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gold. The Swiss franc banknote is considered safe because almost fully covered in gold. As long as the finances of Switzerland remain sound, no great part of these hoarded notes is likely to come back into circulation. On monetary grounds, there is no visible danger of inflation in Switzerland at present.

As Switzerland lives by processing imported raw materials and as normally more than 60 per cent. of her food supply must be imported, higher prices in other countries must ultimately result in higher prices in Switzerland. Nothing the Swiss Government can do will be able to prevent that. Taking prices in 1939 as 100, the index of home-produced commodities rose to 191.0 at the end of December, 1950, while that of imported goods was 259.3, the index for all kinds of goods together being 218.1. One might, therefore, say that Switzerland suffers from "imported inflation." But she has no inflation of her own. Experts agree that the rise of prices due to rearmament is likely to be only a fraction of that caused by World War II, and will reach a ceiling as expenditure on rearmament in Western countries becomes stabilised.

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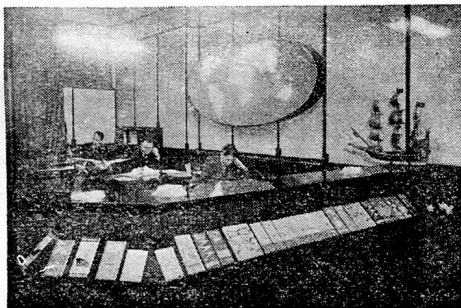
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Mrs. M. MEIER.
(MARIANN.)

Having previously expressed in these columns my sincere appreciation to some of my faithful collaborators for the help they have given me so unstintingly for many years, I wish, to-day to offer sincere thanks to the only regular lady collaborator of our paper, namely Mrs. M. Meier, who for the last 19 years has regularly written articles under the *nom de plume* of "Mariann".

In these she has very efficiently dealt with a number of subjects some of which were closely connected with the life of our Colony; at times she has been very outspoken, especially when dealing with the lack of interest shown by so many of our compatriots in the work of a number of Swiss Societies in this country, a work which has been instrumental in

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enhancing the good name and reputation Switzerland enjoys in this country. Ladies, generally have the privilege of saying things, which a mere man, or *f.i.* an Editor, would hardly dare to put in writing, without getting into trouble. Mariann, has taken full advantage of this privilege, without, so far, having caused me any undue anxieties.

* * *

Mariann Meier, née Gysin, was born in Liestal on the 10th of August, 1914, and is, and has remained, an ardent "Basellandschäftlerin". She received her education in Basle at the "Mädchengymnasium" and later on at the "Institut Morave" at Montmirail, nr. Neuchâtel.

After having spent several months in Italy, and a year in England to perfect herself in the respective languages, she returned to Basle, where she followed language courses in English, French and Italian at the University of that town; at the same time she was attending the "Frauenarbeitsschule" where she was taught such useful subjects, as cooking, housewifery, embroidery, sewing, dressmaking, etc. Besides this, she took a keen interest in gymnastics and athletics such as swimming, tennis and skiing.

Art and Music was not neglected, Mariann took piano and singing lessons and became a member of the well-known Sterk'schen "Privatchor"; together with her brother and sister she played, in the intimate family circle various instruments (piano, lute and accordion).

During her stay in England, she had made the acquaintance of Mr. Walter Meier, at the Annual Banquet and Ball of the City Swiss Club at the Mayfair Hotel in 1932 and it was on this occasion that the writer first met her and encouraged her to become a collaborator of the "Swiss Observer."

At the age of 20, the romance which began at the Mayfair Hotel, was sealed by marriage and Mariann has ever since lived happily in this great Metropolis. This marriage has been blessed with four children. (Heidi, 14; Peter, 9; Erika, 6 and Pauline, 3).

From the very beginning she had been anxious to bring up her children as Swiss, our native language being spoken at home, whilst she also taught them English, German and Swiss history and Swiss customs and folklore.

In the sphere of literature, Mariann has also made her mark, she has recently written a book

entitled "The Young Traveller in Switzerland", published by Phoenix House, Ltd., 38, William IV Street, W.C.2, and reviewed in these columns (issue No. 1138 of June 30th, 1950) by the writer, this book has been favourably commented upon in the Daily Press, and is a valuable guide to young and old alike.

Her manifold activities have extended to various circles. Since 1937, Mariann has represented our country in the "Associated Countrywoman of the World" on their executive committee in London; she is, furthermore, Chairman of the Ladies Group of the Swiss Mercantile Society, of the latter, her husband, Mr. W. Meier, is the President, in addition she is a member of the "Nähverein" of the Swiss Church, the "Nouvelle Société Helvétique" and the Anglo-Swiss Society.

* * *

This goes to prove, that my collaborator is, far from leading an idle life; she manages, in fact to do a great deal of useful and progressive work in different spheres, and that she should find time to devote a part of her activities to our paper, is greatly appreciated, and I am indeed greatly indebted to her for her valuable help and collaboration which I hope I shall enjoy for many more years to come.

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