

Sophie Wyss

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GENERAL GUISAN FUND.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to a circular letter recently addressed by the Swiss Legation in London to the Presidents of Swiss Societies in Great Britain in connection with an appeal for a "General Guisan Fund."

We take the following particulars from its contents:

Last year an association was brought into life in Switzerland with the aim of instituting a national collection for the benefit of Swiss soldiers, who, during the frontier occupation 1939-1945 have suffered in health, or are temporarily or permanently disabled.

This undertaking is proposed to express the gratitude of the Swiss people towards its army, and its commander-in-chief General Guisan.

Eminent personalities and heads of important organisations at home, are members of the organising committee, amongst them the Presidents of the Federal Chambers, the Federal High Court and the Government of the canton of Vaud, of which General Guisan is a native..

In accordance with a wish expressed by a large number of Swiss living abroad, to participate in this collection, the committee of the "General Guisan Foundation," is making an appeal through the intermediary of the Federal Political Department in Berne and the diplomatic and consular representatives abroad, to all Swiss outside the boundaries of the Confederation, to support this laudable undertaking by voluntary contributions.

In view of the devoted attachment to the mother country of the Swiss abroad, which manifested itself on many occasions and found its expression time after time by generous donations to various charitable undertakings at home, the Swiss Legation deemed it opportune to acquaint the members of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain of this undertaking and the "Swiss Observer" is happy to associate itself with this appeal. Let the Colony once more live up to its reputation by supporting generously so well worth an object, and thus testifying their appreciation and gratitude for those men, who in the hour of danger and national emergency faithfully did their duty towards their country.

Subscriptions will be received by the Swiss Legation, 18, Montagu Place, W.1, or by the Presidents of the respective Swiss Societies in Great Britain.

SOPHIE WYSS.

Sophie Wyss, the Swiss singer whose recital at the Chelsea Town Hall is announced for Thursday, October 3rd, is one of the best-known artists on the concert platform of Great Britain to-day. She was born in Neuveville, on the Lake of Biene, made her début in opera in Geneva, and settled in England on her marriage to Captain Arnold Gyde, an "Old Contemptible" of the first World War and a Staff Officer of the second. She lives on the Thames, opposite Hampton Court park..

Being Swiss by birth, she has the greatest repertoire of any singer in this, or perhaps any country. Brought up on the borderland of the French and German languages, she is as much at home in French as in German songs, she has sung in Italian opera (Old Vic) and English oratorio: she has acquired Spanish. But


it is perhaps for her "first performances" of the works of contemporary English composers that she is most famous. From Vaughan Williams to Benjamin Britten, they have most of them written songs for her. Indeed, all Britten's songs up to the *Michael Angelo* cycle were first performed by her. His amazing work *Les Illuminations* is dedicated to her.

Those who heard her at the last *Fête Suisse* at the Central Hall will not need to be reminded what she can do with Swiss folk songs.

Monsieur Paravicini, when he was Minister in London, gave receptions to the *corps diplomatique* at which Mme. Wyss delighted London society with Swiss songs, and particularly with the work of modern Swiss composers.

TWO HUNDRED BRITISH CHILDREN FOR SWITZERLAND.

On the 20th of this month, two hundred and four British children from Birmingham and Coventry have left from Victoria Station for a three months' stay in Switzerland, where they will be distributed amongst Swiss families. This has been arranged by the "Croix Rouge Suisse" and "Secours aux Enfants," in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and the local authorities through the Swiss Legation in London.



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