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IRENE BERTI †

Few of our young Swiss could have been more widely admired and loved than Irene Berti, whose dear life was so tragically and suddenly ended by enemy action on the 25th November, 1944, while at her place of work.

Born in London nearly 20 years ago, of Ticinese parents, Irene received the benefits and blessing of a very happy home life and of an excellent education. Having obtained the Oxford Senior Certificate and a secretarial diploma she had just launched out on a business career in a solicitor's office and, with her intelligence and keenness, the future held every promise.

Among her numerous interests she belonged to the Swiss Catholic Choir and was a prominent and enthusiastic member of the Ladies' Section of the Unione Ticinese, of which she had been unanimously elected its Vice-Secretary for the last two years. For this Society she had rendered invaluable service, being conscientious, reliable and willing to an unusual degree in one so young. With her passing the Society's loss is irreparable.

The funeral service was held at St. Joseph's Retreat, Highgate, where Irene had regularly attended for many years, and the Revd. Paulinus Fisher, C.P., officiated. The esteem and affection in which Irene had been held was evidenced by the incredibly large throng of mourners present and by the unending profusion of beautiful flowers. At the end of the Mass, the Swiss Catholic Chaplain, the Revd. A. Lanfranchi, made a moving address of sympathy and comfort.

The interment took place at East Finchley Cemetery, spoken tributes being made by two of Irene's colleagues in the Unione Ticinese. Of these tributes the following are fragments.

"Dear Irene, you were so young, so eager for life, so good and so loved by all . . . We shall miss your dear presence more than can ever be expressed and your happy and friendly person can never be replaced. . . But in taking you so soon, we know that God must have done so for his own good purpose. That your happy spirit still lives on, we do not doubt, and we ask that you will pray for comfort and strength to be given to your parents and brothers, that their sorrow may be lessened and that they may realise that the parting is for a short while only. . . We shall not say goodbye, for we know that we shall meet again. Let us then say — *arrivederci, Rene*."

R.A.

PERSONAL.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Mr. W. Bachmann, Managing-Director of the West End Fancy Bakery Co. Ltd., 48-54 Dawes Road, S.W. 6, on having been admitted to the Freedom of the City of London, and elected to the Livery of the Bakers' Company at a recent meeting of the Worshipful Company of Bakers, held at Grocers' Hall, Princes Street, E.C. 2.

This company is one of the oldest of the City guilds, and dates as far back as 1155 in the reign of Henry II.

SWISS STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

Through the courtesy of the London Office of the Swiss Bank Corporation we are enabled to publish the quotations of some of the leading stocks in Switzerland.

| | | | 18/10/44. | 13/12/44. |
|---------------------------|-----|------|-----------|-----------|
| Confederation | 3% | 1936 | 101.75 | 101.60 |
| Confederation | 3½% | 1932 | 101.80 | 101.40 |
| Confederation | 4% | 1931 | 103.50 | 103 |
| Swiss Bank | ... | ... | 522 | 511 |
| Crédit Suisse | ... | ... | 542 | 530 |
| Industrie Aluminium | ... | ... | 1730 | 1560 |
| Brown Boveri | ... | ... | 660 | 626 |
| Chade ABC | ... | ... | 895 | 900ex. |
| Chade D | ... | ... | 162 | 165ex. |
| Ciba (Industrie Chimique) | ... | ... | 4830 | 4700 |
| Fischer | ... | ... | 890 | 805 |
| Nestlés | ... | ... | 930 | 865 |
| Oerlikon | ... | ... | 475 | 422 |
| Suisse Réassurance | ... | ... | 3750 | 3570 |
| Sandoz | ... | ... | 8675 | 8400 |
| Saurer | ... | ... | 705 | 690 |
| Sulzer | ... | ... | 1290 | 1175 |

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

We hope to go to Press again on January 26th, 1945.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

REQUIRED by Swiss Family with 3 young children, in quiet and healthy Garden City 35 minutes London. Mother's Help or Children's Nurse, or would offer nice accommodation and board to young worker or elderly gentlewoman in return for some help. Box 47, SWISS OBSERVER, 23, Leonard Street, E.C. 2.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

December 31st, 1944 — Catholic Church Service at 3.30 p.m. at St. Peter's Church, Palace Street, W. 1, followed by Christmas Party at Westminster Cathedral Hall.

Saturday, January 6th, 1945, at 2 o'clock p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Annual General Meeting at the Swiss Club, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Wednesday, January 10th, 1945, at 5.30 p.m. for 6 o'clock. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, preceded by a dinner at 6 p.m. (See advert.)

Saturday, January 13th, 1945, at 2.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Monthly Meeting followed by a social afternoon.

Saturday, January 20th, 1945, at 2.15 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Annual General Meeting at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, preceded by a Luncheon at 1 p.m. sharp.

Saturday, January 27th, 1945, at 2.30 p.m. — London Swiss Philatelic Society — Annual General Meeting. Details to follow.