

Swiss women are "Meeting the British"

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SWISS WOMEN ARE "MEETING THE BRITISH"

The many passers-by hurrying or ambling along London's Leicester Square in the evening of Wednesday, 25th October, must have been surprised to see a fast-moving newscaster throwing a welcome in huge, bright lettering to Swiss women who had come to "meet the British", and what's more, to see the welcome also in genuine "Schwyzertütsch". The Swiss visitors, on the last day before their return home, were received at the Swiss Centre by the Management of Swiss Fair Ltd., Swissair, Swiss National Tourist Office and Anglo-Continental Travel. They were introduced to the Centre so as to give them an idea of the latest addition to the activities of the Swiss community in Great Britain, or more especially in London.

But the purpose of the visit of the Swiss visitors, 40 women and one husband who acted as photographer, was to see something of the British way of life. For several years, a scheme has been in operation giving British women an opportunity of "meeting the Swiss" in Switzerland. By now, several hundred members, mainly of the Townswomen's Guilds, go over every year, and their courses are centred at Duerrenaesch in the off-season, when the Home for the Swiss Abroad is not used by *Auslandsschweizer*.

The pilot tour "the other way round" took place from 16th to 26th October, and participants came from many parts of Switzerland, being members of various women's organisations. Experiences and findings will be evaluated and made use of in further excursions in spring and autumn next year.

Travel was by Swissair and in this country by coach. It began at Worthing and sightseeing in Brighton, Bournemouth, the New Forest. At the Anglo-Continental School in Bournemouth, a number of lectures and talks were provided by German-speaking Englishmen; there were visits to private families, to a school, a hospital, a meeting in Bournemouth of the Townswomen's Guild; there was a film show and a civic reception, a visit to a Stately Home and Southampton, to a farm and to Windsor Castle. The last 24 hours were spent in London where members of the Townswomen's Guild took the Swiss visitors shopping after a sightseeing tour.

It was at the end of the visit when the Editor met the ladies from Switzerland, and there was nothing but praise. If there was any criticism at all, it was that more time should have been available for the comprehensive programme. But no doubt, such exchanges are most valuable and are the best contribution to "getting to know you" in an integrated Europe.

MM

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

As in previous years, the "Swiss Observer" will put space for Christmas greetings at the disposal of readers. This arrangement will enable subscribers to wish their friends and a wide circle of compatriots in all parts of the world the compliments of the season at small cost. At the same time it is a means of additional financial support to the paper.

We propose publishing these greetings in our Double Christmas Number on 15th December. Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Monday, 20th November, together with remittance of 30/-. Prompt response will be much appreciated.

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h00 et 19h00.

SAINTE-CENE: le premier et troisième dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à 18h00.

REUNION DE QUARTIER: huit veillées en automne et au printemps; voir "Le Messenger".

CLUB DES JEUNES: tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNION DE COUTURE: le 2^e mardi du mois.

LUNCH: tous les dimanches à 13h00.

VISITES: sur demande.

PASTEUR: A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London N.3. Téléphone 346-5281.

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SERVICES IN GERMAN: at St. Mary Woolnoth Church, Lombard Street, Bank, E.C.3, every Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION: every first Sunday of the month at evening service only. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

CONSULTATIONS: every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

DISTRICT GROUPS (W.4 and S.E.21) and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON: see "Gemeindebote".

SERVICES IN ENGLISH: every fourth Sunday at 7 p.m. at St. Mary Woolnoth.

"KONTAKT" (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 6.30 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

SWISS Y.M.C.A.: see Forthcoming Events.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: every first Tuesday of the Month.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTER: Pfr. M. Dietler, 1 Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone 340-6018.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION

CHURCH and SERVICE: St. ANN's Catholic Church, Abbey Orchard Street (off Victoria Street), S.W.1.

SUNDAYS: Holy Masses at 9 and 11 a.m. with sermon in English. At 6 p.m. with sermon in German and French.

HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION: Holy Masses at 7.30 and 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

WEEKDAYS: Holy Mass at 7.30 a.m.

CONFESSIONS in German, French and Italian:

EVERY SUNDAY 1 hour before Evening Mass.

EVERY SATURDAY from 11 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m. or by appointment.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB — Meeting every Sunday after Evening Mass (7-11 p.m.) at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

CHAPLAIN: Rev. Joseph Scherer, St. Ann's Church Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. Tel.: ABBey 2895.