, gradually the lines thinning out, when everybody had left, with happy memories and the hope to meet again soon.

(E. Berner)

THE VECTIS ISLAND

The following message of goodwill was sent to us by the Swiss of the Isle of Wight. It was unfortunately not possible for us to print it in time for Christmas, but we print it here as it is not too late to wish our readers all the best for this New Year. We take this opportunity of thanking the Swiss of the Isle of Wight for their kind message, which we certainly should like to reciprocate.

Jede Jahreszeit entfaltet ihre Pracht besser und schöner als die vorangegangene. In grosszügiger Fülle leuchten die Farben. Im Frühling sind es die hellen grünen Farben, im Sommer das dunkelgrün mit der Pracht vieler bunten Blumen, und im Herbst alle Abstufungen vom hellen Gelb bis zum dunkelsten Braunrot. Wenn sich am Horizont über einem schmalen Silberstreifen eine Nebelwand bildet und gegen die Küste zu bewegt und die Landschaft mit einem melancholischen Dunst umgibt, so fesselt uns der Anblick des ruhigen unendlichen Wasserspiegels. Angelockt von der oftmals scheinbar grossen Faszination offenbaren sich Erlebnisse — das Losgelöstsein von der Erde, die Erhabenheit der Welt. Das ist ein Spaziergang auf der Kante der Insel.

Die hier wohnhaften Landsleute wünschen allen Lesern des Swiss Observers frohe Festtage, einen guten Start ins neue Jahr und dem Verlag zusätzlich gute Entwicklung und viele neue Abonnenten.

Accident in Manchester

Members and friends who attended the monthly meeting of the Yorkshire Swiss Club in Leeds on the 5th inst. were deeply shocked to hear from our President that on the previous Saturday our good friend Mr. Emilio Lanfranchi had been involved in a serious road accident.

A motor cyclist to avoid a lady crossing the street swerved on the footpath investing our friend in such a violent and severe way that he had to be rushed to the Bradford Infirmary and submitted to urgent surgery.

Mr. Emilio Lanfranchi is a member of a well known family in Poschiavo, Switzerland, but resides in Shipley near Bradford. One of his many brothers was the Padre A. Lanfranchi who for many years was chaplain to the Swiss Catholic Community in London. Another brother is Mr. Silvio Lanfranchi, now retired, who was at the head of a very important confectionary business in Bradford, now taken over by our "Emilio," who is a most active and faithful member of our Northern Colony and much endeared to all of us.

We all wish him a speedy recovery and that he may soon return to his family and his work.

(E.B.)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CITY SWISS CLUB: Tuesday, 23rd January, Card Evening. Tuesday, 30th January, Dinner with Speaker. Dorchester Hotel at 6.30 for 7 p.m.

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER: Thursday, 18th January, 7.30 p.m. at the Cottons Hotel, Knutsford. Raclette Party.

SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH: Tuesday, 30th January, 8 p.m. at 112 Hanover Street. Fondue evening. Tuesday, 20th February, 7.30 p.m. at the "Sheep's Hide Inn," the Causeway, Duddingston. Skittle match against Dunfermline Swiss Club.

SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY: Friday, 26th January, 35 Fitzroy Sq., at 7.30 p.m. Auction. Friday, 23rd February, Dorchester Hotel: Annual Dinner.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Saturday, 3rd February, 6.30 for 7 p.m. at the Dorchester Hotel, Orchid Suite: Annual Ball.

CULTURAL EVENTS

Wednesday, 31st January, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 p.m., Charles Dutoit conducts the English Chamber Orchestra in a Stravinsky and Mozart programme. His wife, Martha Argerich, plays Mozart's Piano Concerto in C, K.503.

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h15 et 19h00.

PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

SAINTE-CENE: le premier et troisième 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 2e 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, every Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday school takes place on the first and the third Sunday in the month for children of all age groups. Children assemble in the church with their parents who attend the normal Service. Services also at John Southworth Centre, 48 Gt. Peter Street, S.W.1 every Sunday at 6.30 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 GROUP S.E.21 and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON: see "Stimme."

"KONTAKT" (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 7 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: every first Tuesday of the month from 12 noon onwards at the Eglise Suisse.

MOTHER'S REUNION: third Wednesday in the month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Eglise Suisse.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTERS: Pfr. M. Dietler, 1, Womersley Road, N.8. Tel: 01-340 6018 and Pfr. U. Stefan, 3, Womersley Road, N.8. Tel: 01-340 9740.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HA.

Sundays: Holy Mass as 6.30 p.m. with sermon in German, in the Club hall, ground floor.

(2nd floor at the same time, Protestant service in German).

CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS: by appointment.

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2, on Sundays, 10.00, 11.00, 12.15, and 6.30 p.m.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB: Open every Sunday from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. (48 Great Peter Street). Discussions, dance, lectures (with members of other denominations), Sunday services and refreshments. See programme "Die Stimme."

During the week: open according to programme of the English Youth Club.

RESIDENCE OF CHAPLAIN: Paul Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street, (2nd floor), London SW1P 2HA. Telephone: 01-222 2895.