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Regrettably, the Alpine Sun is setting

A CHARITY which over the years has enabled hundreds of sick British children to recuperate in the Swiss Alps has now been wound up.

In its 24 years' existence Alpine Sun for British Children sent well over 300 children to Switzerland. But now time has caught up with it.

Advances in medicine, the economic climate and the 'retirement' of the administrator have all contributed towards the charity's demise.

Alpine Sun was founded in London in 1956 to send young asthmatics to Switzerland. All costs were met from funds except in cases where it was felt parents could afford to make a contribution.

For many years the children were sent to the Prasura Convalescent Home at Arosa, but latterly they were accommodated at Kindersheim Blumenhof at Oberageri.

Of the 342 children who visited the Swiss homes, 271 enjoyed between three and four months convalescence, 71 between six and seven months and one, 11 months. And almost 20 per cent were completely cured.

The winding up operation began in 1977 and was completed recently at the chambers of chairman Mr Anthony Cripps (nephew of the late Sir Stafford Cripps).

The reasons given were:

The decreasing number of eligible children due to improved health care and environment.

Bigger bills as a result of the exchange rate and inflation.

And the unwillingness of the charity to place any further demands of the time of their dedicated administrator, 77-

year-old Mr Alan Gowing.

So the work of a charity, highly regarded by the Swiss, now becomes a matter of historical record.

Swiss clubs' diary

City Swiss Club

Feb 10: Dinner at the Portman Hotel, followed by a speech by Lord Miles (ladies welcome).

March 24: Swiss evening at the Swiss Centre (ladies welcome).

April 28: Dinner and annual general meeting at the Portman Hotel.

May 19: Card evening at the St. Moritz Club Restaurant.

July 17: Summer dance at Great Forsters, Egham.

London Swiss Philatelic Society

Feb 20: Annual dinner at the Throgmorton Restaurant.

Regular meetings on last Wednesday of every month at Swiss House.

Nouvelle Société

Helvétique (London group)

Feb 11: Annual film show (jointly with the Swiss Mercantile Society).

March 19: Annual meeting and dinner.

Swiss Mercantile Society

Feb 11: Annual film show (jointly with the NSH).

Feb 2: Annual dinner and dance at the Dorchester Hotel (6.30pm for 7pm, until midnight).

March 11: Annual general meeting at Swiss House.

Unione Ticinese

March 29: Annual general meeting Valchera Restaurant.

May 17: Spring outing.

June 28: Summer barbecue.

Southern Area Swiss Club

Regular meetings first Friday of each month.

Feb 6: Annual general meeting at Oakfarm Community Centre, Farnborough.

March 6: Tramps Supper.

April 3: Film show.

May 1: Talk on crime prevention.

June 5: Musical quiz.

July 3: Informal social meeting.

Aug 1: 1st August celebration.

Sept 4: Fondue party.

Oct 2: Games evening.

Nov 6: Talk on first aid by St. John Ambulance.

Dec 4: Christmas party.

Liverpool Swiss Club

Feb 27: Annual general meet-

ing (contact Mrs G. Stierle for details).

THE Swiss Rifle Association has made the following shooting arrangements for the 1981 season.

● 300M rifle meetings, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Surrey:

*March 29, *April 12, *May 17, *June 7, *June 21, September 13, 27, October 11.

* Targets available for Feld-schiessen and Obligatorisches programmes. Shooting starts at 10am.

● 25M pistol meetings, Marylebone Rifle and Pistol Club, St. Alphage House, Fore Street, London:

January 25, February 8, March 15, October 25, December 13. Shooting starts at 2pm.

Consul General

CONSUL Julius Keller, Swiss Embassy London, has been appointed to Consul General (from January).

SWISS CHURCHES

EGLISE SUISSE, 79 Endell Street, WC2

10am Services in German, every Sunday, except 4th Sunday of the month.

11.15am Services en Français, tous les dimanches.

Minister. Pfarrer Urs Steiner, 1 Womersley Road, London N8 9AE. Tel: 01-340 9740

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION, 48 Great Peter St., SW1

6pm On Saturdays (Meditation Service)

11.30am On Sundays (in English)

6.30pm On Sundays (in German-ecumenical)

1.05pm Monday - Friday

Chaplain: Fr. Paul Bossard, 48 Great Peter St., London SW1P 2HA. Tel: 01-222 2895

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