

# Anglo-Swiss Society

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hospitals. Some were able to stay at the Swiss Hostel until they were well enough to return home. The Welfare Office providing the ticket and making the necessary travel arrangements. There were a few cases of pregnancy and most of the girls were helped to return to Switzerland. Parents and Swiss authorities sometimes have difficulty in accepting the underprivileged situation of young foreign girls who become pregnant in England. The chances for any unmarried mothers to get help from the putative father are very slight in this country, but the foreign girl who has to leave England because she is pregnant has no possibility whatsoever of taking action. Claims can be brought only if a girl is domiciled in England and only after the child is born. By then, most girls have left the country.

Ten Swiss girls were refused permission to land and these were helped by Mrs. Ellis. Seven girls were caught shop-lifting and had to pay heavy fines. Five girls found to be in moral danger agreed to return to Switzerland. As in 1966 there was no evidence of drugs being a specific danger to Swiss girls.

Financial assistance was given to 42 girls but repayment was very good.

Several journalists wrote articles about Swiss girls in Great Britain and gave short reports on the activities of the Welfare Office. The "Télévision Suisse" in Geneva made another film on Au Pairs and the BBC showed part of the film made earlier by a Swiss German team and interviewed the social worker on this subject.

The report concluded with an expression of gratitude for their assistance and co-operation to the Swiss Embassy, particularly to Consul E. Tosio and Vice-Consul Ch. Abegglen, to Miss H. Siegrist who welcomed the girls at the Swiss Hostel, and looked after them, the Ministers of the Swiss Churches in London, the Swiss Benevolent Society, the aforementioned English organisations i.e. the British Vigilance Association, the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, the Aliens Police Registration Office, the Immigration Officers, Police Inspectors, social workers, doctors and nurses, understanding employers and friendly families who came to the rescue of stranded Swiss girls, as well as to the many Swiss girls who were such good friends and went to great lengths to help other girls in need.

\* \* \*

The Committee of the Welfare Office for 1968 consists of the following members:

*Mrs. M. H. Ellis, M.B.E., President; Mr. J. Zimmermann, Vice-President, representing Swiss Benevolent Society; Mrs. O. Grob, Vice-President; Mrs. R. Thomas, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs. H. Knoll, Hon. Secretary; Mrs. E. Käufeler, representing "Pro Filia"; Mrs. E. Cottet, representing Swiss Hostel; Monsieur F. Ansermoz, Swiss Embassy; The Rev. Father P. Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission; Pfarrer M. Dietler, Swiss Church; Pasteur A. Nicod, Swiss Church.*

#### WELFARE OFFICE FOR SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

(For Information, Advice or Help)

11 Belsize Grove, London N.W.3.

(Nearest Underground Station: Belsize Park)

Telephone: PRImrose 4260

#### RECEPTION HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

2 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

#### ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY IN GREAT BRITAIN

##### Annual Meeting and Reception for Swiss Parliamentary Delegation :

The President of the Anglo-Swiss Society, Lord Selkirk, chaired it's Annual General Meeting on 22nd July, at the Dorchester Hotel. The usual business was transacted. The fact that membership had increased, was commented on favourably, and the Officers and Executive Committee would continue their efforts in this direction. The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Selkirk, P.C., G.C.M.G., G.B.E., A.F.C., Q.C., is supported by Sir Clifford Norton, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., at Vice-President, by Captain T. D. R. Richardson, O.B.E., as Hon. Treasurer, and by Col. H. S. Townend, O.B.E., and Monsieur P. Stauffer as Hon. Secretaries.

Following the A.G.M., the Society gave a Reception in honour of the Swiss Parliamentary Delegation in London from 16th to 24th July. A British Delegation had been in Switzerland in 1955, and this was the return visit at the invitation of the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Lord Chancellor. Apart from visits to both Chambers, the Swiss parliamentarians were shown an agricultural research establishment, a R.A.F. station and an atomic research centre.

The delegation was headed by the President of the National Council, Dr. H. Conzett (BGB, Zurich). The other members were National Councillors Dr. P. Freymond (Rad. Vaud), W. Hagmann (K.Ch. St. Gall), Dr. A. Muheim (Soc. Lucerne), and the Councillors of States Dr. E. Amstad (K.Ch. Nidwalden) and W. Jauslin (Rad. Baselland).

Some 80 members and friends attended the party, among them the Swiss Ambassador and Madame R. Keller, as well as Consul F. Adams.

MM.

#### OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Charles Baerlocher of 9 Perry Road, East Acton, W.3. His death at the age of 90, took place in May, and belatedly, but sincerely, we extend our sympathy to Mrs. Baerlocher. She and her husband would have had their 56th wedding anniversary on 14th August. Mr. Baerlocher had been a staunch supporter of the N.S.H.

\* \* \*

Another faithful old reader would have had his 78th birthday this month, Mr. Siro Alberti, of 15 Spring Gardens, Malvern Link, Worcs. It is with deep regret that we have to announce his death on 27th July after a long and painful illness. He had been a member of the Unione Ticinese when living in London. We send our sincere condolences to Mrs. Dorothy Alberti in her bereavement.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations in addition to their subscriptions and/or for taking out or renewing gift subscriptions for friends or old-age pensioners:

Mrs. E. Cottet, Mrs. M. M. England, Miss D. Gerber (St. Imier), Mrs. F. Jones, Miss E. Stamm, Mrs. M. G. Wix, Monsieur R. Zellweger (Kinshasa, Congo), and Messrs. E. P. Banderet, V. L. Bataillart, R. E. Baumann, M. Merian, G. N. Ross, E. Schaerer, F. E. Zollinger.

We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.