Personal

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LOCAL.

ZURICH.

M. Emil Rüd, from 1915-1935, "Kreispostdirektor" in Zurich, has celebrated his 70th birthday.

BERNE.

Dr. G. Schaller (Lucerne), President of the "Bankrates" of the Swiss National Bank has tendered his resignation which was accepted by the Federal Council, who expressed their appreciation for the services rendered.

The Federal Council has appointed in his stead, Professor G. Bachmann, at present President of the "Direktoriums" of the National Bank.

* * *

Dr. Aeschbacher has been appointed Manager of the "Alpar" (Schweiz. Luftverkehrs A.G.) in Berne.

* * *

The death has occurred in Langenthal of M. Arnold Spychiger, late National-Councillor, at the age of 69. The deceased was proprietor of the "Holzimprägnieranstalt" and President of the Board of the "Porzellan Fabrik A.G." and "Ziegel und Backsteinfabrik A.G." in Langenthal. From 1901-1912 M. Spychiger was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, he sat in Parliament for ten years (1922-1932).

LUCERNE.

Maestro Arturo Toscanini, the eminent conductor has informed the Mayor of the town of Lucerne that he will take part in the 1939 Musical Festival.

* * *

M. Xaver Schnieper, since 1920 a member of the cantonal government, has celebrated his 40th service Jubilee, he entered into the cantonal administration in December 1898.

BASEL.

M. Leo Hänggi, Director of Customs for the last 17 years has retired from his post, he has been connected with the customs office since the year 1899, during which time he has rendered great services to the Administration.

APPENZELL J.-Rh.

The death is reported from Appenzell of M. J. A. Moser, a late member of the cantonal government (1910-1929) at the age of 66.

NIDWALDEN.

Dr. Esther Odermatt, the well-known author, has celebrated her 60th birthday.

Amongst her best known works are the novels published under the name "Die gelbe Kette" and "Die Seppe," she has also written a number of Poems.

ST. GALL.

The oldest Swiss citizen, M. Konrad Hugentobler, in Rheineck (Rheintal) has entered on New Year's day into his 104th year.

GRISONS.

Professor, Dr. Ch. Pult, editor of the "Dicziunari Rumantsch Grishun" and promoter of the Romantch language, has celebrated his 70th birthday in Sent.

VALAIS.

Colonel Eugène de Cocatrix, a former "Platzarzt" in St. Maurice has died at the age of 73.

The deceased was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Valais for several years.

GENEVA.

M. Paul Bonny, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva, and editor-in-chief of the "Action Nationale," who was arrested on December 2nd of last year for having given information to a foreign political party has been released from prison.

CHRISTMAS RECORD FLIGHTS OF THE SWISSAIR.

In order to cope with the Xmas traffic by Air Mail, of about 300 tons of letter post alone, to the Far East, and South Africa, the Imperial Airways Ltd. commissioned the *Swissair* to put three machines at their disposal to carry mail from London to Alexandria and vice-versa. The *Swissair* machines, by special concession, travelled under the British flag, and the machines were piloted by Flight-Captains E. Nyffenegger, F. Zimmermann and W. Borner.

One of the *Swissair* machines made the return journey in record time, taking 13 hours. (the normal time by boat and railway is 4 days).

The Christmas traffic from London to Switzerland was very heavy, no less than six machines were put into service.

The *Swissair* has thus again given proof of their great efficiency and fine organisation.

We wish to congratulate M. Ch. Messmer, the London Manager of the *Swissair*, for having handled this traffic in such a masterly manner.

NINA NUESCH — RECITALS.

At St. Anne's Church Service and Aeolian Hall.

This Sunday's Morning Service of the Schweizerkirche, Gresham Street, (January 8th) will be enriched by some church compositions of Bach and Mozart sung by Madame Nina Nüesch and accompanied by Mr. Dick. Mme. Nüesch is one of the foremost concert and church singers in Switzerland with a rarely beautiful mezzo-voice and a very delicate sense of music. She is not entirely unknown to the London music world, to which she introduced herself two years ago with a recital of her own.

She is now returning to sing two very difficult works at the next Adolph Hallis Chamber Concert on January 14th, Saturday afternoon 3 p.m., at the Aeolian Hall, New Bond Street, W.1. She is singing Hindemith's "Die Junge Magd," a song-cycle for Mezzo String Quartet, Flute and Clarinet, and Szarzynski's "Jesu, spes mea," a Cantata with the accompaniment of two violins, Cello and Organ. The programme contains a third work, String Quartet Nr. 2. by Honegger, the successful modernist Swiss composer living in Paris.

It is very much to be hoped that the Swiss Colony will not fail to give extensive support both to Mme. Nüesch's church recital and her concert on the following Saturday afternoon. Tickets at 5s. for the latter may be obtained from Mr. Christian Darnton, 17, Brunswick Gardens, W.8., mentioning Mme. Nüesch's name, or at Aeolian Hall on the day of performance.

In the same series of Adolph Hallis Chamber Concerts our compatriote Mme. Sophie Wyss will sing on February 10th, Tuesday evening 8.30, also at the Aeolian Hall, in a Song-Cycle "The Garland" by Elizabeth Maconchy. Other items on the programme are a Piano Quintet by Dvorak and String Quartet Nr. 1. (First Performance) by Elizabeth Lutyens. Tickets to be obtained as above, mentioning Mme. Wyss's name.

Dr. E.

A VIVID DEVIL'S ISLAND DRAMA AT THE BERKELEY CINEMA.

The new full-length film at the Berkeley Cinema, now under the same direction as the Academy, is an exciting story of the criminal world in French. A real thriller, rather an artificial plot with not over much sense in it, but grippingly presented and superbly acted. The chief character is a gangster, a born leader of men on the wrong side of the law, though full of decent impulses — Cheri-Bibi, most convincingly impersonated by Pierre Fresnay. Other names of repute in the cast are Jean Pierre Aumont, Aimos and Collette Darfeuil. A very good picture of French cinematographic art — very good of the less profound but the more exciting kind.

Dr.E.

PERSONAL.

We deeply regret to inform our readers of the death of Mrs. A. Steiger, the widow of Mr. Alphonse Steiger, who was for many years President of the Schweizerkirche in London. Mrs. Steiger died in St. Gall on the 24th of December, at the age of 77.

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