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J. SCHAD. (J.J.F.S.)

On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the "Swiss Observer," which took place in June of this year, I referred in my Editorial to some of my faithful collaborators, who, for many years have given me their help, without which it would have been impossible to carry on this publication.

Alas, some have left us, never to return, but they will be remembered in grateful memory. To name only one of those who have passed away, I might recall my old friend Uli Bretscher, who so efficiently and so lovingly used to write under the pseudonym of "Kyburg."

To-day, it is my privilege and my pleasure, to express in these columns, my most sincere thanks to one, who has for many years been a constant friend and a prolific collaborator of the official organ of the Colony, wielding an efficient pen.

Who amongst our readers does not recall some of the many interesting articles, translations of Swiss patriotic and folklore songs into English, and above all his clever reviewing of books signed with the initials J.J.F.S.

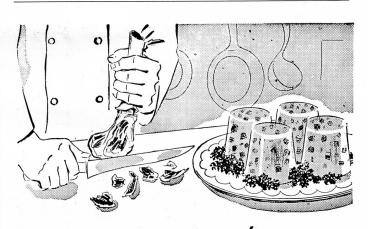
Time after time, I have been asked to divulge the name of the one who wrote under the above-mentioned nom de plume; his modesty, as well as his reluctance for publicity, made it impossible for me to satisfy the curiosity of some of the readers of the "Swiss Observer."

HIGH CLASS ACCOMMODATION Twenty minutes from Piccadilly. Comfortable double & single rooms. H. & C. Partial Board. 17, Freeland Road, W.5. Tel. ACOrn 0209. Referring back again to our Anniversary Number, another of my collaborators, who signs his articles as "Gallus" wrote, on the occasion of my twenty years connection with this paper, an appreciation dealing with my work, which made me almost blush. I decided there and then, that those, who so unselfishly, so modestly and so generously have given me their help and services in editing this paper should not go unnamed, and after much persuasion I have, at long last, obtained their permission to introduce them to our readers.

J. Schad, was born and educated in Basle, his father came from Ziefen, a village less than twenty miles from Basle, his mother was a native of the canton of Aargau.

The Schad's are well-known in the "Baselbiet" where they have been peasant small holders for generations past, one of them, named Uli Schad, became famous as one of the leaders of the peasant rebellion in the 17th century; the rising was suppressed and Uli Schad was executed in Basle in 1653. His memory, and that of the ringleaders is perpetuated by a monument, the "Bauerndenkmal" in Liestal.

Being not of a rebellious nature, as far as I can detect, nor having any inclination to till the native soil, our friend left Switzerland at the age of 18 in order to follow a commercial career, and after staying several years in France arrived in this great Metropolis in 1904. Hard work, coupled with a keen intelligence and a shrewd business mind, gained him in time



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the Directorship of an important company in the City, and he was also invited to serve on the committee of one of the great Trade Associations in the City of London.

J. Schad is a happily married man and father of two sons and a daughter; his eldest son is a B.A. of Oxford University, an old "blue" and officer in the Royal Air Force. The younger boy gained a State scholarship and is an undergraduate at Christ Church, Oxford, and his daughter has just brilliantly passed her matriculation, indeed a proud family record, which should gladden any father's heart.

Though a successful business man, J.J.F.S. is also an intellectual, widely read, with a predilection for history and the classics. Poetry too appeals strongly to him as can be perceived by his many translations into English verse of most of the well-known Swiss folk songs. Some real gems of his own verse, sonnets, essays and literary reviews have appeared in our paper during the last twenty years.

This prolific output has been achieved in his spare time and at odd moments; by his pen he has given readers of the "Swiss Observer" untold pleasure and if this publication, has, in spite of some set backs, achieved, in my humble opinion, a certain popularity in the Swiss Colony in Great Britain, it is, in no small measure, due to J. Schad and I gladly take this opportunity to thank him for his ever ready help, his sincere friendship and for the joy he has given me in reading his clever contributions.

ST.

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SWISS CLUB — DUNFERMLINE.

The first social gathering of our Winter programme was held on Friday, 2nd December, in Canmore Works Canteen.

After a short address by our President, we were able to refresh our happy memories of this year's 1st of August Celebrations, in a Film made and produced by our Hon. Member, Mr. W. O. Bosshardt.

By the kind assistance of the Swiss Tourist Office in London, he also showed us the 3-reel film :— "The Bernese Oberland."

Also this lovely coloured film, showing the beautiful mountains and valleys of our Homeland was praised unanimously.

A pleasant surprise for the youngsters was given by Mr. Bosshardt when he presented a short additional film entitled :— "Laurel & Hardy."

While tea was prepared, the Company was entertained with a few Swiss Songs.

Another happy evening came to an end all too soon and Mr. Frick, in wishing everyone a good journey home, closed the official part of the function with :—

"Rufst Du mein Vaterland."

B.

SWISS MALE CHOIR.

(Annual General Meeting.)

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Male Choir took place on Friday, November 25th, 1949, at the "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club), 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Mr. F. G. Sommer was in the Chair, and there were thirty-one active, 1 passive and one life-member present. After the President's and the Treasurer's reports had been read, the elections for the new Committee took place, and the following were elected for the new year of office: Messrs. F. G. Sommer, *President*, L. Jobin, *Vice-Président*, A. Jaccard, *Hon. Secretary*, E. Ritzmann, *Hon Treasurer*, W. Anguish, *Librarian*, E. P. Dick, *Associate Member*.

After careful consideration it was decided to enter the Wembley Music Festival which will take place on March 20th-25th, 1950.

Close of the Meeting 9.30 p.m.

