

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: - (1956)

Heft: 1265

Artikel: A home for the swiss abroad in Duerrenaesch, Aargau

Autor: [s.n.]

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-686480>

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SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER.

Children's Christmas Party.

At The Midland Hotel on Saturday, December 17th, the Manchester Swiss Club held their annual Children's Christmas party. And what a party? The menu for tea was a child's delight: sandwiches of many hues, jellies, blanc-mange, trifle, ice-cream, mouth-watering cakes and of course the seasonal mince-pies. Towards the end of the Tea the President, Mr. H. Monney, decided to explain to the children the meaning of Christmas. After a futile attempt to get them together he produced several boxes of crackers and almost in a flash was overwhelmed by eager clamouring children. Only after telling in a simple way the story of Nativity did he let them have the crackers. Then we trooped to an adjoining room to the Christmas Tree. How lovely it looked standing in the middle of the room with its lighted candles sending a soft glow all around. In the midst of the excited chatter came a loud knock on the door and lo and behold there stood Father Christmas himself carrying his traditional sack. Soon he was surrounded by most of the children, whilst the tiny tots could only stand and gaze with enchanted eyes at seeing their dream come true. Now the children, either singly, in duets and even as a quintet, entertained us with songs. We even had a piccolo duet rendered by the brother and sister Voegeli. To every child Father Christmas gave a large bag of sweets. All too soon it was time for him to leave, so we said "au revoir" Father Christmas till 1956 and many thanks for dropping in. Each child received also a Christmas parcel, distributed by two of the ladies. Can any of us forget the look of anticipation and the ecstatic joy on the children's faces as they opened their presents. The floor was literally covered with children playing with their toys. After a short hour of party games, musical chairs and such, balloons were handed round then pandemonium started. I left immensely impressed by all I had seen. Every smile, every squeal of delight must have sent a warm glow into the hearts of the organizers. My thanks go to the Swiss Club for a very delightful afternoon. I feel happier from meeting you and as a humble and very ordinary Mancunian I feel our City is privileged by having you in our midst.

H.H.

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A HOME FOR THE SWISS ABROAD IN DUERRENAESCH, AARGAU.

For a year or two now a very pleasant "Home" for the Swiss abroad has been open at Dürrenäsch (Aargau) near the Hallwiler-See. It offers a tranquil retreat for those who would like to spend a quiet holiday at a very small cost or even at no cost at all. The normal full-board charge is Fr.3.50 — Fr.5.00 per day on condition that in return a helping hand is lent by the boarder in the kitchen, garden, workshop, in the fields or in the forest attached to the property. Those not able to pay anything at all need only work a little more to make themselves as welcome as anyone else, with plenty of free time to spare. Children below 15 are unfortunately in general not admitted, but for all other ages it seems to be an ideal place for longer or shorter holidays, to recuperate, to breath some clean Swiss air, even for those wishing to look for employment in the home-country and to choose at their leisure — without the fear of running up heavy hotel bills.

The Home is open winter and summer. It is situated on the ridge between the Wynental and the Seetal, 565 m. above sea-level, less than an hour's journey from Zürich, Basle, Berne, Lucerne, etc. It is run as a non-profit-making establishment put at the disposal of the Swiss abroad by Mr. J. Bertschy. Enquiries should be address to the Sekretariat des Heims für Auslandschweizer Dürrenäsch, Aargau.

All that is needed for admission is a recommendation from a Swiss Consulate, Legation, Church or patriotic society.

We take this opportunity of reminding our readers of the Hotel ALBEINA at Klosters-Dorf, run on a non-profit basis by the N.S.H. and Secrétariat des suisses à l'étranger for the Swiss abroad. Full-board costs Fr.14.50 and seven days Fr.115.50 all inclusive in winter, with an appropriate reduction in summer.

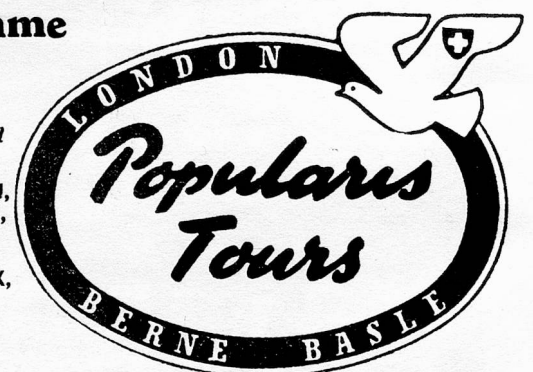
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