

A tour at Geigy's

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1970)**

Heft 1590

PDF erstellt am: **22.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687174>

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ceuticals plant was located.

The weather was misty and dreary. It was hard to appreciate the beauty of the Manchester surroundings. We passed in front of the toxicology division, a converted mansion in which toxicological tests on products are carried out on behalf of the company's pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals divisions the road winds up Edge Hill, a famed beauty spot overlooking the whole of the Cheshire plain. Unfortunately, low clouds prevented us from having any view and a blanket of snow gave a bleak aspect to the landscape.

We arrived at the Pharmaceuticals Division, probably the most modern and functional plant in the Northern Midlands. ICI Pharmaceuticals are only three hundred yards away but the plant although modern as well, appeared less attractive due to a difference in architectural concept. The Geigy plant is all glass and concrete and designed with Swiss ideas. The leading architect came from Basle. British minds also contributed to the erection of the ultra-modern plant which received a Civic Trust Award in 1965 and 1968. The estate has three spaced-out buildings: a gleaming administrative block, a glass-panelled refectory and the production building. 560 people are employed at the Hurdsfield Estate.

Time was running short and we had to turn back towards Manchester. The small glimpse I had of Geigy U.K. was enough to convince me of the strength of Swiss capital in this country. (PMB)

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the passing away on February 25th of Mr. Erwin Fankhauser at the age of 84. He had been ill for two or three years. Mr. Fankhauser came to this country in 1907 and was employed in the City export firm of Arnhold and Co. In sixty years of stay in England he had never considered becoming a British citizen, but had however chosen to remain in this country for his retirement. He was at one time a regular attendant at the City Swiss Club's gatherings. We extend our most sincere sympathy to his bereaved family.

(PMB)

ECUMENICAL SERVICES OF THE SWISS CHURCHES

It seems that the short notice about the ecumenical services in the Swiss Observer of 13th March 1970, page 16, has given rise to a misunderstanding and both representatives of the Catholic and the Protestant Swiss Church wish to state clearly that we do not have intercommunion. We think that the time is not yet ripe for that and the authorities of both churches neither encourage nor permit it at present. But we wish to make our members familiar with the prayer and the sacraments of both churches, in order to foster a deeper understanding and respect for each others' cult and to prepare the way for a possible unity in faith. The latter, as we understand, is not our doing, but is the work of Christ and his Holy Spirit.

Rev. M. Dietler
Fr. P. Bossard

SWISS HOSTEL FOR GIRLS

It was an exhausting hot day in mid-June 1966 when Miss Heidi Siegrist took over from Miss Preiswerk the heavy burden of being Warden of the Swiss Hostel for Girls. She left London this Easter week on a cold morning, her travelling bag filled with souvenirs of enjoyable experiences and also with memories filling her heart with sorrow. For how many young girls has she not been a mother, friend, guardian and counsellor? Not even Miss Siegrist knows, but she remembers most of them. For how many of our readers has she not been hostess at the functions of the NSH and those of the Unione Ticinese? All will remember her friendly welcome and her ever-smiling greeting. The Council of Management of the Hostel loses a competent Warden who managed all her duties so confidently and to the satisfaction of all, lodgers and employer as well. For four years Miss Siegrist worked hand in hand with all the Swiss institutions of London and all those who knew her wish her all the best for her personal and professional future in Zug.

The Hostel has once again a new Warden, Mrs. Margrit Brunold. She came to London from Brugg in October 1969 and little did she know then that her destiny would lead her to the

Hostel. But we are all confident that she too will tackle this none too easy task with tact and competence. This worthwhile duty for the benefit of so many young and unexperienced girls can only be compensated with the satisfaction of having given them a home away from home and to have helped them with the first steps in a foreign and strange environment. All our best wishes go to Mrs. Brunold for a happy Wardenship at the Hostel.

(FB)

INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The Swiss Observer Advisory Council and the Publisher very much regret having to advise readers that, due to increased costs in postages, paper and printing costs etc., an increase in Subscription Rates is now inevitable.

During the last 19 years of publication there has been only one increase in the Subscription Rate and this took effect in January 1962 when the current rate was established. In the past eight years there have been innumerable increases in postages and other costs of production which have been borne by the Publisher thanks to the generous additional support of many of our readers.

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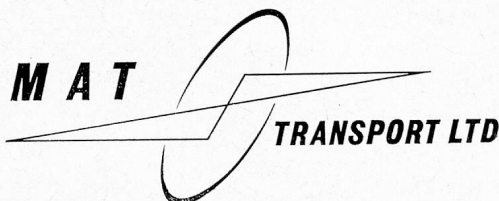
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