

Obituary

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Obituary

MISS ALICE HUBER

We regret to hear of the passing away in Switzerland at the early age of 54 of Miss Alice Huber, sister of our compatriot Mr. E. M. Huber of Ferndown, Dorset. She died on 4th February at the Inselspital Berne, where she spent the last two years very seriously ill.

Miss Huber came to England soon after the war and worked as Radiographer at the German Hospital in Dalston and later at the Black Notley Hospital, Braintree, before returning to Switzerland to take up the same profession in various hospitals. During her stay in England she made numerous friends in the Swiss Colony who will be sorry to hear of her passing away at such an early time in life.

Exhibition of Swiss costumes in Wiltshire

The *Echo*, the magazine for the Swiss abroad published by the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad in Berne, not unfrequently gets news from the Swiss of Britain of which we have no knowledge. In its February number, we learnt of a Swiss costumes exhibition staged by Mrs. Janet Rauch, from Chelmsford, Essex, an Englishwoman married to a compatriot. Through her holidays in Switzerland she has come to like our country and taken an interest in its folklore and country costumes. Having collected books on the matter, she began to dress dolls with the variegated costumes of the Cantons and exhibited them in several exhibitions, including the Cotswold Festival at Brodway, Wiltshire. This surely deserves to be mentioned as a fine example of constructive marital influence!

THE ORPHEUS CLUB IS TO CLOSE

Despite the economic hardships of Britain, it's a comforting thought that companies still have the resources to buy up valuable property in the City to expand their premises. But this process has gradually changed the face of London

and led to the disappearance of innumerable city landmarks. This will shortly be the case of the Orpheus Club, a convivial restaurant and club owned for the past thirteen years by a compatriot, Mr. Albert John Gluck. Members of the Schweizerbund who have enjoyed many sing-songs at the Orpheus Club will have to find another gathering place in the City. On 3rd May, the premises of the Orpheus Club, on St. Mary at Hill, a quaint riverside street off Eastcheap, will be sold to a private company.

Mr. Gluck plans to open another place sometime but meanwhile his son, John Albert Gluck, 29, is managing and rapidly expanding the clientele of another club, the Presscala Club, 72 Fleet Street, which has belonged to the Gluck family since February, 1971. Benefiting from his training with his father at the Orpheus Club and other places, John Albert Gluck has resuscitated the club which he now manages. The Ink Pot, as it was then called, was a decaying club with a limited number of customers insisting on things remaining that way so that their meeting place should retain an exclusive character. But Mr. Gluck Jr. has successfully strived to open his premises to a wider membership, fortunately without losing the original members.

Opening on an alleyway off Fleet Street opposite the Daily Telegraph, the Presscala Club has many newspaper and advertising executives among its members. There are few journalists so far, perhaps because the majority of them are of a lower breed, more at home in a pub or at a press conference than in a dinner club! Let us hope that this will change for the benefit of the Presscala Club.

Taking over this club entailed heavy investments and alterations. But after difficult beginnings, business has taken off. Mr. Gluck Jr. manages a staff of 12 who look after their guests every day until 7.30 p.m. Parties of up to 80 can be handled too and for these occasions the premises can stay open at nights. At 29 only, Mr. Gluck Jr. has plenty of responsibilities on his shoulders. He is also married to an Irishwoman and has two daughters. A third child is on the way and he dearly hopes that it will be a boy.

Mr. Gluck Jr., whose only brother

is a motor mechanic, has been helped on the way by his father. Hailing from Biel but speaking French, Mr. Gluck Sr. was born in 1915. In 1938 or thereabouts he left for Jersey to work in the hotel trade. He barely escaped from the German invasion in 1939 to reach England, where he held a number of posts, such as Head Waiter at the Ritz in London and Chief Receptionist at Pigalle's. He is a member of various Swiss societies and in particular of the City Swiss Club. The Orpheus Club which he took over thirteen years ago is known to several Swiss. Its pub on the ground floor, its restaurant, bar and elegant society room catered for gay parties of regular customers. I'm sure that some of the business displaced by an unfortunate redevelopment scheme will now be attracted to the Presscala Club.

P.M.B.

PETER BONETTI A VICTIM OF THE THREE-DAY WEEK

From a popular Sunday paper, we learnt that Peter Bonetti, who defended England's goal at the World Cup in Mexico in 1970, suffered badly from the current economic situation (I'm not saying, of course, that he was the only one!) Peter Bonetti is Swiss and is nearing the end of his career as Chelsea's goalkeeper for about fifteen years. He gave us an interview about three years ago and his parents, who come from Ticino, are among our subscribers. Well, Peter Bonetti is part owner and director of a firm called Olympic Sports Wholesale, of Mitcham, Surrey, which went into voluntary liquidation with debts said to total £30,000. A year before, its assets had amounted to £43,000. A fellow director is the former Chelsea player Bobby Tambling, now with Cork Celtic in the Irish Republic. According to the Managing Director of the firm, Mr. George Seymour, the situation fortunately doesn't represent a financial embarrassment to the two footballers.

"We have a good name in the business and have gone down with honour. Our troubles have been caused by the current economic situation" he said. But Peter Bonetti was not prepared to comment. At his home at Banstead, Surrey, he said: "I am prepared to talk about football — but anything outside that is my private business".

Nevertheless, we hope that his private business will recover from this bad patch and be as successful as his career with Chelsea!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

CITY SWISS CLUB: *Soirée Familiale*, to be held at the Park Suite of the Dorchester Hotel, London W.1., on Friday, 22nd March at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. Ticket price is £4.25 per person and includes VAT and gratuities but not drinks.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Wednesday, 27th March, visit from Hounslow P.S.



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