

News from the colony

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

At the approach of Christmas, the SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY and the SWISS CHURCHES IN LONDON appeal, once again, to their many generous friends in the Swiss Colony for their support in the preparation of gift parcels for those compatriots whose modest resources do not allow them to provide any extra cheer during the festive season.

Donations or gifts of new clothing, tinned food, processed cheese, chocolate, biscuits, etc., will be most gratefully received.

Gifts in kind should be sent to the Swiss Benevolent Society, if possible not later than 5th December, 1971, and cash donations or cheques and postal orders may be sent to the following addresses:

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY,
31 Conway Street, London, W1P 5HL.

The Rev. A. NICOD, 7 Park View
Road, London, N.3.

The Rev. M. DIETLER, 1 Womersley
Road, London, N.8.

The Rev. P. BOSSARD, St. Ann's
Church, Abbey Orchard Street, London,
S.W.1.

A LAST-MINUTE CHANCE IN SOLIDARITY CONTEST

First Prize: A Swissair flight to Switzerland and a two weeks' holiday for two people. Followed by attractive cash prizes from Fr. 2,500, 1,000 (8 times) to Fr. 300, watches and 10kg of Gruyere cheese.

Who may participate? All members of the Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad, including those who have joined during this drive. The contest will be open to the end of the year, and all applications must be in by 31st December in order to be valid. Application forms may be had from the Swiss Embassy or Consulate to whom they have to be returned. Payments must be made not later than 30th June, 1972. The winners will be announced at next year's Assembly of the Swiss Abroad in Berne at the end of August. As the chances to win depend not only on the number of new enrolments, but also on the value of the annual or single deposits, the final choice will be made by a draw.

Much has been said about the Fund in these columns. But perhaps we must say it once more that it is a co-operative founded by the Swiss abroad themselves. In fact, it was the late Fred Suter, prominent member of the Swiss community in Britain and President of the London group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, who put

down a gold piece as a symbol of solidarity when the Fund was started in 1958. It is protection in case a Swiss living abroad loses his livelihood due to war, internal upheavals or coercive political measures. The sums paid out vary according to an annual or one-time payment. If no claim is made, all

the member loses is the interest plus a small sum according to his age at joining. In a one-time deposit, there is no administrative payment, and there is no loss of capital at all—the full sum will be paid out (in Swiss francs or in the currency of the country of residence) after the statutory waiting



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period of three years.

When the Council of the Solidarity Fund met at Brunnen at the end of August, it was revealed that so far there has been little response to the competition. But it is not yet too late. The Fund now has roughly 15,000 members in all parts of the world. Many have found that their membership was their only protection in times of catastrophe. Their tales of woe and of gratitude would fill volumes. Membership has many advantages — one does not lose one's contributions (like in an insurance) and if a claim has to be made they serve as a welcome nest-egg.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Fund, also held at Brunnen, members expressed doubt whether the word solidarity still held any pull these days. Perhaps not, and the Council will now

study the whole structure of the organisation. The Fund must neither become too commercialised, nor operate solely on solidarity. So there may be changes in the near future, which will make it more attractive for those who merely think in terms of savings, yet the element of solidarity must not be discarded. Many who have joined the Fund did so out of a moral obligation, to help in good times those of their compatriots who live in uncertain or bad times.

One last word to those who fear that their contributions might not be safe: the Swiss Confederation has taken over the guarantee of meeting the Fund's obligations, should its means ever be insufficient.

P.S. Remember, the contest closes on 31st December, 1971.

(MM)

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Mrs. K. Fuchs, of 14 Denehurst Gardens, Hendon, N.W.4. Mrs. Fuchs, wife of Mr. Albert Fuchs, died suddenly at her home on 18th October, 1971. She was 75 years of age and in 1969 she and her husband celebrated the 50th anniversary of their wedding. Mrs. Fuchs, who was born in Faversham, in Kent, bore a son in 1920, Cecil Carl Albert Fuchs. He joined the RAF during the last war and during his service was awarded the DFC. He was, unfortunately, killed on 1st March, 1943.

Mrs. Fuchs was cremated at Golders Green Crematorium on 25th October, 1971. Her husband survives her, and to him we extend our sincere condolences.

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BIRTHDAYS

The following subscribers are celebrating their birthdays during the next few weeks: Mr. W. Pellet will be 84 on 19th November. Mrs. R. Weber will have her 82nd birthday on 21st and Mrs. Egli hers on 23rd November. Mr. E. Schaerer will be 78 on the same day. On 3rd December, Mrs. C. Renz will have her birthday, and Mr. H. H. Baumann will be 84 on 6th December. Mr. H. Suter will be 83 on 10th December. Mr. M. Ehsram will be 75 on 14th and Mrs. E. Delaloye 84 on 15th December. Many happy returns to all of them!

ARNOLD KUNZLER 75

Mr. Arnold Kunzler, of 31 Dolprin Court, Rustington, Sussex, will be celebrating his 75th birthday on 15th November. He was born at Stein, Appenzell, and went to school at Staad, near Rorschach. He completed his training at the *Verkehrsschule* in St. Gall and later joined a forwarding agency in Basle. He came to London after the first world war and has remained here ever since. He founded Machinery and Technical Transport Ltd., later to be known as M.A.T. Transport Ltd., which he developed into a flourishing company. Though no longer at his office every day, he still takes an active interest in the firm.

Mr. Kunzler has always supported the activities in the Swiss Colony and is still a member of several societies.

May he enjoy good health and continued happiness with his family, and his many friends send him best wishes.

(MM)

SWISS GETS FRENCH DISTINCTION

Our compatriot, Mr. Jean Perrin, in London, has just received from the French Government his appointment as a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques, for services rendered to

French Culture.

Mr. Perrin was born in Morges, educated in Morges, Waldenburg, Lausanne and London. He arrived in London in 1927 and spent 40 years with a top firm of Merchant Bankers in the City of London.

In 1929, Mr. Perrin was one of the founder members of the Cercle Dramatique Français de Londres which was later recognised by the Relations Culturelles, at the Quai d'Orsay, in Paris. Mr. Perrin, under the stage name of André Lussy, created 91 different roles on the stage, apart from numerous lectures, readings, etc.

The French Government intended giving the above decoration to Mr. Perrin before the last war, but he was, at that time, below the minimum age for this decoration. Also, he was incorporated in the Swiss army and the Federal authorities forbade it.

In 1954, Mr. Perrin received the bronze medal of the Alliance Française.

He is a cousin of Pasteur Marcel Pradervand and is now enjoying his retirement in London.

CITY SWISS CLUB MONTHLY MEETING

The October meeting of the City Swiss Club was well attended. It took place as usual in the Orchid Suite of the Dorchester Hotel, under the presidency of Mr. Walter Bion. The guest speaker was Dr. Frank Ellis, a transplant specialist of Guys Hospital, London. His exposé was both informative and entertaining, and marked by suave eloquence. He showed us various devices, both "active" and "passive", designed to be implanted in a human body to compensate some organic deficiency. Thus Dr. Ellis explained the secrets of the heart pace-maker, the bladder-controller, the artificial heart valve, the insertable metallic bone and the inflatable mamma. As a specialist on kidney transplant, he stressed the

tremendous immunological defences of the body, comparing them to an in-built police force ruthlessly assailing all foreign implantation.

In this respect, he qualified the success of the Niehans method of cell injection as purely psychomatic. He also considered that too much had been made of the "ethical" problems of transplantation and stressed that there were infinitely more kidney donors than acceptors waiting for an acceptable kidney while connected to a life-saving kidney machine.

Dr. Ellis said that all kidney cases could be solved if the adequate legislation and organisation permitting potential donors to be known in advance were implemented. He stressed that in the present state of art, it was not possible to have "kidney banks" similar to the already existing eye banks.

Most of the attendance agreed with the President when he thanked the speaker and told him that his speech had been one of the most exciting ever to have been heard at a City Swiss Club function.

ANGLO-SWISS RIFLE MATCH IN MANCHESTER

The traditional Anglo-Swiss Rifle Match was once again held on the Altcar Ranges near Liverpool on 16th October.

There were 10 riflemen in each team, Manchester fielding a strong side under Captain G. Clitheroe. The ordinary Swiss decimal target was used and everybody agreed that it provided a difficult but fair challenge. The English team won the match by 699 to 607 points. The Swiss team performed better than the result would indicate, very few of the competitors having ever been on a range or handled the weapons used. Highest scores for the Swiss team were returned by W. Eich and J. Scheiwiller with 82 points each. The Henry Monney trophy was won by R. Pizer (M.R.C.) with 90 points.

For the first time a contingent of young Swiss from the Liverpool area took part alongside their Manchester compatriots.

A hot-pot supper, prepared and served by Mrs. Bolliger, ended another friendly Anglo-Swiss event.

SWISS MUSICAL EVENTS

There were two Liszt concerts with Swiss participation in London during October. A "Frank Liszt Memorial Concert" took place in the elegant salon of the Austrian Institute at Rutland Gate, London. Guests crowded the exits and sat on a flight of stairs to listen to piano works by Liszt interpreted by Lennart Rabes. These included "Bagatelle sans Tonalité" and "Etude de Concert" in D flat major.

This recital was followed by a "melodrama" in which Mariann Meier

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