

Welfare office for Swiss girls

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

WELFARE OFFICE FOR SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

The Annual Report for the year 1973

1973 was marked by the retirement in May of Mrs. Grob, who had been President of the Welfare Office for the past three years and Mrs. Knoll who had been Hon. Secretary for 15 years, to both of whom the Welfare Office is greatly indebted for their many years of devoted service. They were replaced by Mrs. Gyssler as President and Mrs. Lyster as Hon. Secretary and Mrs. Ficker was elected Hon. Treasurer in place of Mrs. Gyssler.

In July Mrs. Hill gave notice that she would be leaving the Welfare Office at the end of 1973. Miss Rose-Marie Zumofen, a qualified Swiss social worker, accepted the advertised job and took up her new appointment in December. As in previous years Mrs. Lyster replaced the social worker during holiday times.

Mr. Zimmermann, the Vice-President and Representative of the Swiss Benevolent Society, gave notice in September of his wish to retire after the next Annual General Meeting. His place as representative of the Swiss Benevolent Society is to be taken by Mrs. Kaluza.

The Committee has greatly appreciated Mr. Zimmermann's long and loyal service to the Welfare Office and offers its best wishes to him in his retirement.

As in previous years, the Welfare Office depended entirely on the Federal subsidy from Berne, and annual contributions from the Amies de la Jeune Fille and Pro Filia in Switzerland and the Swiss Benevolent Society. Valuable donations were again received from the various sections of the Schweiz. Verband Evangelischer Frauenhilfe and occasional gifts from other sources were also welcomed. Helped partly by the favourable rate of exchange it has continued to be possible to balance the Accounts.

During the year the Welfare Office saw 165 new people of whom 37 required special attention.

Mrs. Hill gave help to two girls with their pregnancies and also information and advice to three girls seeking abortions. In this connection Mrs. Hill drew the Committee's attention at the

July quarterly meeting to the great responsibility placed on the Welfare Officer in these cases to avoid the danger of the Welfare Office acquiring the reputation of acting as an Abortion Agency. As a result of this, it was agreed that the Welfare Officer's main function must be to help Swiss girls already in England and girls seeking abortions should be advised to consult the specialised advisory service.

It continues to be felt that many more people would avail themselves of the Welfare Office if its existence was more widely known and active steps are being planned to achieve this in the coming year.

After many discussions with the German Advice Centre in Bournemouth, it was found that there were fewer Swiss people in need of help there than had originally been thought. Mrs. Hill made several visits to Bournemouth and also Mr. Theo Itten, the trainee social worker with the Swiss Church, but these visits were discontinued when the situation seemed satisfactory. It was, however, agreed with the German Advice Centre in Bournemouth that any Swiss welfare cases would be notified immediately to Mr. Schillig, the Hon. Consul in Bournemouth, to the Swiss Embassy or to us and for any expenses to be approved by the Welfare Office. We are prepared to handle such cases.

The Committee is most grateful for the co-operation and assistance given to the Welfare Office by the Swiss Embassy, in particular by Consul-General Adams, Consul Robert and Dr. Bruggmann, by the Ministers and assistants of the Swiss Churches, the Warden of the Swiss Hostel and the Swiss Benevolent Society for not only its financial assistance but especially for the invaluable support of its Secretary, Mrs. Sharp, whose time, help and advice are greatly appreciated by both the Welfare Officer and the Committee. Our thanks are also due to the Hon. Auditors, to the Editor of the *Swiss Observer* and to numerous English organisations, including the National Council for One Parent Families, the Crusade of Rescue, the Aliens Registration Office, the Home Office, the Police and to many social workers and others who have helped us during the year.

London, May 1974

DEATH OF SIR ARNOLD LUNN

Sir Arnold Lunn, the leading English authority on skiing and inventor of the slalom, died on Sunday, 2nd June, at the age of 86. A prolific writer on skiing and mountaineering, a long-time president of the Ski Club of Great Britain, the deceased had been knighted in 1952 for "services to skiing and Anglo-Swiss relations".

The British addiction to winter sports in the Alps owes much to his enthusiasm and knowledge and his many achievements in the world of skiing made

him internationally famous. He caused Muerren to become a national and international centre for the new sport of ski racing. He invented and set the first modern slalom on Muerren's practice slopes in 1922 and in 1924 founded the Kandahar Ski Club, the world's senior ski-racing club. In 1952 he introduced the Anglo-Swiss University Race and, with Hannes Schneider, founded the internationally famous Arlberg-Kandahar competition in 1928. He was responsible for drafting the Downhill and Slalom Rules and got these accepted by the International Ski Federation in 1930 at Oslo. He organised the first World Championship in Downhill and Slalom racing in 1931 at Muerren and introduced these races into the Olympic Games in 1936 at Garmisch Partenkirchen.

NEW CONSUL-GENERAL IN MANCHESTER

The Federal Political Department announces the appointment of Mr. Horace Jacques as Consul-General of Switzerland in Manchester. He succeeds Mr. Rolf Born, who was recently appointed Consul-General in Chicago.

Mr. Jacques was born in 1923, his place of origin being Sainte-Croix, Vaud. He entered the Federal Political Department in 1945 and was posted to Brussels, Luxembourg, Ankara, Melbourne and Saigon successively. Returning to Berne in 1964, he was for 8 years inspector of Swiss diplomatic and consular representations abroad. Since May 1972 Mr. Jacques has been Head of the Personnel Section of the Technical Co-operation Service.

A MIRACLE OF FELLOWSHIP

Looking at the Annual Reports of the Swiss Churches in London, one can but marvel. At a time when many Swiss societies regret the ageing and decline in membership and deplore the lack of interest of their members, the Swiss Churches have this great co-operation and a thriving community. Not that all the services are well attended; in fact the two Sunday morning services of the German- and French-speaking parishes (9.45 and 11.15 a.m. respectively) at the Eglise

WELFARE OFFICE for SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

(For Information, Advice or Help)

31 Conway Street, London, W.1

(Nearest Underground Station:

Warren Street)

Telephone: 01-387 3608

RECEPTION HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

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