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HOME FOR AGED SWISS.

We are sometimes asked why, out of the large number of pensioners our Society supports, so few actually live in our house at 31, Conway Street. This is for various reasons; some of our old people live with relatives or friends; it would be cruel to separate them. Others live in the country and would feel strange if brought to town. Many, who have lived for many years in the same room, shrink from joining the community of a Home. Again a great number are infirm and need constant, medical and nursing attention which our Home cannot possibly provide. For others the effort of walking upstairs is too great and yet here the bedrooms must be on the upper floors.

In a Home there must of necessity be some order and a few rules; but many of our old compatriots object even to these. They want to be independent and, if it suits them, get up one day at 8 and the next at mid-day.

Already before 1940 it was difficult to induce our old friends to come and live in. Since so many now obtain the English Old Age Pension, this makes them even more independent.

It has been suggested we ought to tell them that we refuse financial help unless they come and live in. So far we have refrained from compulsion, as we thought it harsh and not conducive to a happy family life in the Home.

Another difficulty of running a Home, where the inmates are of different religious denominations and speak four different languages, is the staff question. A matron, who has the patience of an angel and knows how to deal with all the irksome tasks which are hers, wants finding. Most of the old folks have all kinds of idiosyncrasies, some are jealous of their companions or troublesome in other ways and often show little consideration for the staff who work for them.

Our Society is not the only one to have these experiences; e.g., the British Watch Makers and Jewellers Benevolent Fund own a number of pleasant almshouses run as Home, but as they could not persuade sufficient of their pensioners to go and live there, they had to let the accommodation to outsiders.

Notwithstanding the above remarks, we are always willing to deal with requests made by elderly members of our Colony with sympathetic understanding.

F. M. GAMPER,
President of the Home.

VEREINS-OBE. (Swiss Club, Birmingham.)

All Schwyzer tüe gärn hie und do,
Zwar hüt, im "Midland," nid im "Lene".
So anes fröhligs Festli cho,
Überzügt mi cha sech freue.

Früher hät me d'Nase grümpft,
Vor em Dinner öppis d'sippe,
Doch hütigstags si Cocktails Trümpf,
Das gehört zur guete Sitte.

Druf sizt me gmuetlig da bim Aesse,
Trift alti Fründ vo fern und nah,
Im Nu, isch was em drückt vergässe,
Hüt s'Obe freut sech jederma.

Viel gueti Rede würze d's Mahl,
Mi singt mi jodlet, musiziert,
Tanzet wie jetzt und dazumal,
Famos hei d'Gescht sech amüsiert.

Wie doch bim froh und gmüetlig si
Die Zyt so grüsli schnäll vergeit,
Gwüss het a mängs, das hie isch gsi,
Im Härz chly Heimweh mit hei treit.

So Festli si die best Idee,
Um d'Schwyzler zäme z'bhalte,
Viel Dank gebührt dem Committee,
Vo de junge Fründ und Alte.

H.E.



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