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Now it's farewell to the Rev Urs Steiner

THERE have been changes in London! Having said goodbye to Father Bossard of the Swiss Catholic Mission, we also had to say farewell to the Rev Urs Steiner, who has been the minister of the Swiss Protestant Church for five and a half years.

He preached his last sermon on September 18 at a combined German/French service to a well represented congregation. It was during his time that the French and German speaking parishes became united under one minister, a move that was made imperative by the impossibility to find a new French-speaking minister for the small congregation

and the everlasting shortage of funds under which the church is constantly labouring.

After some anxious times, we have been able, with the help of the Federation of Swiss Churches in Berne, to find a replacement, and on October 16 the installation of the new minister, the Rev Hans Wunderli from St Gall took place at the Swiss Church in the presence of a very large congregation.

The new minister and his wife are now settling down in the manse at 1 Womersley Road, London N8, and are looking forward to meeting all the members of the French and German

speaking communities in due course.

E.D. Crack

Canal junket

NO FEWER than 58 members of the Yorkshire Swiss Club were aboard when the canal cruiser "Water Prince" set off on a pleasure trip along the Leeds and Liverpool canal.

The weather was very poor, even for early September, but according to the club president Jeffrey Long spirits could not be dampened.

Perhaps those on board were well aware that they were the lucky ones - there were 26 people "standing by" in the hope of a cancelled ticket.

There was an afternoon tea served on board the boat - which negotiated two locks during the course of the afternoon, much to the delight of the children.

★ ★ ★

SWISS Observer Mr R. Maurer is seeking help from any reader who can provide him with rules of the game of Jass - in English.

Mr Maurer has recently bought a Jass pack, but this is the German edition.

If you are able to help, please

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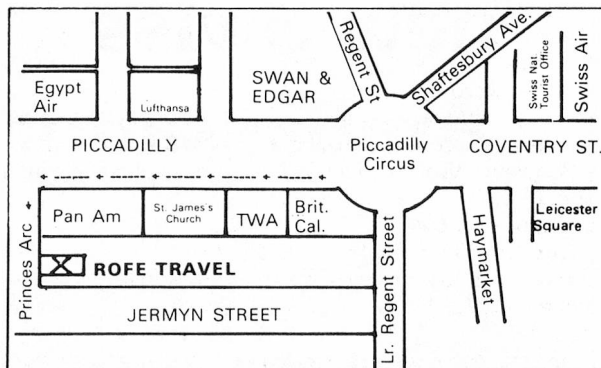
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write to Mr R. Maurer, 7 Gayfere Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3HN.

★ ★ ★

THE Yorkshire Swiss Club will be having a Christmas party on Saturday December 3, 6.30pm for 7pm at the Foreign Language Circle, Eldon Place, Manningham

Lane, Bradford.

An entertaining evening has been planned to suit everyone. For refreshments, a cold meat platter, bread, coffee and soft drinks will be provided for £1.

Any contributions, such as salads, cakes, etc will be gratefully received and pooled.

During the evening a raffle will be held in aid of club funds, and the club would gratefully welcome any gifts to be used as prizes.

★ ★ ★

THE Cercle Genevois, London, will hold their Escalade evening on Friday December 9 at The Ski Club of Great Britain, 118 Eaton

Square, London SW1.

Members will receive all the details in due course.

Anyone who would like to join will be warmly welcome and should phone, before December 5, either; Mrs Suzy Allan, Watford 21704 or Mrs Christiane Rhoda, 01-946 7171.

THE ARTS

Alberto Giacometti: lithographs, "Paris sans fin". This exhibition has been touring Britain since 1981.

In January the exhibition will move on to Rochester and will reach its final stage in Aberystwyth at the end of February/beginning of March 1984.

Fred Siegenthaler: paper-work. The artist's work "Pietà", of handmade paper, is included in an exhibition called "Paper as Image", which has been touring the UK since July. Its last stage will be in London from Nov 9 - Dec 24 at Crafts Council Gallery, 12 Waterloo Place, SW1 - two minutes from Picadilly Circus, in Lower Regent Street. Tel: 01-930 4811 (Opening times: Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Thurs 10am-7pm, Sun 2-5pm, closed Mon.

Matthias Bamert: will conduct the Scottish National Orchestra on Dec 9 (Fri) at Usher Hall, Edinburgh. Programme: Ravel - Rhapsodie Espagnole Messiaen - Chronochromie Fauré - Requiem. Also Dec 10 (Sat) at the City Hall, Glasgow. Programme as above.

(For further information, please contact Jonathan Groves of Ingpen+Williams, Tel: 01-937 5158).

During the 1984/85 season,

Matthias Bamert will be back for two or three series of concerts. He was born in Ersingen (Canton Berne) in 1942. He studied the oboe, chamber music, conducting and composition in Berne and Paris, and in Darmstadt with Pierre Boulez.

From 1965 to 1969 he was principal oboist of the Mozarteum Orchestra in Salzburg. He worked with the Cleveland Orchestra with George Szell in 1960-1970 and until 1978 was resident conductor of that orchestra under Lorin Maazel.

As guest conductor he has appeared with many major European and American orchestras, including the Zurich Tonhalle, the Munich Philharmonic, the Detroit Symphony, Berlin Radio Orchestra and the West German Radio Orchestra. He has taken part in a large number of international music festivals.

In 1977 he was appointed Music Director of the Swiss Radio Orchestra, Basle, and is now its principal guest conductor.

Well known as an oboist and conductor, Mr Bamert also has the reputation of being a highly innovative composer. He was awarded the George Szell Memorial Award in 1970 and the Cleveland Arts Prize in 1974.

Mr Bamert has recently given several concerts in Great Britain with the Scottish National and Chamber orchestras and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

He has taken part in the Wexford Festival and the Aberdeen International Youth Festival. His conducting has been widely acclaimed by the British press.

Tamas Vasary will be the piano soloist with Walter Weller, conductor, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra on Dec 12 (Mon) 7.30pm at the Royal Festival Hall. Programme: Mozart - Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, Dvorak - Symphony No 8. (Booking opens November 12).

Mario Botta's works of architecture will be shown from Jan 10 - Feb 11 at the Architecture Association in London (For details see next bulletin).

Erich Schmid will conduct the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra on Jan 5 (Thurs) at Birmingham Town Hall. Programme: Mozart - Overture Don Giovanni, Honegger - Monopartita, Elgar - Cello concerto, Schumann - Symphony No 1.

Jan 10 (Tues) same place. Programme: Brahms - Serenade

No 2, Mozart - Piano Concerto K 459 (Imogen Cooper), Beethoven - 8th Symphony.

(For further details, please contact Jonathan Groves, Ingpen+Williams, Tel: 01-937 5158).

Christian Favre will give a concert as piano soloist on Jan 15 (Sun), 3.30pm at the Wigmore Hall, London. Programme: Schumann - Arabesques Op 18, Kreisleriana Op 16, Chopin - Fantasy in F minor Op 49, Ravel - Gaspard de la nuit.

The New Helvetic Society (London Group), Nov 16 (Wed) 7pm, **Dr J. Kellenberger** in charge of economic affairs at the Swiss Embassy will give a talk on "Switzerland and the EEC" at the Swiss Mercantile School (34/35 Fitzroy Square, W1)

Dec 15 (Thurs) Christmas Gathering at the Swiss Church, (For details, please contact the President, Mrs M. Meier, Tel: 01-624 5360).

Cercle Genevois Dec 9 (Fri) 7pm Soirée-buffet to celebrate the "Escalade" at the Ski Club of Great Britain 18 Eaton Square, SW1. Applications until Dec 5, if possible. For further information, please contact Mrs Allan, tel: 0923-21704 or Mrs Ch. Rhoda, tel: 01-946 7171.