

French hospital in London

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Mr. A. Jaccard as President of the Swiss Mercantile Society and colleague of Mr. Grob's at the Swiss Bank Corporation expressed the satisfaction of his society at the honour bestowed on one of his former officers. He outlined Mr. Grob's career within the S.M.S. which he had joined at Romanshorn in 1918. From 1925 he had belonged to the London Section where he held offices as Assistant Honorary Treasurer, as Honorary Treasurer (1928/1938), as member of the Council since its formation in 1931, member of the House Committee from 1939 and its Chairman for a year, and finally, President of the Society and Chairman of the Council from 1958/1960. He was made an Honorary Member of the S.M.S. for his services, and he is also holder of the Gold Badge of Merit of the mother society in Switzerland. Mr. Jaccard also sketched Mr. Grob's career at the Swiss Bank where he worked up to the responsible position of Sub-Manager, which he relinquished on retirement in 1965.

Oscar's brother from Switzerland said a few words in *Schwyzertütsch*, expressing his and the family's pleasure at the award of the knighthood. He was followed by Mrs. Kathleen Grob who has been a loyal partner in marriage and who, in her own right, has earned the respect and affection of a large number of friends and collaborators in many Swiss and British welfare and other organisations. She expressed thanks to friends and relations and said that this golden evening would not fade from their memories. As dinner secretary she thanked the Dorchester Hotel (its head chef Mr. E. Kaeufeler was present as member of the Swiss Catholic Committee) for the excellent dinner.

The Chairman asked the gathering to drink to the health of Oscar Grob, K.S.G., and the latter then spoke in his enthusiastic and endearing way about his pleasure at having so many share in the great honour, singling out the various speakers, the chairman and his beloved wife Kathleen.

This brought to a close a very happy and congenial evening. The numerous friends of Oscar and Kathleen Grob's are unanimous that the honour is well deserved and will spur on the happy couple to yet more work in the interest of many. But the great distinction of one of our compatriots is also an honour reflected on the whole of the Swiss community.

MM

FRENCH HOSPITAL IN LONDON

Readers may remember an article in the "Swiss Observer" in April 1964, which dealt with the French Hospital in Shaftesbury Avenue, London, an institution which has always been of interest to the Swiss in this country. The French Hospital was founded in 1867 and is therefore nearing the completion of its century. Unfortunately, it looks now as if this were not going to be possible owing to an ever worsening financial position. From the President's report for 1965 we gather that the number of beds available is not used to the full, and although 616 sick people spent nearly 10,000 days in the hospital last year, the expense in upkeep is out of all proportion to the use made of the accommodation. It has therefore been regretfully decided to close the hospital for in-patients. The *Dispensaire* (out-patients department) will, however, remain open, and by eliminating the expenses of the hospital, available resources can be concentrated on the out-patients department. This will be run with all the energy and care so long a hallmark of the French Hospital in London.

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