

Alfons Ehrsam †

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JACQUES OERTLI 70

On 10th November, Mr. Jacques Oertli of 13, Osidge Lane, N.14, will be celebrating his 70th birthday. The Editor wanted to publish some details about Mr. Oertli's interesting life, but modest as he is, he expressed a wish that no write-up should appear, and that the Swiss Benevolent Society of which he is a Vice-President, should be remembered rather than he himself. Nevertheless, we feel that the date should not pass unnoticed and that we should mention the sterling work which Mr. Oertli has done for the Swiss Benevolent Society ever since 1929. His many friends will join in wishing him many happy returns of the day and good health and continued well-being for many years to come.

The address of the Swiss Benevolent Society is 31 Conway Street, London W.1.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr. Ernest Schaerer will be 73 in November. On 6th November, Mr. J. J. Boos, K.S.G., will be 79. We wish the two gentlemen many happy returns of the day, as well as to any other readers whose birthdays fall within the next few weeks.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

With the approach of Christmas, the SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, the two Communities of the SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON, and the SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION IN LONDON appeal once again to all their Swiss friends for gifts in kind or in cash to help provide a little extra cheer at Christmas for our compatriots in need.

New articles of clothing, also serviceable used ones cleaned and in good repair, as well as household goods will be very much appreciated.

Gifts in kind should be sent, preferably not later than the middle of November, to the Swiss Benevolent Society, whilst donations in cash or cheques may be forwarded to any one of the under-mentioned addresses:—

Swiss Benevolent Society, 31 Conway Street, London W.1;
Rev. A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London N.3;
Rev. M. Dietler, 1 Womersley Road, London N.8;
Rev. Joseph Scherer, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, London S.W.1.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

As in previous years, the "Swiss Observer" will put space for Christmas greetings at the disposal of readers. The price of Christmas cards has again gone up, and this arrangement will enable subscribers to wish their friends the compliments of the season at small cost. At the same time it is a means of additional financial support to the paper.

We propose publishing these greetings in our Double Christmas Number on 16th December. Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Monday, 21st November, together with remittance of 25/-. Prompt response will be much appreciated.

ALFONS EHRSAM †

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Alfons Ehrsam, of 3 Woodstock Road, Witney, Oxfordshire, popular figure known as "Alfons of Oxford". He died at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, at the age of 72.

He came to this country with his brother Max and worked in London at the Berkeley and Piccadilly Grill and later as *Maitre d'Hôtel* at the Grand in Trafalgar Square. After the first world war he went to Oxford where he took over the "George" which he transformed from a teashop to the best restaurant in Oxford. He presided over this famous *rendez-vous* from 1921 to 1946. When he retired, he returned to Switzerland on account of his wife's ill-health. But after her death, he returned to Oxford and became Manager of the Royal Oxford Hotel. He married again, and when he left Oxford in 1955, he became proprietor of the Hotel Ehrsam on Osney Bridge. When he finally retired, he went to live at Witney.

Alfons Ehrsam was a great character as well as a good restaurateur. He had a large collection of bow ties, and also a magnificent stamp collection. His stories about Oxford men were inexhaustible.

We extend our deep sympathy to his widow and his two step-sons.

PERSONAL

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Gladys Elsie Irene Weibel, of 85 Clare Court, Judd Street, W.1, wife of Mr. John Weibel, Chief Controller of the Swiss Bank Corporation in London. She fell ill whilst on holiday with her husband in South Devon, and she died at Exeter Hospital on 4th October, two days after her 63rd birthday. Her ashes were interred at Newport in Essex, a place very dear to her and her husband. We extend our sincere sympathy to Mr. Weibel and her family.

* * *

We send our deep sympathy to Mrs. E. Burgaezzi of 2 Fawley Road, N.W.6, who has just lost her mother.

* * *

We announce with deep regret the sudden death of Mr. Heinz Heymann, since 1933 correspondent of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung", and also a regular contributor to "The Times".

* * *

It is with great pleasure that we announce the birth of a son Howard to Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Davis. This is the third grandson and fifth grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. W. Schedler of 58 Meadway, N.W.11. We send best wishes to the baby and his happy family.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations in addition to their subscriptions and/or for taking out gift subscriptions for friends or old-age pensioners: Mrs. H. C. Cownie, Mrs. P. C. McCormac, Mrs. P. Moehr, Mrs. A. C. Stahelin and Messrs. G. R. Bernhardt, J. Brunner, E. Geier, F. Good, C. Gruetzner (Berne), C. F. Illi, R. E. Maag, E. H. Muller, J. Muller, G. Roesch, A. Rueff, W. R. Schweizer, V. Umbricht (Riehen/Basle), W. A. de Vigier, R. de Watteville, J. C. Wetter. We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.