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# The Swiss Observer

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SWISS COLONY IN THE U.K.

Founded in 1919 by Paul F. Boehringer

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

PASTEUR: Michel Languillat, 8 Park View  
Road, London, N.3. Tele: 01-346 5281.

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

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

(2nd floor at the same time, Protestant  
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RESIDENCE OF CHAPLAIN: Bossard, Swiss  
Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street,  
(2nd floor), London SW1P 2HA. Tele-  
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SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse,  
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10.00 a.m. Sunday school takes place on  
the first and the third Sunday in the month  
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MINISTER: Pfr. U. Stefan, 1, Womersley  
Road, N.8. Tel: 01-340 9740.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I, by and large, enjoy reading the  
Swiss Observer, however, I would  
appreciate it, if the emphasis would be a  
little less on business and money and a  
little more on Culture (Swiss Culture), for  
example I have just seen an excellent film  
at the NFT by a Swiss (Konfrontation).

Also, in a recent issue, I found it  
rather depressing to read (a) how many  
foreigners (with money) live in  
Switzerland, (b) with what pride one  
talks about the building of yet more  
"Autobahnen", when it is a disaster how  
this small country is being ruined by  
roads and cars, (c) the lack of mentioning  
the problem of "Arbeitslosigkeit der  
Schweizer", quite a problem in  
Switzerland, especially as it is hitting the  
apprentices and school-leavers now.

E. Tober, Mrs.,  
134 Woodwarde Road,  
London, SE22.

Sir,

I saw in the December number of  
the Swiss Observer an advertisement by  
the Swiss Welfare Office for Young  
People, requiring a Social worker, with a  
good knowledge of German, French and  
English.

Am I to take it that we Ticinesi are  
considered such third class citizens of the  
Confederation of Elvetica, that no  
provision need be made for our young  
people in need of help in a strange  
country?

We may be only one Canton, but  
we are Swiss for all that, and should be  
treated with equal respect and  
consideration as all the other Cantons.

This biased slant has struck me time  
and again, especially when I have been to  
my home village, where the arrogance of  
some of the visitors from other parts of  
Switzerland have been to say the least  
insulting.

Yole Rossi Bowman,  
7 Hodford Road,  
London NW11 8NL.

### CAPTION FOR THE FRONT PAGE

Langlauf — cross-country ski-ing —  
is an import from Scandinavia  
which is proving increasingly  
popular in Switzerland. Ski-ing  
conditions in our various resorts are  
reported to be good so perhaps  
some of us will go and join those  
lucky folk in the picture.

Miss Rossi Bowman was obviously  
touched on a raw spot by the  
advertisement she is complaining about.  
May I assure her that the policy of this  
publication is to treat all the Swiss  
National languages as equal. May she be  
comforted by the fact that we carry a  
regular column in Italian?

WGS

### CORRECTIONS AND APOLOGIES

We wish to apologise for a number  
of errors that appeared in the report on  
Mr. Charles Glauser's talk at the Nouvelle  
Société Helvétique on "The Work of a  
Consul". The audience was, of course,  
not an "invited one" but consisted of  
members and friends of the Society  
whose President (not Secretary) Mrs.  
Mariann Meier welcomed Mr. Porret (not  
Borret) one of the founder members of  
the NSH in 1916 (not 1926).

\* \* \*

On page 28 of the Christmas issue  
of the Swiss Observer, we published a  
contribution by Uli Stefan "Christmas  
has a Message". Inadvertently, his name  
was left out, and we apologise to the Rev.  
Stefan for this omission.

\* \* \*

Furthermore, we have been asked  
by Dr. Alfred Aebi whose article on Swiss  
Defence appeared in the September and  
October issues, to add the following  
passage which had been left out, in error;  
page 27 of the November issue; the text  
should read as follows, otherwise the  
whole meaning of that paragraph is  
distorted.

"On the minus side:

- The original raison d'être of Swiss  
neutrality — the elimination of  
great power rivalry over a  
strategically important area — has  
lost most of its significance today.
- The nature of the East West  
conflict with Switzerland being a  
member of the Western community  
of nations with all its implications

for the pursuit of a credible neutral policy.

- The more difficult military situation of smaller states in general as well as the total nature of war.
- The high vulnerability of the country.
- The discrediting of neutrality through neutralism.

“On the positive side:

- Deterrence at the strategic level has made a nuclear war less likely, making conventional weapons still relevant. As a result of this development, Switzerland's defence preparations should be sufficient to prevent a political and military vacuum in central Europe.
- Switzerland would probably not become the lone victim of aggression by a great power but would more likely be involved in a general conflict only. It is also conceivable that it may again avoid involvement in a future conflict.
- Even if a small state like Switzerland cannot really influence the international political constellation, it can set against it the continuity of its own foreign policy and through that create at least one factor of stability and security.
- Swiss neutrality has been and still is of advantage to other states.”

Many apologies!

## OBITUARIES

### ALBERT HENRI LOUIS CUANY

Albert Henri Louis Cuany died on 12th December, 1975. He was born in Neuchâtel on 29th June, 1891, the son of Louis Daniel Cuany and Emma, née Benninger. He was a member of the hotel and catering profession having been an apprentice cook in Geneva, served in the P & O Steamship Line as chef – including service in 1914-16, and in 1917 joined the Caledonian Railway Hotels as Assistant-Superintendent at the Central Hotel, Glasgow. He served with distinction for 44 years in the group of hotels which later became part of the British Railways Hotels Executive and was Manager of the Central Hotel, Glasgow, the Midland Hotel, Manchester, and Euston Hotel, London. From 1957-61 as Assistant for Special Duties he organised an Hotel School for the Executive at New Lodge, Windsor. His retirement years were spent at Seer Green, Beaconsfield, Bucks. A much-loved resident of the United Kingdom for most of his life, he is survived by his wife, Lilian Florence Cuany, and one daughter Jennifer May (Mrs. Michael Shapiro) both now of Sparkill, New York; by one son, Robin Louis Cuany, Ph.D., of Fort Collins,

Colorado; and by his only sister, Hélène Emma Cuany, of St. Léger, Ct. Vaud.

### HELENA JENNE

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Helena Jenne who died at an old people's home in Chur a few weeks ago. She was a member of the Simmen Family well known in the Grisons. She had no easy childhood as her mother died very young, and the children were brought up by an uncle. After spending some time in America, she settled in England. At one stage, she was Matron at the Swiss Home for Old People at 31 Conway Street, the present address of the Swiss Benevolent Society and the Swiss Welfare Office for Young People. Social work has always interested her.

Then she married a banker, Mr. Gustave Jenne, a well-known member in the Swiss community in London, in the Swiss Mercantile Society where Mrs. Jenne, too, played a prominent part, the Swiss Church and the City Swiss Club. After his death, she retired to her native Grisons and spent a number of years at Andeer where, once again, she was very active. A couple of years ago, she gave up her home and moved to Chur.

We, her friends, shall remember her with affection, as we do her late husband.

MM

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

The following readers will be celebrating their birthdays in February: Mrs. N. Burri on 6th, Mr. Ralph Maag on 17th and Mrs. E. Jamieson on the 20th of the month (1900). Mr. J. W. Bonjour will be 77 on 23rd and the former Swiss Ambassador Dr. Armin Daeniker (Berne) 78 on 24th February.

For a change, Mr. F. Gerber will be able to celebrate his birthday on the proper day – 29th February, when he will be 84.

Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Boehringer will have their 30th wedding anniversary on 2nd February.

To all these readers and others who will be celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the coming month, we send congratulations and best wishes.

Sylvia Y. Streit, Secretary of the First of August Committee, and elder daughter of the late Alice and Fred Streit, would like her many friends in the Swiss colony to learn the happy news of her marriage to Michael H. W. Jones, on Saturday, 24th January, at Sheen Register Office. We add our best wishes.

## NEWS FROM THE COLONY

## ADOLPHE SCHMID IS 90!

On 1st February, Mr. Adolphe Schmid of the Norfolk Court Hotel, 20 Norfolk Square, Hyde Park, London W2, will be celebrating his 90th birthday.

Son of a hotel keeper, he was born at Eiken, Fricktal, Canton Aargau and

later attended the *Bezirksschule* Frick. He worked as *chef garde manger* at the *Hôtel Beau Rivage* at Ouchy, after having had a cook's apprenticeship – for which one paid in those days – at the *Hôtel de France* in Lausanne. He cooked for 200 people daily, amongst them the Grand Duke of Baden.

Adolphe Schmid came to London in 1907 after having done his military service in the *Rekrutenschule*. His first job was as chef at Felixstowe where he earned the princely wage of 25/- a week. It was hard to find work in London, but he found a job at the Lancaster Gate Hotel and later at Queen's near Crystal Palace. In his spare time, he sparred with the International Canadian Wrestling Team.

In 1910, he went to Ireland and worked at the Imperial in Cork, and later at the famous Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin. Whilst in Cork, he became well acquainted with Lord Kitchener.

He returned to London in 1912 and held the position as head chef at the Carlton, with 40 chefs under him. When working at the Bucklands Hotel, he served Lord Roberts of Boer War fame.

When war broke out, Adolphe Schmid was amongst the 1,050 Swiss who went back to Switzerland where he joined the infantry battalion 58 as a fusilier. At the frontier where he served, he was the only one to have a camera, and so he had