

Three languages and one church

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER

On Thursday, 12th May, members and friends of the Swiss Club Manchester had the pleasure of welcoming Madame Geneviève Davidson of the Universities of Geneva and Liverpool, who gave a talk on the Swiss writer Friedrich Dürrenmatt.

In the past we have heard Madame Davidson talk on a number of subjects, for example, "Lost Valleys", Ramuz and Zermatten, and therefore we looked forward with great interest to listening to her again.

In 1960, Liverpool University conferred the honorary degree of Master of Arts on Madame Davidson, who had then been thirty years President of the Liverpool French Society, now *Membre d'Honneur*, for a number of years Vice-President of Liverpool Italian Literary Society, fifteen years President of the Liverpool Swiss Ladies Club, also President of the Relief Society, and is still very active in other fields.

After an excellent meal in the Grill Room of the Midland Hotel, our little group of faithfuls were joined by several other members and friends to listen to a most interesting and lively talk. Madame Davidson was able to give us a clear and true picture of this very controversial writer, and awaken in us an interest and understanding for this exceptionally gifted author. May I mention here just a few of his works, novels, short stories and plays, so well explained to us: — "The Physicists", "The Promise", "Der Meteor", "Es ist Geschrieben", "Der Blinde", "Romulus", "An Angel Comes To Babylon".

Dürrenmatt, in his younger years, called his works "*Brot — Literatur*" because evidently at the beginning he must have known the hard sides of life before emerging as one of the great and best known contemporary writers in our country.

Madame Davidson, after her excellent talk, was warmly applauded by everybody present, and we expressed to her our sincere wish to meet her again soon.

E.B.

PERSONAL

We wish to congratulate Mr. F. Streit on being elected President of the Twickenham and District Philatelic Society, the first time a foreigner has been given this honour.

* * *

We extend sincere congratulations to Dr. E. M. Bircher on the arrival of a fourth granddaughter.

* * *

We announce with deep regret the death of Mr. A. H. Charton of 25 Westmoreland Road, Barnes, S.W.13. An obituary will follow in the next issue.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 8th July. We shall be glad to receive articles and reports not later than Wednesday, 29th June. Short news items only can be accepted later.

THREE LANGUAGES AND ONE CHURCH

On Sunday, 22nd May, the "Eglise Suisse de Londres" and the "Schweizerkirche" held a Communal Church Assembly. The morning service was attended by members of both parishes, including even whole families and visitors from Switzerland. Monsieur le Pasteur Nicod and Herr Pfarrer Dietler centred their preaching on the spiritual calling of our disseminated community. Happy contacts were made during lunch in the Church Hall, when loyal old parishioners of thirty and more years' residence mixed with young boys and girls who were only just beginning to realise what the Swiss Church really means.

At the Assembly, the Pastors reported on the activities which the Church runs to meet its diverse needs, principal amongst these being the visiting of residents in the Greater London area and the Provinces; this ministry is now being practised actively by lay people. The moral, spiritual and practical needs of the young Swiss in London is another vitally important part of the work.

In the name of the "Consistoire", Mr. Bader spoke of the activities developed to solve the building problems of the two congregations, and after a brief discussion, Monsieur Tosio explained the aims and needs of the "Forum of Switzerland" at the Swiss Centre in Leicester Square.

This Church Assembly showed the vast spiritual responsibility of the Swiss Church in London, and one of Mr. Dietler's remarks may well summarise the day: "We have to carry out a fight on several fronts, but where is the Army?"

F. S. de Perrot.

* * *

For over 30 years I have been a member of the Swiss Church. I am sorry that reduced incomes and rising costs make it impossible for many of us to travel the long way to Church very often. A day like last Sunday means a lot to us. People of both languages have the possibility to meet and worship together. And we feel important that we are given a chance to speak our minds and to criticise. Fortunately, there is not much to grumble about, and we are thankful to the Ministers and their families and the busy members of the Church for doing so much hard work in the name of our Lord. Last Sunday was valuable, let's do it again.

W.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

This is to inform readers that the Swiss Ambassador has transferred his residence from
21 Bryanston Square, London W.1

to

2 Upper Brook Street, London W.1.

Monsieur and Madame Béat de Fischer retain their former telephone number:

PADddington 0701/6