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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWISS CLUB, DUNFERMLINE

Swiss National Day Celebrations

We all have our favourite spots of countryside, to which we like to return. Members and friends of the Swiss Club in Dunfermline celebrated the Swiss National Day up in Fife's Highland in a sheltered quarry surrounded by high rocks. The setting was ideal, and lampions and flags were put up in the rocks. We had a fine view, ahead of us large fields with highland cows grassing and wondering what was going on in the vicinity, and far back the majestic Forth Bridge and Pentland Hills.

The President, Mr. Schoenenberger, gave a hearty welcome, and after we had heard from our Honorary President, Mr. Frick, the First of August Message from *Bundespraesident* Hans Schaffner, as well as from our Ambassador, Monsieur Béat de Fischer, young and old gathered around the bonfire, enjoying the *cervelat* barbecue.

Some folklore enthusiasts were in action playing the accordion, singing and throwing the Swiss flag.

We kept folk music fresh and alive, and a jolly good evening ended only when darkness came. (Many thanks to the organisers!) E. B.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

We have just heard that Mr. G. Godet, faithful member of the Consistoire of the Swiss Church and Hon. Treasurer for many years, celebrated his 75th birthday on 28th August. Our best wishes are extended to him, however belatedly.

We send best wishes to Madame de Fischer who will be celebrating her birthday on 10th October. Many happy returns of the day to her as well as to other readers whose birthdays are due.

We also wish to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. E. Gysin-Roth, Münchensteinerstrasse 6, Basle, on the occasion of their 53rd Wedding anniversary on 4th October. *Ad multos annos!*

* * *

P.S. The Editor will be glad to hear of any special birthdays or anniversaries. It is difficult for her to publish dates unless she is informed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations in addition to their subscriptions and/or for taking out gift subscriptions for friends or old-age pensioners: Mrs. G. Brusweiler, Mrs. R. Hions (Binningen BL), Mrs. H. Monney, Miss M. Paly, Mrs. T. Tanner, Mrs. J. Weller, Mrs. M. A. Werder, and Messrs. A. Corbat, E. Gallizia, M. Heilinger (Bellach/SO), J. Jenny, A. Kiener, E. Laechler, P. Lehrian, F. A. de Maria, H. H. Oppliger, C. Pulfer, A. Rigiani, C. Schorno, P. Schwarzenbach, W. A. Stettbacher, E. Ulmann, W. Wahl, W. E. Weisfog. We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

AN ANGLO-SWISS DEVOTES HER CAREER TO OTHERS

Verona Weist at St. Christopher's

Untold numbers of men and women devote their lives to relieve the suffering of the sick. Often it is only by accident that we learn of sacrifices made. Such a case is Miss Verena Weist, daughter of Mrs. E. Weist of 19 Leinster Road, Muswell Hill, N.10, and of the late Mr. Richard Weist, for many years active in the Swiss Colony, in the Swiss Mercantile Society, the Swiss Club and in particular as Hon. Treasurer of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

During 23 years in nursing, Miss Weist has risen from staff nurse to the top of her profession. She gave up her position as Assistant Matron at Lambeth Hospital to join a group of people who are bringing into being a new and special type of hospital, the St. Christopher's Hospice in Beckenham.

This is a new religious and medical foundation, and the Hospice will care for those in pain and suffering due to advanced cancer or other long illnesses. In looking after inmates, the love of God will be shown them in skilled nursing and expert medical care, in the use of scientific means combined with understanding and personal sympathy. The Hospice is more than the usual hospital, for patients can stay there as long as such help is needed. It will be a centre for teaching and research at the same time. It is hoped that links with the National Health Service will mean free facilities for most patients, and there are no barriers of race, colour, class or creed. The foundation stone was laid at Lawrie Park Road about a year ago, by Lord Fisher of Lambeth. The building is still under construction, however, for funds are not yet sufficient to carry out the plans as speedily as expected. It is hoped that the first patients will be accepted next spring.

In the meantime, Miss Weist is working at St. Thomas's Hospital as clinical instructor, teaching at the patients' bedsides or in the ward. Last year, she went to America for a two-month study course on a World Health Organisation grant. She visited health centres and hospitals for the chronically sick and studied their methods. Originally, Miss Weist was trained at King's College Hospital in 1942, followed by midwifery and private nursing. At the Royal Waterloo Hospital, she served for twelve years as staff nurse, night sister and ward sister. It was in 1961 that she joined Lambeth Hospital as an Assistant Matron.

When she takes up her activities at St. Christopher's, it will be as nursing teacher and research worker. We wish her every success in her devoted and exacting work for the benefit of many deserving men and women.

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OUR NEXT ISSUE

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 14th October. We shall be glad to receive reports and articles not later than Wednesday, 5th October. Short news items only can be accepted later.