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PIERRE KELLER

All those who have had the pleasure of meeting Pierre, the son of our Ambassador and Madame René Keller, and who know of his physical handicap, will no doubt be thrilled and delighted to learn that he has passed the first part of the "Licence en droit" examinations at Geneva University with high marks. Here, if ever there was one, is a case of a triumph of the mind over an afflicted body, which

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should give Pierre an enormous moral uplift and all those who are fond of him cause for satisfaction.

To have, as much as possible, disregarded his physical infirmity and concentrated on his law studies with such obvious success is no mean achievement in will power for which he deserves to be congratulated. Soon—for the Swiss Colony in Great Britain far too soon—Pierre will have his parents near him in Switzerland. For him this will, no doubt, be a great comfort. But he should know that he still has many friends in London who wish him well, Swiss and British, and amongst the latter in the forefront the Embassy Chaffeur, Mr. Wilson, who used to escort him with infinite fatherly care and affection.

Gottfried Keller.

BIRTHDAYS

The following readers will celebrate their birthdays before the next issue is published: Mrs. Scheuermeier will be 81 on Christmas Eve, and Mr. E. C. Schmid 76 on the last day of the year. Mr. Willy Renz will be 72 and Mr. Carl Nater 62 on 2nd January, whilst Mr. Joe Christen of Oberwil/Zug will celebrate his 82nd birthday on 3rd January. Mr. E. P. Locher will be 77 on 4th and Mr. Armin Baenziger 76 on 7th January. Mrs. L. Meyer née Tisset will have her birthday on 10th and Mrs. L. Moehr on 12th January. Finally, Mr. C. A. Fuchs will be 78 on December 26th.

Best wishes and many happy returns!

THE SWISS Y.M.C.A. IS MOVING

On 1st January, 1971, the Swiss YMCA is moving house. The change of address will be temporary. Our new home for the next three years will be 83 Endell Street, the new Central YMCA Building, and next door to our Swiss Church. The building in Great Russell Street, which we know as the Central YMCA Building is closing its doors at the end of this year.

The Board of the London Central Young Men's Christian Associations (one of which is the Swiss YMCA) has been seriously considering plans for a new building for a long time.

In order to qualify for Government grants which can be obtained towards the cost of residential accommodation, it is necessary to start rebuilding before March 1971, and consequently a decision has been taken to proceed immediately. This opportunity which is too good to be missed means the evacuation of the present Central YMCA Building by the end of 1970. Many readers have happy memories of hours spent in CENTYMCA.

The reopening of the new Central YMCA Building at Great Russell Street is scheduled for summer 1973.

In the meantime, the Swiss YMCA will share all the sports facilities at 83 Endell Street, with our friends of the English Y, for the keen swimmers the Oasis Swimming Pool has been specially hired for the members of the Central YMCA on Monday and Thursday evenings.

Our meeting which is held on Thursday evenings starts at 6.30 and finishes at 8 o'clock, followed by a dip in the pool across the road. We trust that many young Swiss coming to London in the next three years will share our new home and take part in our motto "To look after our Body, Mind and Spirit".

GORDON

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to thank most sincerely all readers and supporters who have sent us donations and who have been subscribing for other people. In particular we would like to acknowledge the very generous response by many readers to our Appeal in the last issue. Our thanks go to Mr. O. Braga, Mrs. J. Weller, Mr. J. P. Bovet, Mr. R. D. Hallam, Mr. O. Schoenholzer, Mr. J. W. Bonjour, Mr. L. Moehr, Mr. L. S. R. Asch, Mr. Th. Dudli, Mr. E. Baenziger, Mr. H. Bronniman, Mrs. G. C. Coulson, Miss O. Meuwly, Mr. and Mrs. W. Flory, Mr. R. Duruz, Mr. R. W. Bosshard, Mr. H. Walti, Mr. N. H. Leunzinger, Mr. L. Schaer, Mr. W. A. de Vigier, Mrs. D. Payne, Mr. C. A. Aeschmann, Mrs. L. Themans, Mr. E. Schaer, Mr. X. Speckert, Mrs. H. A. Clarke and Mr. P. Buchler. We should also express our gratitude to the anonymous donors who have given us support and, naturally, to the many who are presenting their Christmas Greetings in this Christmas issue.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

Wanted English au pair girl,
over 20, well educated and possessing driving licence.

Village in the country, 20 minutes from Lausanne. Opportunity to learn French, cooking and ski-ing.
Please apply to Box No. 2.

Australian Gentleman, 40 to 50 age group, would like Swiss female pen friend interested in sports and travel.

Please reply to Mr. F. Cox,
19 Glen Avenue, Ashford, Middlesex.

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of my dear husband,
Frank Seitz, passed away on
26th December, 1964. Kathleen.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES OF THE SWISS CHURCHES

Swiss Catholic Mission

There will be an Ecumenical Service on Christmas Eve at St. Ann's at 6.30 p.m. This will be followed by a Christmas Dinner in the Westminster Ballroom. At 11 p.m. Heinrich Schutz's "Oratorio" will be performed at St. Ann's. This will be succeeded by a Midnight Mass and the day will end with a friendly tea.

On Sunday 27th, Holy Mass will be celebrated at St. Ann's at 3 p.m. This will be followed by a Children's Christmas Party. Dancing at the Westminster Ballroom from 8 p.m. onward.

Eglise Suisse

The Annual Dinner of the Doyens of the Parish will take place on Saturday, 5th December at 5.30 p.m. The Christmas Tree celebration of the joint Swiss Church and French Reformed Church of Soho Square as from 3 p.m. The Christmas Tree celebration of the French-speaking Swiss parish will take place on the following Sunday at Endell Street, starting at 3 p.m. On Christmas Day there will be a service at 11.15 a.m. followed by Holy Communion. On Saturday, 2nd January, the children of the Colony enjoy their annual party at St. Mary's Hall, YWCA, Gt. Russell Street, at 2 p.m. A special dinner is foreseen for the Youth Club on Christmas Eve. The young Swiss exiles can spend Boxing Day at the Presbytery (address given overleaf) from 4 p.m. onward.

German-speaking parish

The series of Christmas events begins with a Family Service at Seven Oaks, on 17th December, 4 p.m. A second Family Service will take place at Endell Street on Sunday, 20th December, at 4 p.m. On Christmas Eve at 6.30 p.m. an Ecumenical Service will be held jointly with the Catholics at St. Ann's. Christmas Day, 10 a.m., Service and Holy Communion. No service on the morning of Sunday, 27th, but evening service at St. Ann's. Finally, an Ecumenical Service will be celebrated at St. Ann's on 31st December at 6.30 p.m.