

The editors post-bag

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An ever increasing number of motorists and motor car makers now build-in this apparatus, on account of its reliability and absolute efficiency,—qualities which have become more and more essential for cars. For aeroplanes the choice of parts must be still more carefully made, on account of the responsibility for human life borne by the makers. In spite of this, the magnetos for motor cars are made with exactly the same care and precision as those for aeroplanes. This remark also applies to all our other apparatus, such as dynamos, starters, projectors, switches, etc. The persevering diligence which has always been shown by all workers in, and heads of this factory has helped to acquire world-wide fame for the *Scintilla Magneto* in a comparatively short space of time, thus adding to the excellent reputation of Swiss exports, with regard to quality and reliability. S.I.T.

Women on Swiss Railways.

Attention has been drawn to the fact that very few women are employed in the Swiss railway service. Among the 34,000 officials of the Swiss Federal Railways there are altogether but 1,070 women, of whom 760 are barrier keepers; only 59 women are in charge of small wayside stations. Last year, during the high season, the Swiss private railways—that is to say, the small, mountain railways—employed a staff of 6,700 men and 300 women, of whom 180 were doing the barrier service. The work women do as barrier keepers, however, is very responsible in these days of heavy traffic over level crossings, especially during the high season. It calls for energy, exactness, a sharp eye, and a smart sense of duty.

CHRISTMAS FAIRIES.

Once upon a time good fairies who had their abode in a little Swiss Villa, somewhere in a far away village called Highbury, where there still exists a Leigh Road, conceived the idea to give a Christmas treat to the children of exiled Switzers, in the great city of London. The one who particularly cherished the plan, has long since left this large city. She returned to the shores of the blue lake where she was born, but should you enquire for Mlle Marguerat in Lausanne you would still be able to find her, a dear little octogenarian, full of life and loving thoughts for her compatriots in London.

For the success of her plan she enlisted the active interest of a beneficent goblin, now one of the mighty ones in the world of finance, who gathered amongst his friends the silver and gold coins with which they light the stars in the skies and the candles on the Christmas trees.

And so it came to pass that a cheque for £19 11s. 0d. signed "Hans Jenne," reached the writer, on December 3rd, 1909, and allowed a group of friends of the little ones to organise the first Swiss Christmas tree party, which was held in Tottenham Court Road, on January 9th, 1910.

Since then, that institution has developed by leaps and bounds. Think! only 46 children were gathered at Shearn's 20 years ago, while Saturday last, for the 21st Anniversary of the Fête, the happy crowd numbered 380! What a family! And how happy they all were, these little ones, when the conjuror heaped tricks on tricks and made them sing, laugh and shout. And think of all the good things in the bags, which each of them got after tea, while marching passed the windows of Victoria Hall, where the treasures were all heaped up in alphabetical order.

The Annual Christmas Tree party has become a big item in our Colony of first importance to all our children, naturally, but of importance too, to us, the grown up, as a means of keeping a slight link between these hundreds of little compatriots and their fathers' or mothers' country across the sea.

We seize this opportunity to thank most heartily all those who took a share in Saturday's fête, either by their kind donations, written into Mr. Campart's little black book, or by their active help in organizing the proceedings.

It wanted a lot of good will, energy, wisdom and all, but the gracious staff was quite up to the mark and all the children went home happy, I hope.

We shall still do better next year, so God wills!

FATHER CHRISTMAS.

Mistakes.

When a plumber makes a mistake he charges for it.

When a lawyer makes a mistake it is just what he wanted, because he has a chance to try the case all over again.

When a carpenter makes a mistake it's just what he expected.

When a doctor makes a mistake he buries it. When a judge makes a mistake it becomes the law of the land.

When a preacher makes a mistake nobody knows the difference.

But when a printer makes a mistake—Good night!

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

F. Schmied, Zurich: "India." A. Delapraz, Vevey: "The Swiss Army." A. Menoud, Neuchâtel: "Wall Street." A. Deutsch, Romanshorn: "A Swiss Industry." H. Gertsch, Thun: "Manchester." H. Ries, Lenzburg: "London." A. Roth, Langenthal: "London." Miss E. Seiler, Basel: "My first day in London."

An interesting lecture, illustrated by lantern slides, on "A visit to Bourneville Works," was given on Friday evening by Mr. B. Davis, B.A.

Saturday—Visit to St. Paul's Cathedral, conducted by Mrs. J. H. Pinard, B.A.

THE EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, as evidence of good faith.

IN PRAISE OF KYBURG.

A Hint to Swiss Wine Importers.

Dear Sirs,—Please find enclosed my subscription for 1930, for two issues of the *Swiss Observer*—one for myself here at Somerton, the other to a friend at Peseux, near Neuchâtel. She loves her S.O.—I must also say that I greatly enjoy mine and am very pleased that "Kyburg" has resumed his articles. I was always looking forward for them and regretted very much when he gave up. His articles are delightful, he has such a sense of humour!

I also receive from Lausanne "La Petite Revue." The *Viticulteurs* seem much distressed over their over-abundance of very good wine! Strange, is it not, having too much of this world's good things? The authorities have taken the matter in hand and are trying to help the sale.

Now, would not the members of the Swiss Colony in London enjoy that good Dezaire, etc? I do when I am in the Canton-de-Vaud—si beau! I am very seldom in London and only for a short time when there. Would there be no means to get a good supply of that good Swiss wine in London? I feel sure it would be greatly appreciated—the "1929."

With kind regards and best wishes for the prosperity of our Swiss London Colony.

Yours sincerely,

MARIE LOUISE DUPUIS.

Somerton, Castleknock,
Co. Dublin.

PERSONAL.

SUSANNE M. ECKENSTEIN †

With deep regret we have to announce the death of Madame Susanne Marie Eckenstein, née Blard, the wife of Dr. Eckenstein. She died at the age of 47 after a long and painful illness on the 1st of January in her home. The deceased, who was born in Normandy, was married to Dr. Eckenstein just after the war.

The funeral service, a full Mass with organ recital, was held at the Eglise de Notre Dame de France in Leicester Square on the 7th of January. Amongst those present at the service were the French Ambassador, the Military Attaché of the French Embassy, two French generals and Swiss friends, whose last gifts of flowers made a most beautiful array. On behalf of our readers and ourselves we express our deep sympathy to Dr. Eckenstein.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

(The figure in parentheses denotes the number of the issue in which the subscription expires.)

A. C. Baume (479), P. Bucher (478), A. Brunner (453), J. Lanz (438), P. Lambert (476), G. Laemle (479), F. Beyli (479), A. Semadeni (440), G. Chaudoux (479), A. Schupbach (479), E. Fehrli (477), Miss M. Jans (440), R. Gutzwiler (455), Miss A. Achermann (453), Miss E. Gutmann (440), A. von Dach (453), Dr. M. Schroeter (479), P. de Maria (478), C. T. Lehmann (469), E. Leutenegger (478), Ch. A. Barbezat (479), W. Theiler (449), J. Hirter (439), H. C. Saalenbach (470), V. H. Rossat (477), Mrs. R. Rudin (440), P. Casparis (446), Miss I. Keiser (479), L. Schmidlin (474), E. Bachofen (479), A. Walchli (479), W. Tschuy (477), H. Senn (477), E. Widman (452), E. Wepf (479), H. Koch (479), C. H. Lullin (479), F. Dietiker (479), H. Buser (479), O. Bartholdi (478), R. Sanger (479), W. A. Hofflin (479), Miss R. Bricar (453), Mrs. C. Wurth (478), H. Ott (479), G. E. Schoopp (440), F. Zimmermann (479), C. A. Blanchet (479), F. Golay (479), M. Albrecht (479), O. Wirth (479), E. Burge (463).

SWISS INSTITUTE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

THE SOCIETY'S NEXT CONCERT WILL BE GIVEN AT CONWAY HALL, LONDON, W.C. ON FEBRUARY 19th. TICKETS 8s. FROM THE SECRETARY, S.I.O.S. 35, FITZROY SQ. W.I.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

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Dinner and Dance

HOTEL METROPOLE, NORTHUMBERLAND AV.

Saturday, January 25th, at 7 p.m.

Tickets at 12/6 (incl. Supper), may be obtained from
Members of the Committee.

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762),

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79, Endell Street, near New Oxford St., W.C.2.

Dimanche 12 Janvier—11h. Mr. Marcel Pradervand.

6.30h.—Mr. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Archway 1798). Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag den 12. Januar 1930.

11 Uhr morgens Gottesdienst & Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr abends Gottesdienst.

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen und Religionsunterricht sind erbeten an Pfr. C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4. Telefon: Chiswick 4756.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-1 Uhr in der Kirche.

Mittwoch 5-6 Uhr im "Foyer Suisse."

DEUTSCHE KATHOLISCHE KIRCHE

Sonntag, den 12. Januar, morgens—hl. Messen um 9 Uhr.

10 Uhr und 11 Uhr.

Deutsche Predigt um 9 Uhr und 11 Uhr.

Abendgottesdienst um 7 Uhr mit deutscher Predigt.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, January 15th at 7.35 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Ordinary Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, January 24th at 7.45 p.m.—SWISS CULINARY SOCIETY: Annual Dinner & Ball, at the First Avenue Hotel, Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, January 25th at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Dinner and Dance at the Hotel Metropole, Northumberland Avenue.

Saturday, February 1st at 7 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball at the Midland Grand Hotel.

Wednesday, February 5th at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIÉTÉ DE SECOURS MUTUELS: Monthly Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Wednesday, February 12th.—SWISS INSTITUTE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY: Concert at Conway Hall, W.C. (see advert.)

Tuesday, March 11th.—UNIONE TICINESE: Annual Banquet, Ball and Cabaret at The Monaco Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus, W.1.

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