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# NEWS FROM THE COLONY

## SCHWEIZERBUND

The Schweizerbund held its most recent meeting on 26th April at the *Presscala Club* with a small, but familiar and gay attendance. The *Presscala Club* replaced the *Orpheus Club* which had served as venue to a great many Schweizerbund evenings in the past. We reported last March that the *Orpheus Club*, founded by Mr. John Albert Gluck, had closed and that the family interests were continued by his son, Mr. Albert John Gluck at the *Presscala Club* in Fleet Street.

This was indeed an ideal venue. We were offered an excellent and remarkably cheap meal accompanied by good white wine which contributed to the general merriment. The Embassy was represented by Mr. Reutlinger of the Commercial Section, and his wife. The President, Mr. Virgil Berti, announced that Mr. Fernand Delaloye, present, was celebrating his 87th birthday on that very day. A large square cake decorated with Swiss emblems in sugar coating, a marzipan champagne bottle and a marzipan cigar was offered to him by the Secretary, Mr. Jurg Schmid. Mr. Delaloye rose to pronounce a rambling address which greatly added to the gaiety of the evening. A sing-song got started over coffee and liqueur. Those with a limited repertoire had the fortunate help of the SNTO booklets of Swiss songs provided by Mr. Schmid.

Earlier in the evening, the Society had held its Annual General Meeting and re-elected its President. A suggestion was

made for a coach outing to a place of historical interest but this was not retained because the Club was really too small to justify the expense and risk of such outings. Another suggestion was that the Club should hold its next meeting at Bertorelli's in Charlotte Street. Another, which caused some arguments over its reasonableness, was to hold Schweizerbund meetings in the Swiss Church. Laughter greeted one proposal that members of the Club, preferably the ladies, should prepare the Dinner in the Church kitchen.

Subscriptions were kept at their previous level. It was reported that the club had at present 39 paid-up members.

P.M.B.

## PIERRE SAVOIE

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of a very great friend of our paper, *Mr. Pierre Savoie*, who was well known for his artistic activities in the Swiss Colony of London. Over the past two years, Mr. Savoie had kindly contributed illustrated articles on Swiss churches and abbeys for the *Swiss Observer*. We still have a few of these articles at hand.

Born in Porrentruy in 1890, Mr. Savoie was in his 84th year when he died in his Streatham home of a sudden heart attack. A few months before, he had undergone a hernia operation which his doctors told him usually proved fatal to persons of his age. Despite this, Mr. Savoie was still in vigorous spirits and intellectually alert. He treated us last March to lunch at an Indian Restaurant near his home, at which he lived with one of his sons, André, a bachelor civil engineer, and told me of his many experiences in this country and on the Flanders front during the first world war. Mr. Savoie was in his time an active member of several Swiss societies, including the Cercle Neuchatelois, and of the Swiss Church. The distance of driving all the way to Endell Street eventually induced him to attend a local Presbyterian Church, but he will be remembered by many of our elder parishioners.

Having received his education at the Cantonal School of Porrentruy, Mr. Savoie then studied at the Ecole Professionnelle in Geneva, where he spent most of his

youth. Then followed three years of training in land surveying in Zurich and two years of similar activities in Stuttgart. He came to this country at the beginning of 1914 for further studies in landscape architecture but his stay was cut short on his being called back in August of the same year for military duties at the outbreak of war. He served for two years as an NCO in mountain infantry. The year 1916 saw Mr. Savoie back in Britain, where he at once volunteered for service in the Rifle Brigade of the British Expeditionary Force in Flanders. He was wounded at Paschendale and consequently invalided out of the army in 1919.

A year later, Mr. Savoie joined Pathé Pictures as a title artist in the days when, in the absence of sound, the dialogue of screen stars had to be provided by sub-titles. For eight years, he held the position of Art Director of Pathé Film Studios in Wardour Street and was later put in charge of the Art Department of British Instructional Films Ltd, one of Pathé's subsidiary companies.

Eager to do his bit for his adopted country, Mr. Savoie served during the second world war as a Training and Incident Officer and Post Warden in Streatham.

After having worked in the film industry for 32 years, he left Associated British Pathé for freelance work in 1951. He concentrated mainly on illustrating science educational books and is the author of many illustrated wall charts for schools. Up to the time of his death, he was still receiving rights for the innumerable books thus illustrated, examples of which he showed us during a recent visit. He prepared a "Sketch Map Book of Bible Lands", a splendid book published by Hutton Educational Publications. He wrote several similar books in his later life. Although these works were in the main not published, they kept him active and played a great part in preserving his keenness and zest for life.

He lost his wife Yvonne, who came from the Jura Bernois, in 1962, and has since lived with his youngest son André. His other son, René, is a chartered accountant and has three children, which Mr. Savoie had the pleasure of seeing



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