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Modesty really must go by the board at 90!

WILLIAM Bernard Sigerist, of Appt 23, rue de Chillon 1, 1842 Territet-Montreux, will be 90 on September 23. When he was 80 he would not let us write up his birthday, and his modesty allowed but a mention in the birthday column.

Now that he has reached the venerable age of 90 we refrained from asking for his permission, and we have taken it upon ourselves to give him a special mention.

Bernard Sigerist spent more than 50 years in London as a successful businessman. He was also closely connected with the Swiss community and member of many societies and the Swiss Church.

Some of us remember him in the costume of an old Swiss mercenary reading the Swiss Pact at First of August celebrations of years gone by.

At the outbreak of the war, he, as an officer, was in charge of the contingent of Swiss returning home to do service in the Swiss Army.

Philosopher

He and his wife Bea, whose 90th birthday was mentioned in the Swiss Observer in March, 1979, retired to Switzerland 16 years ago, but they have kept in touch with their friends in Britain. Any letter received from Bernard is always a special treat, for he is not only a loyal friend, a knowledgeable and cultured man, but also something of a philosopher.

His wonderful attitude to life with all its great, yet also difficult, times has given him strength to look after his ailing wife. They celebrated their diamond wedding last January.

We do remember you with great respect and affection, dear Bernard, and send you warm congratulations and sincere wishes on the great day. God bless you both!

Mariann Meier

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Picking

OF the seven Swiss universities, three are located in the German-speaking part of the country, where the lectures are in German. Three are located in the French-speaking part of the country, where the lectures are given in French. The Catholic University of Fribourg is bi-lingual, French and German being the languages of instruction.

Other establishments of higher learning include two technical schools of university level – the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich and Lausanne, as well as the Swiss School of Economics and Public Administration in St. Gall (German speaking).

The universities are divided into faculties, sometimes including special schools or institutes. There are also institutes annexed to universities as autonomous departments.

The academic year consists of two semesters (terms). The winter semester lasts from about the middle of October to the beginning of March; the summer term from the middle of April to the middle of July.

Swiss universities do not provide room and board. Arrangements for these facilities must be made in boarding-houses, student hostels or with private families as paying guests. A list of available accommodation suitable for students can be consulted at the secretariat of the university or at the local Official Enquiry Office.

The Swiss National Tourist Office in London regularly issues a list entitled "Lodgings for students at University Cities in Switzerland" which will be sent on request.

Information and enrolment should be obtained from the particular institution at which a student wishes to attend. The Central Office of the Swiss Universities, Gloriasstrasse 59, 8044 Zurich, Switzerland, will provide particulars of the Swiss Universities as a whole, conditions of entrance, study, exchange of students, equivalents of diplomas or certificates, scholarships, planning of courses and information on accommodation.

A few scholarships are open to British subjects at the Universities of Geneva, Lausanne and Neuchâtel.

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