

A retirement and an appointment of two of our readers

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As in former years, the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and the Unione Ticinese have held several functions at the Hostel. Their continued use of our house would seem to imply great appreciation of the services we can give them, on the other hand we ourselves benefit from the incidental publicity which follows in that individual members themselves get to know of our work.

We were also honoured with visits from our Ambassador, Monsieur Olivier Long and his wife, and a former Ambassador, Monsieur and Madame Daeniker.

The Hostel can look back on another prosperous year as shown by the great number of Swiss girls and others to whom the Hostel has been of use and help in some way or other. And once again we wish to express our sincere thanks to all who have assisted and encouraged us in the past year. Our special thanks go to the Council of Management, to the Swiss Embassy, and the Swiss Benevolent Society, and to Mrs. Cottet who is ever ready when the need arises.

“ ENGAGEMENT ”

“ The task which you fulfil has provided you with a *doctor honoris causa*.” But long before, the refugees had bestowed another title on you: “ Mother of Refugees ”. These are words of high appreciation for the work of the “ Christian Peace Movement ”, expressed by our former Federal Councillor, Monsieur M. Petitpierre, some years ago, on the occasion of the seventieth birthday of its leader: Frau Doktor Gertrud Kurz. Those who came to the Swiss Church during the Week of Reflection got an insight into the work of Mutter Kurz.

The Christian Peace Movement came into being shortly after the first world war because two enemies, a German Mayor and a French Officer got to understand each other better, due to a communion service which they had both attended at the local Protestant Church of Datteln, a German town then held by the French troops. The Lord's Supper which marks the reconciliation between God and man produced reconciliation between the two enemies. These two men in their capacity of Mayor and Officer ended the bloodshed in Datteln and created a movement of reconciliation.

During the second world war, the Peace Movement had to operate from Switzerland where, under Frau Kurz, it became a family of refugees. After the second world war it was largely taken over by young people who had realised that reconciliation with God means “ engagement in the world ”. They are Christians from Western Europe as well as from East Germany. They work in those parts of the world, where there is unrest and hatred: in Jordan as well as in Israel, in the Southern as well as in the Northern part of Vietnam, and in Algeria, Rhodesia and Greece.

Thus the Week of Reflection drew the thoughts to “ God and engagement ”. On 7th May, Mutter Kurz spoke to elderly people about “ problems of getting older ”, the following Wednesday afternoon she addressed the members of the Mothers' Group with a talk on refugees and in the evening the “ Kontakt ” on “ Youth ”; Thursday she was received by the “ Jeunes Romands ”, and on Sunday, 12th May, she preached at St. Mary Woolnoth's to a crowd of mainly young people. At the end of the Week of Reflection Mutter Kurz was given £150, a collection which shows the impression on those who had attended.

M.D.

SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB)

At the request of the Schweizerbund's last Annual General Meeting, the Club organised an additional social evening and dinner which was held on 31st May at the Glendower Hotel. It was most gratifying to see an attendance of 44 members and friends — many of them from the Swiss Embassy. The President, Mr. V. Berti, welcomed Monsieur and Madame Charles Abegglen and Monsieur Jean-Marie Déboeuf, Vice-Consuls at the Embassy, as well as Monsieur F. Bischof, the new Secretary of the NSH. The Club's “ youngest ” member, Mr. F. Delaloye, a past-president, again had some complimentary and witty tributes to pay. To crown the evening in true Swiss spirit, singing in our three official languages was started when the Secretary distributed, by courtesy of the Swiss National Tourist Office, copies of a booklet “ Let's sing with the Swiss ”. And what singing it was!

It was also announced that arrangements were being made to organise a dinner at a country club at Elstree (Herts.) on a Friday in August, and a Sunday outing to Hever Castle near Westerham (Kent) in autumn — possibly on 6th October. Further details will be given in the “ Forthcoming Events ” columns in the Swiss Observer and by circulars to the Club's members.

J.S.

A RETIREMENT AND AN APPOINTMENT OF TWO OF OUR READERS

For over 20 years, Mr. P. Bucher, of 21 Pemberley Avenue, Bedford, has been head of Le Bas Tube Company (George Fischer Group). On 5th June, he relinquished the chairmanship. He will, however, remain a Director. His successor is Mr. R. C. Jones, Chief Executive of the George Fischer Group in Great Britain.

Mr. R. E. Baumann, of 24 Gurney Drive, N.2 (Vice-President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique), has hitherto been Director and General Manager of the Company; he has now been elected Managing Director. Congratulations!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

We wish many happy returns to all our readers whose birthdays fall within the next fortnight, in particular to Mr. Jakob Vogel who will be 87 on 2nd and Mr. Leon Jaeggi who will reach his 79th birthday on 7th July. On the same day, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Brunner will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary.

OBITUARY

We announce with deep regret the death of Mr. Henry Meyer, of 5 Cedar Road, Cricklewood, N.W.2. He hailed from Adliswil (Zurich) and was an agricultural engineer. He was a member of the Swiss Club “ Schweizerbund ”, of the Société des Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres. When the Swiss Gymnastic Society was still in existence, he was a regular member, and in the days when the Swiss Rifle Association held their shooting meetings at Hendon, he took part regularly.

Mr. Meyer died on 28th May at the age of 79. His only relative in this country is his daughter, Mrs. H. E. Fulford, Westbourne, the Ridge, Maybury Hill, Woking, Surrey, to whom we express our sincere sympathy.