

# News from the colony

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# NEWS FROM THE COLONY

## THE N.H.S. IN JANUARY

The first of two successful film evenings organised by the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique was held on 13th January. By courtesy of the "Pro Helvetia" Foundation, a full-length film "Romeo und Julia auf dem Dorfe" was shown, based on the well-known story by the Swiss writer Gottfried Keller. It was a black and white film and not in the most excellent of conditions. Nevertheless, it was most enjoyable. The acting by well-established Swiss actors and actresses was typical and natural, and the *Schwyzertütsch* was of the unadulterated and authentic kind. Sub-titles in French made it easier for those members and friends whose knowledge of dialect is not too good.

As usual, supper was served for members at the Hostel, and the film show afterwards filled the best part of the evening.

The second evening was devoted to the mountain, masterfully presented to us by Hr. Denis Bertholet, a mountain guide from Verbier. His first film made us journey with him on a fantastic 1,000 km trip from Innsbruck to Grenoble, the two Olympic cities. Mr. Bertholet and his three companions walked on their skis for a whole month and lived through some rather gruelling adventures. In a second film, we chipped our way up an absolutely vertical and vertiginous peak in the company of two specialists. The third film initiated us with mountain schools and their methods. Mr. Bertholet assured us that provided he was in good physical shape, a man could start to learn rock-climbing past the age of 65. A wonderful post-retirement suggestion!

## A NEW CULTURAL ATTACHE

We have the pleasure of welcoming a newcomer in the Colony in the person of Dr. Franz Birrer, who succeeds Dr. Paul Stauffer as Cultural Attaché to the Swiss Embassy. He is a citizen of Entlebuch (Lu) and was born there in 1932. He received his primary education at Entlebuch and attended college at Disentis, in the Grisons. He is a graduate in economic and social sciences, a doctor in law from the University of Fribourg and was called to the bar in Lucerne. He entered the Political Department in Berne in 1961, trained there and in Geneva for a year before being sent to Paris as a member of the permanent Swiss delegation to the OECD, where he stayed up to September 1966. He returned to Berne and was active in the Section for Political Studies of the Political Affairs Division. He was transferred to the Swiss Embassy in London last January. He is married and has three children. We

wish him a very happy stay in this great city of London.

(PMB)

## A SWISS NOVEL PUBLISHED IN ENGLAND

Dr. Birrer's first reception at the Embassy was given to mark the translation and publication in English of Hugo Loetscher's "Noah" (Peter Owen Ltd., London). The book is a brilliant satire on the folly and materialism of an affluent society, conceived in the satirical tradition of Rabelais, Swift and Orwell. In fact, "Noah" depicts the malaise of Western society as incisively as Orwell interpreted communist authoritarianism in "Animal Farm". The author, Hugo Loetscher, was present at the reception. He is a short, vivacious man of 41. "Noah" was his third novel. He has written plays, worked for TV and radio, travelled extensively in South America, and was the former literary editor of "Du". He has received the Charles Veillon and Conrad Ferdinand Meyer Prizes in 1966 and 1964 respectively. In the course of our short conversation, he told me that he believed there was a tremendous surge of artistic creativity in German-speaking Switzerland, that society and outlook to life was changing there as fast as anywhere else. He has been the guest of the past N.H.S. meeting.

(PMB)

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Due to a mishap, two birthdays and an anniversary were not published in our last issue. We apologise to our friends and give the dates hereby; our congratulations are none the less sincere:

Mr. and Mrs. J. Eusebio, 66 Greenways, Hinchley Wood, Esher, Surrey, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on 27th January.

On 20th February, Mrs. E. Jamieson, of 9 Mowbray Road, N.W.6, celebrated her 70th birthday. We wish her many happy returns of the day and the best of health for the future.

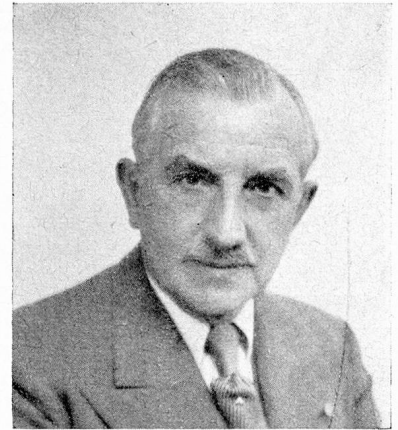
The former Swiss Ambassador in London, Dr. Armin Daeniker, was 72 on 24th February.

The following subscribers will be celebrating their birthdays during the coming fortnight: Mr. F. G. Sommer will be 78 on 1st and Mr. E. Hardmeier 82 on 3rd of March. There are two birthdays on 9th March, those of Mrs. L. Gradmann (72) and Mr. R. A. Marchand, Berne (78). On 15th March, Mr. F. Conrad will be 74, and on 17th, Mr. R. Chappuis will be 74 and Dr. H. W. Egli 71. Mr. F. Gerber won't be able to celebrate a real birthday this year—he

was born on 29th February 1892, but we congratulate him, too.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Boog will be celebrating their 53rd wedding anniversary on 1st March.

To all of them as well as any other readers who will be having birthdays and celebrations, many happy returns!



CARLO CHAPUIS ✠

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Charles Léon (Carlo) Chapuis, of "Ya Mieux", 3 Broomhills Road, West Mersea, Essex. He had been ailing for some time and he died suddenly, but peacefully, on 19th January in his 89th year.

Born in Lausanne on 24th September 1881, young Carlo, an orphan, came to England at the age of 10 with his brother Louis in December 1891. When he left school four years later, he started his business career in the firm of his uncle H. Comoy, pioneer of the Briar Pipe Industry in England. By hard work, he rose to the top and became a Director of that firm of which his late brother Louis was Chairman and Managing Director.

Carlo has always taken a great interest in the work of the Swiss community. He served on many committees where his wise counsel was much appreciated. In 1911 he joined the City Swiss Club of which he was President in 1930. Three years earlier he had joined the Swiss Mercantile Society where he rendered valuable services in various capacities, and he was elected an Honorary Member in 1918, a distinction well deserved.

He was also a member of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and did valuable work as President of the Fête Suisse.

Mr. Chapuis was an ardent Freemason and Past Master of the Helvetica Lodge, and he was a founder member of the Finsbury Rotary Club.

He also gave his services freely to a number of British organisations, such as the National Savings Movement, Air Training Corps Committee and the