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operation that is usually quite difficult to carry out, owing to the fact that when the drum is almost empty, the pressure can only be compensated through the tap, which slows up the flow. That is why this drum has been fitted with a special valve compensating the pressure, fixed in the handle of the container. This method makes it possible therefore to fill bottles very easily and quickly with liquids stored in tanks.

WINTER SPORTS NEWS

Piz Lagalb — a ski-ing region fighting prejudices

The ski-ing region between Pontresina and Poschiavo on the Bernina Pass is still considered, quite wrongly, to have difficult slopes. The Paradiso Bianco, south of the Piz Lagalb, has been developed especially for the average and the less-competent skier. The recently-completed midway cable car station of Costas (8,200 ft) now opens up the possibility of ski-ing even in unfavourable weather conditions, and also means that the season can be extended until early July. Incidentally, the lowest-priced daily ticket in the Upper Engadine costs only Fr. 18, is valid for any one chairlift and three ski-lifts, and can be purchased in Paradiso Bianco. For all seven lifts the price is Fr. 25. The recently-introduced daily ticket for the Diavolezza and Lagalb cable cars and the Büglist ski-lift costs Fr. 27 (children Fr. 18). Another new attraction this winter is a delta-wing flying school, where students can obtain a licence recognised by the Swiss Delta-Wing Federation. The winter health resort of Pontresina is also operating for the first time a school for cross-country ski-ing and ski-hiking. There's a 30-mile cross-country course and a 28-mile ski-hiking trail, with some sections lit up at night. From 6th to 27th April, Pontresina is offering ski-hiking and cross-country weeks costing from Fr. 220 (bed and breakfast included) to Fr. 458, and Diavolezza-Lagalb ski-ing weeks from Fr. 330 (bed and breakfast included) to Fr. 568.

Wining and Dining on the Jungfrauoch

After two years' construction work, there's a new glacier restaurant high up on the 11,133 ft. Jungfrauoch. The upper part of this "restaurant above the clouds" is self-service, can seat 150 people and can be reached directly from the cable car station. Its walls are hung with pictures devoted to the theme of aviation. The lower part of the restaurant can seat a further 140 people. The windows, facing south, offer visitors a unique panoramic view of mountains and glaciers. Nearing completion are viewing galleries at the cable car stations of Eismeer (10,040 ft) and Eigerwand (9,400 ft).

Spring Ski-ing in Switzerland

More and more people are trying to get away from the crowded ski slopes in their quest for a really peaceful contact with nature. On a high-altitude ski-tour in Switzerland's powdery and spring snow, for example. A number of Swiss mountaineering schools are organising ski-tour weeks right up until June. The all-in price — around Fr. 500. This usually includes accommodation in a hotel or mountain hut, half-board and the services of a guide. For example, the Gotthard Alpine School at Andermatt the Blinnenhorn and the Simplon Pass to Saas Fee. The Davos Mountaineering School is offering a very full programme of tours in Graubünden, Valais and in the Sântis region. The basic course for alpine ski-touring at Safiental-Piz Tomül (23–29.4) or in the Julier region (9–15.3) includes instruction in avalanche situations, knot-tying, general rope use, orientation and emergency bivouacking. Engelberg is known for its glacier-ski-ing down the Kleintitlis (from one to five people, by arrangement). Fiesch in the Goms region is offering until summer a selection of easy ski-tours for all classes of skiers, young and old. For absolute beginners, for example, there are one-week arrangements on the Simplon Pass (20–26.4 and 4–10.5) and in the Jungfrau region (27.4–3.5). A Ski-tour of the summits around Fiesch (18–24.5) will also appeal to more experienced skiers. Grindelwald's Mountaineering School is organising for the first time a weekend tour on the Sustenhorn (31.5–1.6), and is again offering its popular tours for average skiers in the Finsteraarhorn region and on the Bernese Oberland's highest peaks in April and May. The Mountaineering School at Silvretta-Klosters runs a variety of one-week tours — for old and young skiers in the Livignot (23.2–1.3) the "sun terrace" between the Valtellina, the Bernina Pass and Ofen Pass; for real lovers of solitude, in the Münstertal and the National Park (30.5–5.4); and for experienced skiers, in the Rheinwald (13–19.4). La Fouly in Canton Valais specialises in the Haute Route between Zermatt and Chamonix — unfortunately already too well-known — in April and May. And the Pontresina Mountaineering School is running ski-tour courses in the Diavolezza, Lagalb and Bernina Pass region (9–15.3 and 6–12.4).

Ranier Maria Rilke — 1975 Summer Celebrations

Siders (Canton Valais) this year celebrates the 100th anniversary of the birth of the poet Rainer Maria Rilke, who was buried in Raron. A programme of cultural events will be held from June until September, including open-air performances, concerts and a commemoration exhibition at the château de Villa. During the whole of 1975 Siders is offering visitors a one-week stay from Fr. 210, including bed-and-breakfast accommodation and excursions.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWITZERLAND IN BRITAIN'S CULTURAL LIFE

19th February to 31st March — Tate Gallery, Mill Bank, London SW1 — *Henry Fuseli* (Johann Heinrich Füsseli) an exhibition of paintings and drawings, in conjunction with the Pro Helvetia Foundation, the Kunsthalle, Hambourg, and the Petit Palais, Paris.

Each Thursday, from 27th February to 27th March — Tate Gallery, 6.15 p.m. — Introductory lecture on *Henry Fuseli* by Laurence Bradbury.

Wednesday, 5th March — Queen Elizabeth Hall, SE1, 7.45 p.m. — *Anne Gallet* (harpsichord) is one of the soloists at a concert given by the Geraint Jones Orchestra (Bach).

Saturday, 8th March — Purcell Room, SE1, 7.30 p.m. — Harpsichord Recital by *Anne Gallet* (G. Pichi, B. Storace, J. Fischer, Bach, Couperin, Rameau).

Monday, 10th March — Queen Elizabeth Hall, SE1, 7.45 p.m. — *Tamas Vasary* (piano) and Sylvia Rosenberg (violin) play works by Beethoven, Bartok and Brahms.

Tuesday, 11th March — Wigmore Hall W1, 7.30 p.m. — *Alfred Knüsel* (cello) and Russell Lomas (piano) play works by Boccherini, Bloch. A. Hovhaness and Beethoven.

Wednesday, 19th March — Queen Elizabeth Hall, SE1, 7.45 p.m. — *Heinz Holliger* (oboe) plays the Oboe Concerto by Strauss with the Bournemouth Sinfonietta under Kenneth Montgomery.

Wednesday, 19th March — Cockpit Theatre, Gateford Street, London NW8, (box office: Tel: 402-5081), 7.30 p.m. — The Dreamtiger ensemble, conducted by Douglas Young, plays contemporary Swiss music by *Klaus Huber, Eric Gaudibert, Martin Derungs, Ulrich Gasser, Heinz Marti, Jean Derbès*.

Thursday, 20th March — Cockpit Theatre, London NW8, 7.30 p.m. — The Dreamtiger ensemble plays contemporary Swiss music by *Frank Martin, Arthur Honegger, Jacques Guyonnet, Eric Gaudibert, Roland Moser, Klaus Huber*.

Wednesday, 26th March — Wigmore Hall W1, 7.30 p.m. — Piano Recital by *Kristina Steinegger* (Bach, Busoni, Mozart, Beethoven, Bartok, Chopin).

Friday, 4th April — Sheffield City Hall, 7.30 p.m. — Saturday, 5th April — Town Hall, Leeds, 7.30 p.m. — Sunday,

6th April — Town Hall, Huddersfield, 3 p.m. — Tuesday, 8th April — Lavenham, 7.30 p.m. — Wednesday, 9th April — Royal Festival Hall, SE1, 8 p.m. — *Geza Anda* conducts the English Chamber Orchestra and plays the piano part in concertos by Mozart (K.453) and Beethoven (No. 3).

Thursday, 10th April — Purcell Room SE1, 7.30 p.m. — *Peter Hummel* (flute) and Harold Lester (harpischord and piano) play works by J. S. Bach, C. P. E. Bach, Devienne, Silcher and Beethoven.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE:

Thursday, 20th March, Annual General Meeting and Dinner. Prince of Wales Hotel, de Vere Gardens, Kensington, W.8. The AGM begins at 6.30 p.m. and the Dinner at 7.45 p.m.

Thursday, 17th April, 7 p.m. Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, N.W.3. Talk (possibly illustrated by film) by Mr. R. A. Ramseier, First Secretary, Swiss Embassy, on the "Experiences of a Swiss in India". All Swiss and their friends welcome.

SWISS CLUB LIVERPOOL: Swiss Carnival on 8th March. Annual General Meeting. Buffet at 7.00 p.m. at the Dresden Hotel, Bromborough.

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER: Thursday, 6th March, Annual General Meeting at 8.15 p.m.

YORKSHIRE SWISS CLUB: Annual General Meeting on Monday, 10th March at the Leeds Council of Social Services, St. Marks Ave., Woodhouse Lane.

CITY SWISS CLUB, Tuesday 18th March, Family Evening. Tuesday, 15th April, Annual General Meeting.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 12th March at 7.15 p.m. at 34-35 Fitzroy Square.

SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY: Wednesday, 26th March, Film Show at Swiss House.

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY: Architectural visit to Switzerland from 21st to 28th September.

SECRETARY — Swiss-German, English and French-speaking Secretary wanted by the Swiss Welfare Office and the Swiss Benevolent Society. German and English shorthand essential. 5-day week. Please apply to 31 Conway Street, London W1P 5HL.

WANTED: Stamp collections, especially Switzerland, France and Great Britain. Offers to E. M. Huber, 10 Linton Lawns, Golf Links Road, Ferndown, Dorset.

CORRECTION

An unfortunate error appeared in our report (14th February) on the departure of two members of the Embassy. Dr. Juerg Iseline, who was until early February, First Collaborator of the Ambassador, married in 1950 and not in 1955 as was erroneously stated. Mr. Fritz Adams, our departing Consul General has two boys and a girl, Daniele, 11, and not three boys as stated.

Another member of the Embassy shall be leaving London shortly, he is *Dr. Franz Birrer*, Cultural Attaché. We shall be reporting more in detail in a forthcoming issue.

CONCERT AT WIGMORE HALL BY WELL-KNOWN YOUNG MUSICIANS

Alfred Knüsel (cello), and Russell Lomas (piano), will be performing at Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1, on Tuesday, 11th March, 1975, at 7.30 p.m.



Alfred Knüsel

Alfred Knüsel, born in Lucerne, is a popular artist in Switzerland and broadcasts regularly. His studies of his chosen instrument have been in great depth and from reports he has obtained great intensity of tone and he possesses extremely expressive 'cantilena' and virtuosity which enables him to tackle the trickiest of passages with elegance.

Russell Lomas (piano), was born in Manchester. He studied at the Royal Manchester College of Music and from there has progressed through diplomas and specialised courses to become one of the top-flight young accompanists.

Their programme will include: Sonata No. 3 in G major by Boccherini; Suite No. 2 for solo cello by Bloch; Sonata Op. 255 (first London performance) by Alan Hovhaness; Sonata in F major Op. 5 No. 1 by Beethoven.

Seating enquiries: Telephone: 01-935 2141.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The Swiss Mercantile Society held its Annual Dinner and Dance on Saturday, 1st February, at the Orchid Suite of the Dorchester Hotel. It was, as usual, a friendly function with many

known faces. Attendance seemed to be slightly down on previous annual dinners with eight or nine tables spaced out across the Orchid Suite, the scene of so many Swiss functions over the years. Dr. Albert Weitnauer, our Ambassador, who is Honorary President of the Society, honoured the evening with his presence and greeted the guests, together with Mr. A. Jaccard, President, and Mrs. Jaccard at the entrance of the opening reception.

The menu was excellent and had a distinct Dorchester flavour with a traditional fish dish as starter. The menu read as follows: *La Bordure de Sole au Pernod, Le Riz Pilaff, Le Fricandeau de Veau à la Moutarde, Les Nouilles à l'Emmental, Le Brocoli au Beurre, Le Savarin à l'Ananas au Kirsch, Le café, Les Petits Fours*. This description in French gives the idea of a rather fancy and exotic meal, but like all restaurant menus it tends to enhance on paper something that was not all that different from an ordinary Sunday lunch.

Shortly after the toasts to the Queen and to Switzerland, Mr. Jaccard rose for his welcoming address and spoke as follows:

"With the exciting events which attended the ceremonial re-opening of Swiss House last November still fresh in our minds, I think it is most pleasant to meet again in a less formal atmosphere and it is, therefore, in a relaxed mood that I welcome you tonight on behalf of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

"The explanation for the fall in attendance in contrast to last year's bumper presence of members and friends, far from being due to lack of effort on our part to attract support, may be found in the economic uncertainties besetting us at present and we can only express the hope that these will be resolved in the not too distant future.

Before turning the page on the subject of Swiss House I must, however, refer once again to the part played by the Ambassador, our Honorary President, who has kindly agreed, once again to honour us by his presence.

"It has fallen to me on more than one occasion to express our thoughts on Dr. Weitnauer's share in our enterprise, which testifies to his close and warm interest, not only in our aims but also in the rising generation whose broadening of experience will assist them in the shouldering of their responsibilities as future leaders of the Swiss economy.

"The support which Dr. Weitnauer has felt able to give us in bringing to fruition a desire, long dormant but finally brought to realisation will link his name indissolubly with Swiss House and our deepest gratitude is therefore due to him for his valued assistance.

"This function, which is usually marked by good spirit and fellowship is tonight tinged with a certain melancholy due to the imminent departure from this country of two very popular members of the Embassy staff, Monsieur J. A. Iselin, Ministre Plénipotentiaire and Monsieur F. Adams, Consul-General, which will leave a great void in the colony.