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The Swiss Observer

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

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RESIDENCE OF CHAPLAIN: Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street (2nd floor), London SW1P 2HA. Tel: 01-222 2895.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

On 1st March, *Mr. F. G. Sommer*, of 3 The Chestnuts, 66 Harestone Valley Road, Caterham, Surrey, will have his 85th birthday.

On 9th March, *Mr. René Marchand*, of 16 Hochrain, 2500 Bienne, Switzerland, will also celebrate his 85th birthday.

We wish both these old and faithful readers the best of health and many more years of happy retirement.

The following readers, too, are celebrating birthdays in the near future:

Mr. E. Hardmeier will be 89 on 3rd March, and Mr. L. Meier will have his 88th birthday on 5th March. Mrs. L. Gradmann will be 79 on the 8th of the month. Dr. H. W. Egli will be 78 and Mr. R. Chappuis 81 on 17th March. Mr. H. Vonwiller will have his 83rd birthday on the 20th of the month, and Mr. Albert Ferber will be 66 on the 29th. Mr. R. Senn will celebrate his 66th birthday on 30th March.

Many happy returns of birthdays and anniversaries to all concerned, including readers of whose birthdays we are not aware.

PAUL BESSIRE, 80

On 20th March, Mr. Paul Bessire, of 28 Cumberland Road, SW13, will reach the grand age of 80, in very good health and spirits, we are glad to report.

Paul Bessire, one of six children, was born in Bienne, where he went to school and later to the *Ecole de Commerce*. He came to this country 62 years ago, and some three years later he started his own business here and it has developed into a firm of general export and import of some standing. The supply of mica to the Continent was one of his successful lines. In the war he was completely bombed out and had to start all over again. He did this with courage and enterprise and worked up a fine business in industrial diamond tools and exports of electrical accessories. He is still active in his company.

Right from the early days in Great Britain, Paul Bessire took a lively interest in the Swiss Church and in the mid-thirties, as a member of the Consistoire, he was in charge of renovating the Foyer Suisse in Bedford Place, an offshoot of the Swiss Church. Many of our compatriots in London will recall that the Foyer, too, was bombed in the war. He became a member of the City Swiss Club in 1920, he is now an Honorary Member. He is a member of the Swiss Mercantile Society and supports the Swiss Rifle Association. He joined the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, of whose Council he was a valued member for many years.

At a City Swiss Club event in the early twenties he met Antoinette Schupbach of the Neuchâtel branch of the old Emmental family, whose father was General Manager of the Crédit Lyonnais in London and later President of the City Swiss Club. They were married in London in 1930. They have two married daughters and four grandchildren.

On the front page

Cross-country ski-ing will certainly give you a hearty appetite as the two people on the front cover have found out. A bowl of good soup will see them through until the next meal. Story and more pictures on pages 14 and 15. Photo by courtesy of SNTD.

For Information, Advice or Help
contact the

SWISS WELFARE OFFICE

for young people

31 Conway Street London W1P 5HL
telephone 01-387 3608

Underground Stations:
Great Portland Street
Warren Street

ARE YOU A YOUNG SWISS?

Do you know the biggest Swiss happening in town? The **SWISS YOUTH CLUB**, 48 GREAT PETER STREET, LONDON S.W. 1.

Every Sunday from 4 p.m. onwards the Swiss Youth Club under the auspices of the Swiss Churches in London is staging a "get-together" with a variety of happenings. From 4 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. "do-it-yourself" entertainment followed by an ecumenical Church service for those who wish to participate.

At 7.30 p.m. a communal dinner party opens a night of dancing and talking (In *Schwizerdütsch*). Refreshments are served at the bar by Club members.

Looking forward to seeing you!
Committee of the Swiss Youth Club.