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LADIES' CIRCLE OF THE GERMAN-SPEAKING SWISS CHURCH

Instead of the usual monthly meeting at the Eglise Suisse, the "Frauenverein" held a luncheon at the Swiss Hostel for Girls on 1st February. It was to bid farewell to three members, Mrs. F. Burgunder, Mrs. R. Friedrich and Mrs. W. Koch. It was also to thank especially Mrs. Burgunder who, for many years, has been not only a faithful friend to all, but with her knitting machine probably the most hardworking member of our Circle.

It was a sad occasion, but was it due to the spring-like weather, the pleasant Swiss atmosphere of the Hostel, the bowls of pretty flowers on the table or the lunch ending with coffee and a real Swiss "Crème-Schnitte", that the mood was happy and the conversation animated? Our President, Mrs. R. Senn, had to ring the bell twice in order to command silence. In her short speech, she welcomed all the members, especially Madame de Fischer, and three ladies who were with us for the first time. She said how sorry we all were to lose Mrs. Burgunder to Los Angeles, Mrs. Koch to Washington and also Mrs. Friedrich who is returning to Switzerland. She then thanked Mrs. Burgunder for all she had done for the "Frauenverein" and presented her with a writing set of pen and pencil from all of us. Mrs. Senn read a letter from Mrs. W. B. Sigerist, a former President, who now has retired to the shores of Lake Geneva.

In her turn, Mrs. Burgunder, thanked the members for the lovely and useful gift and promised to write to us with it. She would be with us in thought every first Tuesday of the month. She then handed our Treasurer quite a few pounds, shillings and pence, which she made from selling her indoor plants, home-made jam and other bits and pieces she cannot take to America.

To everybody's surprise, Mrs. H. Weber then expressed her feelings with a poem. She spoke for all of us when she said our hearts were heavy now that we had to say good-bye to Dori Burgunder, but that we were fortunate in having her as a friend.

Our best wishes for a happy future go to her, as well as to Mrs. Friedrich and Mrs. Koch. Let us hope that it will be "au revoir"!

B.K.

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ZUM ABSCHIED VON FRITZ & DORI BURGUNDER

Leider Gottes ist es so weit,
Die lieben Leutchen sind zur Reise bereit!
Es geht übers Wasser ins fremde Land,
Los Angeles ist beiden noch unbekannt.
Sie müssen nun dort wieder Wurzel fassen
Und die alten Freunde hier verlassen.
S'ist schade, wir verbrachten viel frohe Stunden;
Drum sei ihnen hier ein Kränzlein gewunden. —
Voll Dank für die Freundschaft während acht Jahren.
Wir durften viel Gutes und Liebes erfahren.
Man kann ja gar nicht alles beschreiben;
Es gehört ein "Vergelts Gott" diesen Beiden.
Die Parties, die sie gaben, nicht zu vergessen;
Denn die Gastgeber verstanden etwas vom Essen.
Es war jedesmal ein herrlicher Schmaus
Man fühlt sich bei ihnen grad wie zu Haus.
Wir durften sogar fröhlich lachen
Und hie und da ein Witzchen machen.
Ein guter Tropfen, ein Gläschen Wein
Bekam man dazu, zum fröhlich sein.
Fritz war immer da mit Rat und Tat,
Dori hat gestrickt auf dem Strickapparat.
Viel musste sie ihre Freizeit spenden,
Um zu lismen die wollenen rosa Hemden.
Wir alle werden Euch beide vermissen,
Nicht wegen den "Kirschtorten", den süssen —
Nein — als Menschen von besonderem Schlag,
Als Schweizer und liebe Landesgenossen
Haben wir mit ihnen Freundschaft geschlossen.
Habt nochmals Dank für Alles. Gottes Segen
Sei mit Euch auf all Euren Wegen.
Wenn alles gut geht und es dem Government passt,
Wird später vielleicht der Entschluss gefasst,
Euch zurück zu bringen in unsern Kreis,
So wollen wir hoffen, auf ein Wiedersehen, wer weiss?

LISEL WEBER.

1. Februar 1966.

BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

It has been the custom to write up special birthdays after seventy in the columns of the "Swiss Observer" (70, 75, 80, etc.). Unfortunately, so often recently, friends have left us for ever just before they were due for a special mention. We shall, therefore, publish once a month, birthdays of personalities in the Swiss community in the United Kingdom. The Editor will be grateful for any information regarding birthdays of 60 and over or of special anniversaries like Silver or Golden Weddings or other outstanding events. The special milestones will be written up as hitherto.

1st March: Mr. F. G. Sommer (74); 17th March: Dr. H. W. Egli; 22nd March: Mr. A. F. Suter (84). We extend our best wishes to our friends and any others whose birthdays are not known to us. Many happy returns!

OUR NEXT ISSUE

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 11th March. We shall be glad to receive reports and articles not later than 2nd March. Short news items only can be accepted after that date.