

City Swiss Club

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MARCEL LEUBA †.

Born in La Chaux-de-Fonds in 1898, our lamented friend had a boisterous youth which gave anxious moments to his parents. He was apprenticed to his father's watch case factory and in no time displayed his talents as an accomplished craftsman, a gift which he shared in no small measure with other members of his family.

He became a pioneer of the watch case industry in this country when a modest factory was established with his father, uncle and brother in Holborn in 1922.

Later he was a founder of British Watch Cases Ltd., now a member of the Melbray Group of Companies, one of the most important producer of gold watch cases in the U.K.

He was a faithful and generous friend, an endearing "boss" whose passing is mourned by all and not least by those who are still "at it" today and to whom he gave their first job forty years ago.

In 1942 he joined the City Swiss Club and, in masonic circles: The Helvetica Lodge, the Entente Cordiale and Chapter "La France". The reasonable age of 50 having been reached and passed he was blessed once, twice, thrice: a wife, a son, another son, and now a wonderful life began. Ceaselessly he worked and schemed, planning, drafting, building, aiming high; for his family the best was hardly good enough.

And now came the decline as illness crept in. Seeking temporary relief from the vagaries of the English weather, he returned to the Canary Islands and, still building, found eternal rest.

On his wedding day I said, quoting Ecclesiastes "There is a time for everything in life, now is the time for loving . . ." alas now I must say "There is a time for dying". May his soul rest in peace. *J.H.*

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

As usual at this time of the year, the SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY and both Communities of the SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON, as well as the SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION IN LONDON appeal to all their Swiss friends for gifts in kind or in cash in order to provide a little extra cheer at Christmas for compatriots in need.

New articles of clothing, also used ones cleaned and in good repair, as well as household goods will be greatly appreciated.

Gifts in kind should be sent, preferably now to S.B.S., whilst donations may be forwarded to any one of these addresses:—

Swiss Benevolent Society, 31 Conway St., London W.1;
Rev. A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London N.3;
Rev. M. Dietler, 1 Womersley Road, London N.8;
Rev. Joseph Scherer, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, London S.W.1.

ESCALADE 1965

The "Cercle Genevois de Londres" invites all Genevèse to their 47th Soirée d'Escalade which will be held at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, on Friday, 10th December. The dinner is to be a special one with all the ceremony belonging to the anniversary of this historic event 363 years ago. The dinner will be followed by a dance (Soirée Dansante Discothèque) "De la valse au sirtaki". Any Genevèse who would like to attend (guests will be welcome) should apply to the Dorchester Hotel and remit £2. 2s. 0d per person (excluding drinks), marking the order "Escalade Night".

PERSONAL

We have just heard that our friend and subscriber Mr. J. L. Guggenheim, of 71 Hamilton Terrace, N.W.8, had an accident a few weeks ago. He slipped off the kerb on his way to work and was taken to hospital for an operation for a broken femur. We are glad to hear that Mr. Guggenheim is much better again and we wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

At the end of September, Mr. M. A. Rothlisberger retired after forty-one years with the Ionian Bank Ltd., 64 Coleman Street, London E.C.2. Mr. Rothlisberger was born in London, but brought up in Switzerland from the age of three. He went to school at Aubonne in the Canton of Vaud, and after his apprenticeship and six years of employment, both with the Union Bank of Switzerland, he came to London. A year after taking up employment with the Ionian Bank, he was sent to Greece, but returned to London in 1928. In 1950, Mr. Rothlisberger was appointed Accountant, seven years later Assistant Manager and in May 1960 Manager.

Mr. Rothlisberger is a member of several Swiss Societies especially the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and the Swiss Mercantile Society. But above all, he has devoted much time and effort to the Swiss Benevolent Society whose Assistant Treasurer he became in 1932 and Hon. Treasurer in 1938. In 1961, he was elected Vice-President, an office he still holds with distinction.

The many friends of Maurice and Helen Rothlisberger wish them a good many years of happy retirement.

Our compatriot, the well-known pianist Albert Ferber, has just returned from giving successful concerts in Switzerland. On getting back to London, he recorded three recitals for the BBC (broadcast on 21st October, 9th and 22nd November). On Sunday, 17th October, he gave an interesting and highly successful concert at the Festival Hall. A few days later, he left for New York and Brazil where he is a member of the jury at the International Pianists' Competition. We wish Mr. Ferber continued success in his brilliant career.

CITY SWISS CLUB**A Last-Minute Reminder**

A Hundredth Dinner and Dance is not a frequent event in the social life of a community. When it does occur, it is bound to be special. The City Swiss Club Annual Balls have always stood out as social events in the London Swiss Colony's calendar. This year's **Hundredth Banquet and Ball** at the Dorchester Hotel on 19th November will stand out even more.

It has already been announced that Federal Councillor and Madame Bonvin are coming over from Switzerland specially to attend the anniversary function and will be Guests of Honour. The City Swiss Club has always made a point of inviting distinguished British personalities, and this year is no exception; a former Lord Mayor of London, Sir James Harman, and Lady Harman will grace the gathering by their presence.

The Cabaret will include the Entertainer Mr. David Kay from the Empress Club, and there will be entertainment by the Swissair Yodel Group and "Ländlerkapelle". These well-known folklore musicians will also appear on BBC Television whilst in London.

Altogether, the occasion promises to be a milestone in the Colony's history. It will provide an excellent meal, dancing to Arthur Salisbury's ten-piece Band, entertainment and a Tombola with exciting prizes. Above all,

there will be a happy, festive atmosphere. Old friends will meet, British and Swiss. The young and not-so-young will be able to relax and enjoy a carefree evening in congenial company.

For all those who have not yet made up their minds, there is still a chance. There are some tickets left (£2 12s. 6d. including tips). Please apply immediately to Mr. J. Jauslin, P.O. 114, London E.C.2. (Incidentally: Black Tie.) *MM*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

As in previous years, the "Swiss Observer" will put space for Christmas greetings at the disposal of readers. The price of Christmas cards has again gone up, and this arrangement will enable subscribers to wish their friends the compliments of the season at small cost. At the same time it is a means of additional financial support to the paper.

We propose publishing these greetings in our Double Christmas Number on 17th December. Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Monday, 22nd November, together with remittance of 25/-. Prompt response will be doubly appreciated by the Editor this year, seeing that she no longer has the assistance of the late Mr. A. Stauffer who kindly looked after Christmas Greetings in previous years.

SKI CAMPS FOR THE YOUNG SWISS ABROAD

As in previous years, the Youth Service of the NSH Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne, are organising two Ski Camps for young compatriots living abroad. The first takes place from 27th December to 5th January at Marmorera in the Grisons, and the second from 28th February to 9th March on the Riederalp in the Valais. Participants will be allocated to various groups according to their ski-ing abilities and will be given expert instruction. The evenings will be devoted to lectures, film shows, music and discussions. Please apply immediately to Berne, as the number of participants is limited. Cost: Fr.110.—, not including travelling and ski lifts. In certain circumstances, a reduction may be granted.

SPECIAL SWITZERLAND/U.K. CHRISTMAS FARES

Over Christmas and New Year, Swissair is again offering special excursion return fares for travel between Switzerland and the U.K. by day flights. They are available only for journeys starting in Switzerland, for flights to the U.K. between 21st and 30th December 1965, returning between 31st December 1965 and 9th January 1966. Tourist return to London costs Frs.345.— (£28 5s. 0d.) from Zurich and Frs. 325.— (£26 13s. 0d.) from Basle or Geneva. First class return fares are Frs.440.— (£36 1s. 0d.) and Frs.420.— (£34 8s. 0d.) respectively.

The validity of these special fares is 15 days, including day of journey to the U.K. They are not available as one-way fares. Payment can be made in Switzerland or the U.K., but not in other countries.

WELFARE OFFICE FOR SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

(For Information, Advice or Help)

11 Belsize Grove, London N.W.3.

(Nearest Underground Station: Belsize Park)

RECEPTION HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday
2 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Every Sunday 8 to 11 p.m. — The Swiss Catholic Youth Club — Social at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

Every Thursday, from 6 to 7.30 p.m. — Discussion Circle in English — Young men specially invited. Tea from 6 to 6.15 p.m. Swiss Y.M.C.A., London Central Y.M.C.A. Building, Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

Every 1st Wednesday in the month — Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres — meeting at Swiss House, 35 Fitzroy Square, W.1, at 7 p.m.

Every last Thursday of the Month — Swiss Club Manchester — Ordinary Monthly Meeting from 6 p.m. at the Midland Hotel, Manchester.

NOVEMBER :

10th to 26th — Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, E.C.2; Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. — "Météorites et Bijoux" — EXHIBITION of Modern jewellery designed by Gilbert Albert.

Friday, 12th — 6.30 for 7.30 p.m. — Swiss Rifle Association — GRUEMPELSCHIESSEN DINNER — Glendower Hotel, S.W.7.

Saturday, 13th — Swiss Club Manchester — ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL.

Wednesday, 15th — 8 p.m. — ERICH SCHMID conducts th BBC Symphony Orchestra in a programme of works by Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert — Royal Festival Hall.

Wednesday, 17th, 8 p.m. — Ernest ANSERMET conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms and Beethoven's symphony No. 9 — Royal Festival Hall.

Friday, 19th — City Swiss Club — 100th BANQUET AND BALL — Dorchester Hotel, London W.1.

Thursday, 25th — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — OPEN MEETING — COLOUR SLIDE SHOW — "South Africa seen through Swiss Eyes" by Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Bonvin.

Thursday, 25th — Swiss Club Manchester — MONTHLY MEETING.

Friday, 30th — 6 p.m. — Anglo-Swiss Society — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — Swiss Embassy, 77 Gloucester Place, W.1.

DECEMBER :

Friday, 10th — 6.30 for 7.15 p.m. — ESCALADE DINNER — Cercle Genevois de Londres — Dorchester Hotel — For details see special announcement.

Wednesday, 15th — 7 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — MONTHLY MEETING and FILM SHOW — Swiss House, 35 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Wednesday, 15th — City Swiss Club — CHRISTMAS DINNER — Dorchester Hotel.

Thursday, 16th — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — OPEN MEETING — details to follow.

Friday, 17th — 7 for 7.30 p.m. — Schweizerbund (Swiss Club) — CHRISTMAS DINNER — Montana Hotel, 67 Gloucester Road, S.W.7.

Saturday, 18th — Swiss Club Manchester — CHRISTMAS PARTY.