

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

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1941)

Heft: 986

Rubrik: Personal

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The annual report of the Swiss Mercantile Society has just left the Printers and will be distributed amongst Members and friends during the next few days.

The Council and Committee are anxious to enlist more new members into the ranks of the S.M.S. and will gladly send the annual report and an application form to interested and suitable candidates.

The advantages and benefits offered by the Swiss Mercantile Society's membership are manifold and may be summarised as follows: — Full membership and advantages of the Schweizerische Kaufmännische Verein (Société Suisse des Commerçants) organisation with its Membership of over 40,000 in Switzerland; Old Age and Invalidity insurance; Reduced fees for Evening Classes and Employment Department charges; Affiliation to other Swiss Clubs and Societies in London; Philatelic Section with opportunity to exchange Stamps; Friendship and Comradeship with Compatriots of all parts of Switzerland and in all Trades, etc. Application and Enquiries addressed to the Secretary, Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd., 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, will be immediately attended to.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 5th, at 2.30 p.m., at Swiss House and not on the 2nd Saturday of the month as usual. Members and friends please note.

PERSONAL.

A once well-known figure in Birmingham social life disappeared with the death of Mr. Ferd. Othmar Egger, who passed away on February 20th at the age of ninety. At an early age he emigrated from Switzerland and settled down in that great city; his inborn love of gymnastics steeled by a magnificent physique earned him a leading position in local athletic circles. The late Mr. Egger was a prominent chess player and one of the champions of the county; he has been several times president of the Birmingham Chess Club of which he has been an active and prominent member for sixty years.

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It is also with regret that we hear of the passing away of Mr. Louis Marchand at his home in Bienne. The deceased was a frequent visitor to London and attended many functions in our Colony; he shares the popularity enjoyed by his brother René Marchand.

* * *

Frau Fanny Dürst-Kuhn, the mother of Mrs. W. B. Sigerist, died at her home in St. Gall on the 14th inst.; she stayed in our Colony on several occasions and will be remembered by a good number of lady members.

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The Colony will be pleased to hear that Mr. Louis Chapuis, laid up a few weeks ago as a result of a bad accident, has now been able to resume his activities and a warm welcome is sure to be awaiting him at the meeting of the City Swiss Club of which he is the President.

* * *

Mr. Max Piaget, who has been laid up for some time at his residence at 2, Wood Hall Road, Balsham (Cambr.) is making good progress, and his colleagues in the Cercle Genevois are anxious to send him best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

Frau L. Elmer who has so successfully managed the Hotel Foyer Suisse until its forced abandonment has opened a small private hotel at 49, Putney Hill, S. W. 15 (Tel: Putney 2577). It is a modern house surrounded by a beautiful garden with garage and air-raid shelter.

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Being demobilised from the Swiss army Mr. H. Bally has been appointed Manager of the renowned "Compleat Angler Hotel," Marlow; Mr. Bally has been for thirteen years at the famous Boulestin Restaurant and has had a wide experience in first-class London hotels.

* * *

"Swiss Restaurant and Café" is now the name of the former Hampshire Court Restaurant in Bournemouth owned by our compatriot, Mr. William Allenspach.

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Undaunted by the "unpaid bill" left by an aerial visitor Mr. C. Filliez has soon found ways and means to fill in the gap thus created in our Colony. He has now re-opened his cosy restaurant at 45, Frith Street, Soho, W.1, where his many friends will find the usual personal service and "grande cuisine."

* * *

"I am quite proud of him" is what our old friend Max Gerig (address: Llysdulas, Dulas, Anglesey, N.W.) writes after his son Tony had visited him in his new uniform. Young Gerig has now got his commission in the Royal Fusiliers — another of the many British-born Swiss keen to do his bit for the country adopted by their fathers.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

It is our intention to publish our next number on April 25th. At the same time we wish to stress our previous reminder that no copies can be posted unless they are prepaid; a few subscriptions are falling due with the present issue and should be renewed without delay.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.

We wish on behalf of the Swiss Colony to associate ourselves most fervently with the national spiritual manifestation of the great people whose hospitality we so abundantly enjoy.

The Church service both at Endell Street, W.C.2, and at Gresham Street, E.C.2, will include a reference to this national sentiment next Sunday.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, April 5th, at 2.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Monthly Meeting — Philatelic Group Meeting — at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, April 19th, at 12.45 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Annual General Meeting — at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street (near Green Park Station).

Saturday, April 26, at 1.30 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting — followed by an address by Mr. G. J. Keller, on "Comments on current events" at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.