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THE JURA — BIRTH OF A NEW CANTON

That was the title of a talk given to members of the Swiss Mercantile Society and the Nouvelle Société Helvétique by Monsieur Paul André Ramseyer, First Secretary and Press Attaché at the Swiss Embassy. The meeting took place at Swiss House, home of the SMS, on 11th January.

Monsieur Ramseyer dealt in a clear and interesting manner with this complex problem. He gave the historic facts and took the audience through years of struggle, debate and finally to the plebiscites which made it clear that the Catholic districts wanted a separate Canton, whilst the Protestant ones in the South preferred to remain with Berne. The fate of the Laufenal is as yet undecided.

A discussion followed which was both lively and instructive. The Presidents of the SMS, Mr. F. O. Hausermann, and of the NSH, Mrs. Mariann Meier, thanked the speaker for his excellent address, and the large audience left nobody in any doubt that it had been a most satisfactory and rewarding evening.

MUSIC WITH A SWISS ACCENT AT THE EMBASSY

NSH CONCERT IN AID OF THE SWISS CHURCHES

By kind invitation of the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Thalmann, a concert took place at the Swiss Embassy

Residence on 19th January. It was organised by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in conjunction with the International Liszt Centre for 19th-Century Music, whose Musical Director, Lennart Rabes, was in charge of the programme.

The artists, Shuna Wilson (cello), Ian Mitchell (clarinet) and Lennart Rabes (piano), have already made a name for themselves in the Swiss community, and it was not the first time they gave their services in aid of the Swiss Churches in London.

The programme began with the *Trio Pathétique in D min* (1826/7) by Mikhail Glinka. This was followed by Franz Liszt's piano work *Années de pèlerinage I (Suisse)*, and there was no doubt as to the Swiss atmosphere of the three pieces *Chapelle de Guillaume Tell*, *Au Lac de Walenstadt* and *Le Mal du Pays*.

Then followed a sonata for clarinet and piano composed by Francis Poulenc in 1962. It was dedicated to the Swiss composer Arthur Honegger and written for Benny Goodman. Its first performance took place in U.S.A. in 1963, after the composer's death, and at that time it was performed by Benny Goodman and Leonard Bernstein.

Stravinsky's *Three Pieces for clarinet solo* (1919) were written in Switzerland where Stravinsky lived from 1914 to 1920. During that period, he wrote 15 works, amongst them his *Soldier's Tale*, dedicated to and financed by Werner Reinhart.

It was at the latter's home that the Swiss composer, conductor and pianist,

NEWS FROM THE COLONY

Othmar Schoeck, wrote a sonata for clarinet and piano. Of this work, only the Andante for clarinet and piano has been preserved. The performance by Ian Mitchell and Lennart Rabes on 19th January was almost certainly the first performance in Great Britain.

Then followed Claude Debussy's *Première Rhapsodie pur clarinette et piano* written in 1910 as a test piece for the clarinet at the Paris Conservatoire. It was performed in its original version at the Embassy concert.

The recital ended with Beethoven's *Trio Op. 11 in F maj.* for clarinet, cello and piano.

The audience was most enthusiastic about the excellent performance of the three artists. A reception was given afterwards by the generous hosts, Monsieur and Madame Thalmann.

MM

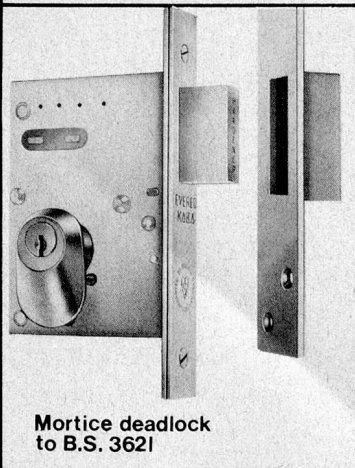
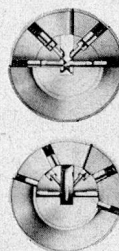
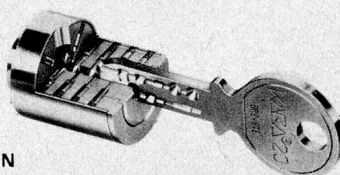
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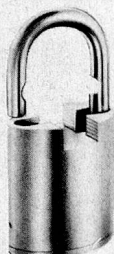
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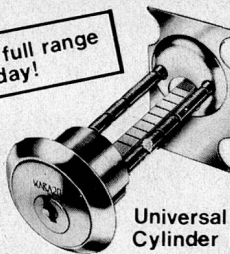
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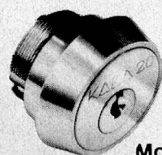
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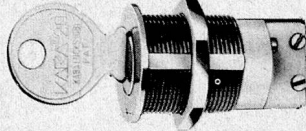
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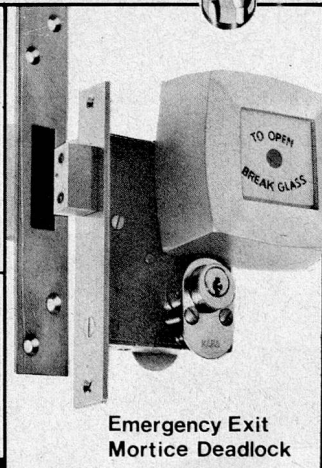
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Birthday congratulations

We have pleasure in announcing the birthdays of an octogenarian and a nonagenarian.

Mrs. Lina Gradmann, of 11 Fenstanton Avenue, London N.12, will be 80 on 8th March.

Mr. Emile Hardmeier, of Flat 2, Armstrong House, Cranfield Court, 1 Chelsworth Avenue, Ipswich, will be 90 on 3rd March. He was an active member of the Swiss Mercantile Society from 1920 to 1945 when he was elected an Hon. Member, having served on the Education Committee of the College (Chairman 1933/34) and the Council until 1944. He moved to Ipswich where he lives in retirement.

Other readers who will be celebrating birthdays in March are Mr. L. Meier who will be 89 on 3rd March. Mr. R. Marchand (Bienne) will have his 86th birthday on 9th of the month. Dr. H. W. Egli will be 79 on 17th March, the same day as Mr. R. Chappuis who will be 82. Mr. P. Bessire has his 81st birthday on 20th March, the same day as Mr. H. Vonwiller who will be 84. Mrs. L. Gyger will have her 71st birthday on 24th March, and Mr. R. Senn will be 67 on 30th of the month.

Best wishes and many happy returns to all these readers and any others of whose birthdays we are not aware.

SWISS KNOWHOW IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE

A Swiss firm specialising in the supply of appliances for pesticide control in tropical and European agriculture and for agricultural machinery has started to export knowhow.

The scheme is planned in such a way that over 50 per cent of the production can be carried out very rapidly on the spot.

SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH

The Swiss Club Edinburgh has appointed the following committee for 1977/78:

President: Dr. H. J. Wirz, 6 Moston Terrace, Edinburgh.

Vice-President: Mr. P. Maridor, 39 Albany Street, Edinburgh. Tel. 556 0397.

Welfare: Mrs. N. Robson, 14 Dalhousie Road, Dalkeith. Tel. 663 4482.

Treasurer: Mrs. U. Ross, 64 Polwearth Gardens, Edinburgh. Tel. 229 2833.

Secretary: Mr. H. Witzig, 2 Dean Park Crescent, Edinburgh.

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Henry Gygax, of 27 Beechwood Avenue, Earlsdon, Coventry, who died on 22nd December, and of Mr. R. Braga, formerly of London, who lived at Sigirino (Ticino) for some years. He died some time ago, but we have only just heard of his death. We express sincere sympathy to the families of these two compatriots.

Forthcoming events

Schweizer- Bund London

Friday, 10th March, 1978, 18.00

Annual General Meeting;
19.30 Dinner at the Pressclub, Fleet Street.

