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DR BIRCHER IS 80

On 22 October, Dr E. M. Bircher, of "Casa Bianca", Via San Nicolao, CH 6816 Bissone, Ticino, will celebrate his 80th birthday.

He was born in Zurich in 1895, a citizen of Kuettingen and Zurich. He followed in his father's footsteps and studied law at the universities of Zurich and Berne. He gained his doctorate in 1919 and qualified as practising lawyer a few months later. For 10 years he was established in London as Consultant on Swiss law and then left for Canada, where he spent seven years with various companies. At the beginning of 1937, he returned to London and joined an English firm of lawyers.

At the outbreak of war in 1939, Dr Bircher joined the Special Division of the then Swiss Legation in Duke Street. In 1946 he became a permanent member of the diplomatic staff at Montagu Place and 10 years later he was appointed Press and Cultural Counsellor, a position he held with great distinction. His vast knowledge of this country and its people made him an invaluable liaison officer. He helped greatly to strengthen the Swiss image, and Anglo-Swiss relations were very important to him. He also took a likely interest in the affairs of the Swiss community and actively supported several societies.

On 1 October 1927, he married Miss Constance Nanton whom he had met at Pontresina. She was the daughter of Sir Augustus and Lady Nanton, Director of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and Chairman of the Hudson Bay Company in Canada. It was an extremely happy marriage, and it was a tragic day for Ernst Bircher and his four children when Constance Bircher died in 1952 after a long illness. But Ernst bore his grief with courage and devoted himself even more to his work – if that was indeed possible. When he retired from his

post, he remained in the service of the Confederation.

In 1967 he retired and decided to go to Switzerland. His many friends rejoiced that he went back there with his new wife, Mrs Eveline Caldecott, whom he had married in June that year.

Since his return to Switzerland, Ernst has had a rather quiet life for one who had been such a keen sportsman and traveller. But he has been able to devote time to his many other interests. His wife, his children, grandchildren and many friends all over the world will want to congratulate him on his 80th birthday, wish him many happy returns of the day and the best of health and well-being.

MM



Dr E. M. Bircher, who will celebrate his 80th birthday next month. (See text.)

WHO'S A LUCKY GIRL?

North London student Alison Bold has won a holiday for two in Switzerland – first prize in Britain's first national Swiss cheese recipe contest.

Alison's recipe was tested by TV cookery stars Fanny & Johnnie Cradock – and judged the best of all the entries.

Alison (18) attended a special reception at the Waldorf Hotel, Aldwych, to meet Fanny and Johnnie Cradock and receive her prize.

She was presented with a £240 holiday voucher entitling her to a week's holiday for two in Switzerland, and a Swiss cheese fondue set.

The competition, designed to encourage cookery students to develop their creative talents, was organised by the Swiss Cheese Union, which represents the interests of cheese manufacturers in Switzerland.

It was open to home economics students throughout Britain, and entrants had to devise a recipe using genuine Swiss Emmental or Gruyère.

Alison lives at 95 Philip Lane, Tottenham N15, and is a first-year student at the North London Polytechnic in Holloway Road N7.

It was there that she devised her recipe, "Après Ski Savoury Bake", a dish of spaghetti in a savoury Swiss cheese sauce.

After receiving her prize, Alison said: "It's fantastic. I can't wait to get to Switzerland and I'm delighted to have done so well."



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