The men are in the Minority in Switzerland

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Every Sunday 7 to 11 p.m. — The Swiss Catholic Youth Club — Social at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

Every Thursday, from 6 to 7.30 p.m. — Discussion Circle in English — Young men specially invited. Tea from 6 to 6.15 p.m. Swiss Y.M.C.A., London Central Y.M.C.A. Building, Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

Every 1st Wednesday in the month — Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres — meeting at Swiss House, 35 Fitzroy Square, W.1, at 7 p.m.

Every last Thursday of the Month — Swiss Club Manchester — Ordinary Monthly Meeting from 6 p.m. at the Midland Hotel, Manchester.

FEBRUARY :

Friday, 4th — 7.30 p.m. — London Swiss Philatelic Society — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by FILM SHOW — Swiss House, 35 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, 12th — Swiss Club Manchester — CHOUCROUTE LUNCH followed by ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Wednesday, 16th — 7 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — Swiss House, 35 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Thursday, 17th — 6.30 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — ANNUAL FILM SHOW — Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9/11 Belsize Grove, N.W.3.

Tuesday, 22nd — City Swiss Club — Particulars to follow.

MARCH :

Friday, 4th — 6.30 for 7 p.m. — London Swiss Philatelic Society — ANNUAL DINNER — Montana Hotel, S.W.7.

Wednesday, 9th — 7 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — MONTHLY MEETING — Swiss House, 35 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, 11th — Swiss Club (Schweizerbund) — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and DINNER — Glendower Hotel, S.W.7.

Monday, 14th, 8.30 p.m. to 2 a.m. — Savoy Hotel — The LADYBIRD BALL in aid of the Pestalozzi Children's Village in Britain — Tickets (4 guineas each) from the Organiser Miss Frances Murphy, 29 Lissenden Gardens, N.W.5.

Thursday, 17th — 7 45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — followed at 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. by ANNUAL DINNER — Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9/11 Belsize Grove, London N.W.3.

Tuesday, 22nd — City Swiss Club — SOIREE FAMILIALE — Dorchester Hotel, W.1.

Monday, 28th — PIANO RECITAL — Annette Weisbrod — Wigmore Hall, London W.1.

APRIL :

Tuesday, 26th — City Swiss Club — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — Dorchester Hotel, W.1.

THE MEN ARE IN THE MINORITY IN SWITZERLAND

At the end of December, the Federal Statistical Office published its findings regarding the male and female population in Switzerland. They are based on the census taken in December 1960. These statistics show that there are approximately 100,000 more women in Switzerland than men. Counting Swiss citizens only, the picture looks even more unfavourable to women — 180,000 more than men. Foreign residents change the proportion, for there are 80,000 more foreigners of the male sex than there are women aliens. For every 1,000 men 1,038 women, for every 1,000 Swiss citizens 1,077 " citizenesses "! But for every 1,000 foreign male nationals only 768 female aliens.

The age groups most responsible for this disparity are those between 20 and 59. Amongst children up to 11, there are still more boys than girls (1,000:958, only-Swiss 957). The picture changes soon after 20, and the preponderance of women increases as age goes on. Over 60, there are 1,345 (1,337 only-Swiss) women to every 1,000 men.

Just how far the foreign population influences the proportions is shown by the fact that normally, the surplus of male births produces an excess of men in the younger age groups. This gradually declines owing to higher life expectancy of women. In old age women are far more numerous than men. But now, because of large numbers of foreign girls and young women employed in domestic service, catering and the textile industry, already at 22 there are more women than men in Switzerland.

As to Cantons, Central Switzerland, Fribourg, the Grisons and Valais show a surplus of men. In the industrial Cantons Baselland and Aargau, it is only the foreign residents who dip the scales in favour of more men. Basle and Geneva, on account of the mainly female foreign workers, show the highest numbers of women inhabitants. Most towns have a similar surplus of women, with the exception of Winterthur where the population is balanced. In the Ticino, the high number of women is still due to the traditional exodus of male workers.

Strangely, the Protestants show a surplus of 77 women to every 1,000 men, whereas the Roman Catholics have 4 more per thousand. This is almost entirely due to the stronger share of R.C. foreigners, mainly Italians.

Since the beginning of the century, the proportion of married women has gone up (326 to 448 per thousand), that of single women has decreased (608 to 480 per thousand). This is due to an increase in the number of marriages. There are many more widows and divorced women than men, mainly because men who have lost their partners re-marry far more frequently.

The figure of 62,000 men as against only 29,000 women who live separated from their wives (husbands), is due mainly to the many foreign workers whose families are not in Switzerland.

Married Swiss women surpass the number of their male "colleagues" by 27,000; 24,000 of the total number are married to foreigners. 3,000 more women than men live alone. In 1960, 62% of men under 25 had never been married, but only 37% of women. At the age of 30, the figures are 30% of men as against 20% of women. Of people oved 65 years of age, every tenth man has never been married and every 6th woman.

The number of widows (235,000) is nearly four times that of widowers. Fewer than 4% of men below 60 are widowed, and it is only at 84 and later that half the male population is widowed. At 55 already, every tenth woman

is widowed, at 61 every fifth and at 74 every second. Thanks to the decreasing rate of mortality in men, these figures are going down gradually.

In ten years, the number of divorced people has increased from 15 to 17 per thousand. In all age groups, there are fewer divorced men than women, again due to men remarrying more frequently. In towns there are decisively more divorced people than in the country. The smaller the Communes, the lower the percentage.

[A.T.S.]

OUR NEXT ISSUE

The " Swiss Observer " is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 11th February. We shall be glad to receive reports and articles not later than Wednesday, 2nd February. Short news items only can be accepted after that date.

RADIO AND TELEVISION IN SWITZERLAND

In November 1965, the number of TV licence holders in Switzerland increased by over 10,000, so that at the beginning of December the figure topped the six hundred thousand mark with the impressive total of 609,049. Radio licence holders on the other hand decreased by 1,457 during the same period; the figure nevertheless still exceeds 1,650,000.

[O.S.E.C.]

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