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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

WELFARE OFFICE AGM

The welfare office for Swiss Girls in Great Britain held its Annual Meeting on 7th May at the Kilburn Home of Consul Fritz Adams. Nearly every member of the Committee were present to attend a speedily and efficiently conducted meeting chaired by Mrs. O. Grob, the Retiring President.

Before sitting round Consul Adam's dining table for work, the attendance enjoyed an excellent snack. Thus all were in the right frame of mind to face an AGM followed by a quarterly meeting.

Mrs. Knoll, the Honorary Secretary, read the Report of the Committee and outlined 1972 activities. Despite the fact that three different welfare officers had been responsible for the running of the Welfare Office during that year, its activities had suffered no interruption. The former officer, Miss Elsbeth Senn, had relinquished her duties at the end of February and handed over the temporary management of the Welfare Office to Mrs. Anne Spirig-Gehrig, a fully qualified welfare worker who had remained in the office until August. As a result of an advertisement placed in the "Sozialarbeit", the Welfare Office had received an application for the job of permanent welfare officer from a Miss Moser, a fully qualified and experienced welfare worker. At the time of her application, she was planning to leave for Britain to marry an Englishman and settle down in London. Since the 11th of August, she is the new officer of the Swiss Welfare Office, and

Mrs. Knoll expressed the hope that she would remain in this post for many years to come.

The Welfare Office continued to depend for its annual maintenance on the Federal subsidy from Berne, the annual contributions from *Les Amies de la Jeune Fille* and *Pro Filia* in Switzerland and the Swiss Benevolent Society. Various sections of the Schweiz. Verband Evangelischer Frauenhilfe who take interest in the Welfare Office's work sent donations. Other occasional gifts were received. There had been a small increase in the sterling equivalent of the contributions received from Switzerland owing to the devaluation of the pound, but the Secretary stressed that the Welfare Office's funds would have been stretched to the limit if the welfare officers had not dispensed with additional help.

The Welfare Office had given assistance to 194 Swiss girls during 1972. The majority of girls had come for information and advice which could be given at an interview or answered over the telephone. Some cases needed more lengthy treatment. 17 girls required special medical and social assistance, 6 required legal aid and 12 girls were assisted in their journey back to Switzerland, 8 of whom received financial support.

The Welfare Office had taken greater attention to the problems of the many Swiss girls in Bournemouth. Mrs. Hill-Moser, the new President, had made two trips to Bournemouth and found a

lady, Mrs. C. Marsh, who was willing to give assistance in an emergency.

Finally, Mrs. Knoll stressed the importance of making more widely known the work and purpose of the Welfare Office. She extended thanks to the Embassy, the Churches, the Warden of the Swiss Hostel and the Swiss Benevolent Society for their support and assistance.

The Honorary Treasurer, Mrs. Trudi Gyssler, then reported that the Welfare Office's finances were in a satisfactory state. Its budget of nearly £3,000 was nearly balanced. The situation was expected to improve during the current year thanks to the combined effect of a small increase of the federal subsidy of 15,000 francs and the relative revaluation of the franc.

Consul Adams then chaired to meeting *pro tem* to proceed with the election of a new President, a new Hon. Secretary and new Hon. Treasurer. The following ladies were elected: President, Mrs. T. Gyssler, Secretary, Mrs. M. Lyster and Treasurer, Mrs. G. Ficker.

Before putting an end to his temporary presidency, Mr. Adams made special reference to the imminent departure to Switzerland of Mr. Gabriel Godet, member of the Committee, and former member of the Church Council for 58 years. Mr. Godet, 83, assured us that he would be returning from time to time to London (a farewell speech and a presentation had been made in his honour at the Swiss Church on the preceding Sunday).



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Also gratified with presents were Mrs. Grob and Mrs. Knoll, to whom Mrs. Gyssler gave what appeared to be a set of records wrapped in bright-coloured gift paper as a token of appreciation for their many years of cooperation with the Welfare Office.

ERNST H. TANGEMANN: NEW PRESIDENT OF THE CITY SWISS CLUB



During its last AGM, which was held on 17th April at the Dorchester Hotel, the City Swiss Club elected its new President in the person of *Mr. Ernst H. Tangemann*, Manager of the Union Bank of Switzerland's City Branch. He succeeds Mr. Walter Bion, General Manager of Bally's Shoe Company in the UK, who retires from the City Swiss Club presidency after having held it for two years.

Born in Zurich in 1924, Mr. Tangemann is a citizen of that city, in which he went to school until completion of the Diploma of the Kantonale Handelschule.

After three years of training in banking and commerce in Zurich, he joined the Union Bank of Switzerland, Geneva, in 1946, and remained there until 1962. He was then transferred to the Zurich Head Office and continued his activities in Foreign Exchange and Foreign Department.

In 1964, he was transferred to the Basle Branch in charge of the Foreign Exchange Department. In 1967, he was transferred to the newly-opened London

Branch, where he was responsible for Euro-currency operations and Foreign exchange. Promoted at the end of 1971 as Manager, he was put in charge of the Branch on 1st April, 1972. The London Branch of the UBS is now classified as a main branch.

Mr. Tangemann's first stay in this country dates as far back as 1948/49. It was during this time that, as a student of English in a language school, he met a young Finnish lady, Stina Meyer, whom he married in Helsinki in 1951. They have one daughter, Christine, who is studying at Basle University.

We should like to extend our warmest congratulations to Mr. Tangemann and wish him many enriching years as President of the City Swiss Club.

P.M.B.

Swiss Rifle Association

The Swiss Rifle Association held its Annual General Meeting at the end of March at the Glendower Hotel, Kensington. For technical reasons, it was not possible to enjoy a meal at the end of

the meeting and the twenty members who were in attendance had a snack.

The Committee was re-elected by acclamation under the chairmanship *pro tem* of Mr. Adolf Schmid, co-founder of the Society, and former President.

Mr. Marcel Bucherer, the actual President, reviewed a highly successful year with the usual ten competitions and two outside matches. The Association could make continued use of the Siberia Range at Bisley. More participation was urged from members, particularly as regards marking of targets, a task hitherto entrusted to a few junior and dedicated members.

The Association welcomed 17 new members but lost 22, mainly through departures, so that its membership now stands at 74. Shooting activity last year was at the same level as the previous years with not far from 6,000 rounds of ammunition being fired.

This shooting year, which began on 29th April at Bisley, will see two outside matches. The Swiss Rifle Association will meet the Kensington Rifle Club and the Surrey Rifle Association on 1st July and 16th September respectively. Shooting sessions will take place on the Long Siberia Range at Bisley on 13th May, 3rd June, 17th June, 1st July, 26th August, 16th September and 7th October.

Swiss Benevolent Society

The Swiss Benevolent Society held its Annual General Meeting on 9th April. A fair attendance accepted the Annual Report, which we re-print below, and the accounts of the Society. In the absence of the President, Mr. Schneebeli, called abroad on business, proceedings were conducted by Mr. M. Rothlisberger. The main event of an otherwise routine meeting was the resignation of Mr. J. Oertli and Mr. X. Speckert, both of whom had served on the Society's Committee for very many years.

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The people with whom we are in touch either apply to us directly or they are referred to us by the Embassy, the Swiss Churches, Hospitals and Social Workers. Last year, we were in touch with 356 persons (100 men, 185 women and 71 children). Some of them we managed to see, with others we maintained contact through letters and telephone calls. A total of 687 interviews included 159 visits to people who could not come to our office owing to illness and age or because the distances were too daunting for them. In November, the Secretary spent a couple of days in Bournemouth to meet personally a number of pensioners and other Swiss people who had contacted us for various problems. This journey showed once again how important the direct contact is. In one case in particular,

the correspondence had conveyed a completely wrong picture of a person's situation because, through age and illness, she had become incapable of expressing herself adequately. Much more appropriate action could be taken once her needs were established.

The number of pensioners remained fairly stable at 57 against 54 the previous year. They still receive the largest share of financial help and, in addition, for some of those in receipt of the Swiss Old Age Pension, we continue arrangements whereby we pay them regular two or four-weekly instalments, depending on circumstances and needs. To them it is a much appreciated help, especially if, during their working lives, they were used to weekly incomes and find that managing comparatively large amounts can be fraught with difficulties.

To pensioners and others, we have had to give more casual grants for specific needs than in the past, as the cost of living kept rising steadily. The elderly in particular are finding things very difficult and during the year we have realised that a number of them, some of whom we used to know as quite cheerful people, were battling against a strong feeling of futility and depression.

It may be coincidental, but more people are considering returning to Switzerland. Whilst understanding that desire, we feel obliged to discuss all this

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