

# The young Swiss abroad

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## THE YOUNG SWISS ABROAD.

Coinciding with the "*Ausland Schweizertag*" held in Basel this year, the N.S.H. have issued a special number of their "*Mitteilungsblatt*" for the young Swiss residing abroad.

Neatly typed and duplicated, embellished with skilful drawings and a page of photographs, the brochure, fastened in an attractive paper cover, contains a collection of essays, poems and reports contributed mainly by Swiss boys and girls from many countries in Europe, from North and Latin America, and from North Africa. These young Swiss, wheresoever they write from, display a genuine love of the land of their fathers and a clear understanding of the important position they hold as unofficial emissaries of their homeland in the foreign countries in which they live.

The link that holds them together is the "*Jugenddienst*", a department of the N.S.H. Specially devised for young people in the Swiss Colonies. Holiday Camps and winter sports are offered to those who can manage to spend a week or so in Switzerland; excursions into the mountains, games and competitions are organised for their benefit and the Exchange of letters between members is encouraged.

The membership of this youth service is small at present, 1,031 in all. Not more than 11 live in Great Britain as compared with 421 in Germany and 274 in France. Judging from the spirit of their contribution there is little doubt that a keen enthusiasm makes up for the smallness of their numbers.

In his foreword, Dr. Erich Weisskopf quotes Jeremias Gotthelf who more than a hundred years ago wrote "Everyone who goes abroad should realize that he represents his country, that the name he makes for himself is a reflection on his countrymen and that his behaviour abroad will open or shut the door to those who may follow him". Words of wisdom indeed for both old and young!

Much of the charm of this N.S.H. publication lies in its modest, unassuming form.. There is something homely, and home-made, about it which is at once appealing and refreshing.

We wish the *Jugenddienst* all the success it deserves.

J.J.F.S.

## KING GEORGE AND THE SWISS On 24th September, 1951.

The King is ill ! Mutely the people stand  
Without his gates, with bated breath, to hear  
The tidings. Filled with pity, hope and fear,  
They pray that God may guide the surgeon's hand.

We who look on, guests in this friendly land,  
See here a man we honour and revere,  
Head of a nation that to us is dear,  
Whose way of life we share and understand.

Though kingship does not lay within our creed  
And different systems satisfy our need,  
We, too, to human rights and freedom cling  
And stand not far asunder, in effect.  
We harbour for your King a deep respect  
And say with all our hearts: God Save The King!

J.J.F.S.

## SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Swiss Benevolent Society took place at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, on Monday, 10th September. In his opening remarks Col. A. Bon, the President, welcomed Monsieur Clottu from the Swiss Legation. The Chairman pointed out that the Society was suffering from the same trouble as everybody else. Prices went up, expenses rose every quarter and the income did not follow. Every item on the expenditure side of the accounts had gone up during the first six months of the year. On the other hand the donations and subscriptions had not increased. The Hon. Treasurer, however, reported that some very generous donations and legacies had been received for which the Society were very grateful. Mr. Röthlisberger also expressed satisfaction at the ever increasing number of subscribers who guaranteed their annual donation and thus entitled the S.B.S. to claim the income tax paid on those subscriptions. This is a very considerable sum each year.

\* \* \*

And now the summer holidays are over and most of us are settled once more and remembering the happy times spent in Switzerland or elsewhere. But not everybody was as fortunate, and most of the compatriots who receive assistance from the Swiss Benevolent Society had to stay behind and could not benefit from rest, extra good food and a change of atmosphere. Let us think of all those and do something for them. It will not be very long before we shall get ready for Christmas again. But then we shall be so busy and there will be no time for anything special. So let us prepare *now* clothing and household articles, shoes and other things which are still in good condition but which we can easily do without. Food, too, will be welcome, specially tea, sweets, etc. The Society are preparing dozens and dozens of parcels which will be delivered to our less fortunate compatriots at Christmas. Let us give plenty and in good time. We shall miss nothing but to many it will mean a great deal. And there is no better way of expressing our gratitude for having been able to enjoy a happy holiday this summer.

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## Xmas Greetings

Following former years' practice we propose to publish again in our December issue a collective greeting.

The scarcity of paper and the costs of Xmas cards, should induce many of our subscribers to make use of this facility to extend to their friends the compliments of the season.

Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Saturday, 15th December, 1951, together with remittance for 6/-.