

Another departure from the embassy

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Another eminence present was the writer Sir Arthur Briant. He added a few words after Professor Forster's exposé, which he highly appraised, and found that there were many parallels between the sanguinary histories of Scotland and Switzerland.

ANOTHER DEPARTURE FROM THE EMBASSY

The exit from the Swiss Embassy continues. Our Ambassador and Madame René Keller, who have together played such an important part in the life of Great Britain's Swiss Colony, will be followed by Mr. and Mrs. Franz Muheim.

Mr. Muheim, First Secretary of Embassy, is also being recalled to Berne, and if my information is correct, he will be serving there under the same Chief as here in London, in the Section for International Organisations of the Federal Political Department.

Mr. Muheim is a native of Berne and has studied at the Universities of Fribourg, Geneva and Paris. His entry into the service of the Swiss Foreign Office dates back to 1960. His first posting abroad took him to Belgrade as Attaché d'Ambassade, whereupon he returned once again to the Federal Capital as Secretary to the Secretary General of the Political Department, Ambassador Micheli. From 1963 to 1967 Mr. Muheim was en poste in Rabat, and from 1967 to his forthcoming departure he and his charming wife have been part of the diplomatic scene in London.

During his years in London Mr. Muheim has been one of those Swiss diplomats who are particularly painstaking to obtain solid and reliable information in various fields of his activity. He was even in a position in a recent telephone conversation with me to tell me point blank certain likes and dislikes of mine. To my surprised question how he had acquired such knowledge, came the reply: "Ah, diplomats have to be well informed."

This will, no doubt, stand him in good stead and lead him further and further in his career. Those who have known him during his time in London will, I am certain, like to join me in wishing "The Muhems" all possible success.

Gottfried Keller.

THE YORKSHIRE SWISS CLUB VISITS SANDOZ

On the 16th November 1970, following up a new series of activities, the Yorkshire Swiss Club visited the large modern laboratory, manufacturing and administrative site of Sandoz Products Limited at Horsforth, near Leeds. This visit had been arranged between Mr. Ermanni Berner, the vice-president of the Club, and Mr. Richard Mueller, an employee of Sandoz, and a former president of the Yorkshire Swiss Club.

The evening turned out to be a very great success. Fifty-five club members and their friends assembled in the brightly lit modern reception hall of the Administrative Building. It was particularly gratifying to find a large number of young keenly interested people amongst the party.

Mr. F. Illingworth, the joint sales manager of the firm, met the visitors and gave a short introduction into the Sandoz background.

The Sandoz Chemical Company Limited as it was then known was incorporated in England in 1911 and has been from the outset a subsidiary of Sandoz, Basle, Switzerland. The present site at Horsforth had been developed prior to 1960 and it was in 1960 that the firm finally transferred its activities from Canal Road in Bradford to the new premises. Today about 600 employees work at Horsforth in the Dyestuff/Chemical Section, the Pharmaceutical Section and the Administrative Departments.

The visitors were split into four groups, three of which were shown around the Laboratory and Administrative block by Mr. F. Illingworth, Mr. B. Ellse and Mr. J. Holland. The Application Laboratories for Dyestuffs and Chemicals were particularly attractive to see in view of the many brightly coloured exhibits which had been prepared by the textile, leather and paper departments. The range of high quality leather dyeings and sheepskin rugs which were on view for the occasion attracted much interest and delight, and the ladies in the party were particularly interested in the wide range of material and colourful dyeings which can be obtained by applying modern technology to textile, leather and paper.

Another point of particular interest was the dyehouse where semi bulk quantities of textile material can be experimentally treated and the wide range of products and the high standard of technical services to the customers became apparent.

The fourth group was formed by visitors who were more interested in production technology. They were taken round the Chemical Manufacturing Building by Mr. Richard Mueller who first took the visitors to the roof of the five-storey manufacturing building, explaining the general layout of the site which was sufficiently visible in the moonlight to distinguish the various buildings. Following this the party was led storey by storey down the building in the same way as the raw materials run from vessel to vessel and manufacturing stage to manufacturing stage, until at the end of process they are run off into containers, mainly on the ground floor of the building and are then despatched to the customers or to the storage building.

Afer these tours the visitors were entertained to refreshments in the canteen. This airy, modern and pleasantly decorated canteen where approximately 500 meals are served every day was a very suitable assembly point for all the visiting groups. Over a cup of tea Mr. Berner mentioned that our President was unable to be with us but that he wished us all a successful and happy evening. Mr. Berner, also in the name of all the members and friends present, expressed his thanks to Sandoz and in particular to Mr. A. D. Ferns the Managing Director, to Mr. Illingworth and the other guides who had sacrificed their television evening for the benefit of the members of the Swiss Club.

(Ermanno Berner)

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The speaker at the December meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society was Mr. Walter Stettbacher of Glasgow, an old friend of the SMS and indeed, of the Swiss Observer, in whose columns he has sent many accounts of his mountaineering adventures in the past. Mr. Stettbacher showed us a series of colour slides on Majorca and the Ticino. He has certainly learnt to make the best

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