

Forthcoming events

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week, but in rural areas too, Protestant women take an active part in church life. More than one-third of the women interviewed are members of some society or club. With regard to fashion consciousness this declines after marriage, except in large towns.

The authors are of the opinion that, although prejudice against women outside the family continues practically without change, the most important problems for women stem from inside the family. They maintain that discrimination outside the family is probably a consequence of discrimination inside the family rather than the other way round.

Finally, it is stated that the largest possible number of men and women should analyse their position. Women's organisations could play an important part in this. Without doubt, solutions would have to be found by men and women alike in order to improve the distribution of roles both within and without the family.

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NEW SNTO PUBLICATIONS IN EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE YEAR

As a contribution to European Architectural Heritage Year the Swiss National Tourist Office (SNTO) has published an illustrated guide "Ancient castles and historic mansions in Switzerland" which deals with the subject in brief and clear fashion. A map in the appendix and small sketches show how some 90 out of a total of 3,000 fortresses, castles and ruins – often really remote places worth seeing – can be reached by public transport or on foot. The second new publication also takes the reader along paths – culinary ones this time – to historical inns and castle hotels in Switzerland. The booklet provides information on the history and services of 76 renowned hotels and restaurants and about excursions and sports facilities in their vicinity. Also mentioned are speciality dishes, from elaborate to simple but choice fare. Both publications are available in English, French and German.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY 21 October, 7.30 pm, Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, WC2, Nouvelle Société Helvétique – *Concert by the Orchesterschule der Kammermusiker Zuerich* (Youth Orchestra) and the *Iverson Consort*, London. Admission free (collection will be taken). All Swiss and their friends welcome.

LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY, 24 September, monthly meeting followed by Auction. 29 October, monthly meeting with film show. 26 November, cup competition. No meeting in December.

AND NOW LET A WOMAN SPEAK!

In 1975, which is International Woman's Year, George Sommer, editor of *The Swiss Observer*, has interviewed a lady who has managed to combine a professional career with a measure of idealism and yet retain that quality so vital in a woman – femininity!

And who is this lady? The answer is Dr Christine A. Pickard, MB, ChB, the daughter of a Yorkshire doctor and a Swiss mother.

Not unnaturally, Christine spent many long holidays in Switzerland in her youth and got to know the country and many of her people well.

Her comments and observations about Switzerland, coming as they do from an educated woman, are therefore interesting, if sometimes slightly caustic.

She recognises her Swiss origins to the extent that she feels proud of the fact that she speaks all the national languages (except Romansch) with varying degrees of fluency.

Christine's mother, née Alice Clara Gautschi, was born in Reinach, Kt

Aargau. Her maternal grandfather was, at one time, Mayor of that town and the family roots there stretch back over many generations.

And what is it about Switzerland that she remembers with the most pleasure and, indeed, still impresses her? "Very simple", she says, "it is the closeness of the family even though it has long since dispersed".

Every 10 years they arrange a "Zusammenkunft" (the next one is due to be held in 1976) and the fact that for the last one members of the family attended from as far afield as Canada, illustrates to Christine one of the nicest aspects of Swiss life.

Although she is definitely not a "woman's libber" (she knows Germaine Greer well) she does regard the average Swiss male as being more chauvinistic in his attitude to women than almost any other civilised people although she freely admits that the younger generation is not as bad as its elders.

She prefers to describe herself as a "peoples' libber" because, as she points out, there are many instances where a man can suffer as much apparent injustice as a woman, a fact she can substantiate with various examples she met while practising as a doctor.

The most obvious, in her opinion, is the case where a man's wife dies, perhaps leaving him with young children. There is, as yet, no machinery under the welfare state for this man to be paid a pension if he should wish to give up work in order to bring up his family. He is virtually forced by the system either to put the children into care or to hire help to look after them.

Perhaps this is the appropriate spot to introduce a little more of the lady doctor's background which might, hopefully, put some of her later thoughts into better perspective.

Christine was born in Barnoldswick, Yorkshire (the town is now in Lancashire, following the re-drawing of county boundaries) and lived there until the age of 18 when she went to Liverpool University to study medicine. She qualified in 1962 and subsequently practised in Liverpool, London and later, in various parts of North Africa.

It was while she was working in Egypt that Christine discovered she had a



Dr Christine A. Pickard, MB, ChB.