

Christmas greetings

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AT THE SWISS CHURCH

The Induction of the Rev. M. Dietler as Minister of the German-speaking congregation of the Swiss Church took place on Sunday, 25th October, at a special service held at St. Mary Woolnoth's. Mr. F. G. Sommer, Vice-President of the Consistoire, led the ceremony, commending to the Lord the ministry of Mr. Dietler. The President of the Consistoire, Mr. O. Béguin, expressed on behalf of the Church and its authorities his gratitude to Mr. Dietler for his willingness to serve in the complex and demanding conditions of work of the Swiss Church in London, which has to be a witness within the Swiss Community, a haven of comfort for the isolated and infirm members of the Colony, as well as a centre of inspiration for the young visitors from Switzerland.

The Rev. Dietler preached on the universality of God's Word addressed to all men, the universality of God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and the ability for every one, by accepting the good news of the Gospel and making it his own, to become an effective witness to God's Word in the world.

The service was attended by a large congregation which included Madame de Fischer, wife of the Swiss Ambassador, members of the Swiss Embassy, as well as members of the French-speaking community.

O.B.

A RARE MUSICAL TREAT

On 20th November, there will be a chance to hear the "Kammermusiker" from Zurich in a concert at the Wigmore Hall.

"Die Kammermusiker", founded by Brenton Langbein several years ago in Zurich, is a small group of soloists of different nationalities and of highly individual and diverse personalities, all of whom however, have the same aims and ideals in making music: to present works of composers (both old and modern) too often neglected, and to perform concertos of Bach, Telemann, etc., in a manner which recalls the very intimate music-making of that time and yet has a modern appeal. By using a minimum number of players these "concertante" works, their origin in the Concerto Grosso form becomes most apparent, the solo instrument growing out of the intensely alive and intermingled accompanying voices. "Die Kammermusiker" have received much acclaim from both public and press on the Continent, a most encouraging proof that their chosen aim has found the understanding and approval it deserves.

The programme includes Purcell, Handel, Telemann, Ravel and Leclair.

WELFARE OFFICE FOR SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

11 Belsize Park, London N.W.3.
(Nearest Underground Station: Belsize Park)

RECEPTION HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday
2 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

COMMITTEE OF SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON

Encouraged by the result of our last year's Christmas Draw the Committee has decided to hold one again this year instead of having a bazaar. The drawing of the prizes will take place on Tuesday, 15th December 1964. The object of the Draw is to give added financial support to our Chaplain, the Reverend Father Joseph Scherer, in his efforts to look after the several thousand young Swiss temporarily in this country for studies, training or domestic work.

The Committee, with the help of their Chaplain, are doing their utmost in looking after the moral well-being of their compatriots and helping them to pass their leisure hours by running the Swiss Catholic Youth Club.

This Club holds socials every Sunday evening at the Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1, with a varied programme such as dances, films, colour slide shows and talks.

These functions are regularly attended by an average of 150 to 175 young compatriots.

During the Summer months the Club organised excursions to Oxford, Windsor Castle and Canterbury, each one attended by about 80 people, and to the Isle of Wight, which had an attendance of 130. Further visits were made to the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, and the Houses of Parliament in session, etc.

The Committee is still making strenuous efforts to rent and furnish a room in the West End of London, where our Swiss Youth can meet and spend their free time in a little corner away from our beloved Switzerland.

The permanent members of the Swiss Catholic community are unable to carry on, as well as they would wish, this valuable work which is growing from year to year and is so very important to the good reputation of our young Swiss compatriots in Great Britain, without calling upon the generosity of all our friends.

May I, therefore, ask you kindly to consider helping our work by sending either a donation or a gift in kind for our Christmas Draw.

Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

O. GROB, Chairman.

*Donation to Mr. O. Grob, c/o Swiss Bank Corporation,
P.O. Box No. 114, 40 Coleman Street, London, E.C.2.
Gift in kind (latest date 11.12.64) to: Mr. E. Bonvin,
Montana Hotel, 67 Gloucester Road, London S.W.7.*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

As in previous years, the "Swiss Observer" will put space for Christmas greetings at the disposal of readers. The price of Christmas cards has again gone up, and this arrangement will enable subscribers to wish their friends 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 such greetings in our double Christmas number on 11th December. Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address of our office not later than **Friday, 20th November**, together **with remittance of £1**. Mr. A. Stauffer, former Editor of the "Swiss Observer", has kindly offered to deal with the scheme and prompt response will make his job easier and will be much appreciated.