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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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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I received news this morning that a most beautiful and historically interesting house in my native village of Brissago is going to be demolished to make way for a flat complex. It is interesting in so far that it was the home of Leoncavallo in the early part of the century. He had it built on the proceeds of the sale of some music specially composed for the Kaiser. Apart from the sentimental connotations for the village, it is also a rather beautiful example of Art Nouveau Architecture, which with the Grand Hotel just below make up a rather attractive complex reminiscent of a bygone era of gaiety and splendour. What I want to know, is there not a national fund to help these smaller villages to keep their more interesting national monuments? I see nothing progressive in pulling down the beautiful to be replaced more often than not by the mediocre. Alternatively why not hold an Opera Festival once a year to help Brissago keep what few things of beauty remain. Many have vanished already.

Now on to another tack. Do you know if there is an embargo in

Switzerland on the import of baby seal skins or any articles made from these same skins. Would it not be a wonderful thing if we followed France and the U.S.A. in putting one on and showing the world what we think of such cruel and atrocious commerce?

*Who could seriously find fault with the sentiments and the ideas set out in this letter? What do our readers think — should the Swiss take an active part in curbing cruel practices and, if so, how should they go about it? Any ideas would be gratefully received.*

W.G.S.

### IN MEMORIAM

Robert Lehner, 1892-1967

### ERRATA

From the List of Swiss Organisations in the U.K. which appeared in our issue dated April 1978 please delete reference to the Birmingham Swiss

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

PASTEUR: Frank Orna-Ornstein, 7 Park View  
Road, London N.3. Tel: 01-346 5281.

SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79  
Endell Street, W.C.2, every Sunday at 10.00  
a.m. Sunday school takes place on the first  
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Services also at John Southworth Centre, 48  
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Sunday at 6.30 p.m.

MINISTER: Pastor Paul Jungi, 1 Womersley  
Road, N.8. Tel: 01-340 9740.

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

Sundays: Services at 6.30 p.m. for  
Catholics and Protestants. See notice-  
board in house for details and  
location.

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

Club and the address given. The  
information appeared under the  
sub-heading 'Outside London (In London  
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