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Mr. Olivier Béguin died on 1st April, aged 58, at the Westminster Hospital, London. The cremation ceremony took place at the West London Crematorium before an attendance of colleagues and representatives from the Swiss Colony. He will be buried at the St. George Cemetery in Geneva, where his parents rest.

Mr. Béguin was well known in the London Colony, particularly for his involvement with the Swiss Church. He was President of the Consistoire for fourteen years and resigned only at the end of last year, realising that his illness would not allow him to carry out his duties much longer. He was, for a couple of years, President of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the U.K. It was during his Presidency of the Consistoire that the Swiss Church launched its bi-centenary appeal. The life of the Swiss churches in London was to undergo many other changes during these fourteen years.

Mr. Béguin came to London in 1949 as the General Secretary of the newly-created United Bible Society, an organisation which he has built up as a co-ordinating body responsible for the world-wide production, distribution and translation of the Document underlying the Christian faith; an organisation serving to co-ordinate the work of some fifty bible societies across the world. In this capacity, he was called to travel unceasingly and earned the nickname of "Swiss Globetrotter" in his professional circle. He was highly involved in the renewed interest of the Roman Catholic Church in the Bible, and has written a book on the subject. He was also concerned with ecumenical translations and, naturally, with the many new paperback editions of the Scriptures in a modern, everyday language accessible to the ordinary man.

In 1963, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Humanities from the University of Tokyo. The

Archbishop of York, Dr. Donald Coggan, dedicated him his book "Word and World".

Born at Le Locle in 1914, son of a watchmaker, Mr. Béguin studied at the Secondary School at Neuchâtel and later at the Literature Faculty in Geneva, intending to become a Latin and French teacher. His teaching career was curtailed by the war and a three year period as Sergeant Major. Later he worked for prisoners-of-war with the newly-founded World Council of Churches.

He leaves a widow, Agnes, and three children: Pierre-Michel, Jean-Géza and Anne.

(PMB)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

The following subscribers are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries within the next few weeks: Mrs. W. Schedler on 20th April, and Mr. E. Zwicky will be 75 on 22nd, Mr. J. B. Brutsch will be 83 and Mr. G. Keller 67 on 23rd April. On the same day, Mr. and Mrs. G. Bouverat will celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary.

On 26th April, Mr. F. Delaloye, of 15 Barthomolew Villas, NW5, will be 85, and we are very happy to say that he is enjoying the best of health.

Also on 26th April, Mr. and Mrs. Bozzini, of 124 Park Avenue, Orpington, Kent, will celebrate their Silver Wedding.

On 29th of the month, Mr. W. Zuber will be 73. Mr. and Mrs. F. Burri will have their 26th wedding anniversary on 2nd May. Mrs. J. Uden will be 84 on 6th May, and Mr. A. C. Boller of Saint-Prex, Vaud, will be 73 on 8th May.

We extend warm congratulations and best wishes to all these and any other readers whose birthdays fall within the next few weeks.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Lehner, F.H.C.I., F.C.F.A.
St. Gall, 12th August, 1892
Goring-by-Sea, 22nd April, 1967

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Thursday, 20th April, Annual General Meeting (6.30) followed by Annual Dinner at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Kensington. Thursday, 22nd June: Open Meeting with speaker. Details to be announced.

FEDERATION OF SWISS SOCIETIES IN UK: AGM on Friday, 23rd June.

50th **ASSEMBLY OF SWISS ABROAD:** Last Week in August.

Apply to Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne, for programme and application form.

SWISS CHURCH BAZAAR: Saturday, 4th November, Westminster Central Hall.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Shooting at the Long Siberia Range at Bisley on Sunday afternoons 23rd April, 7th May and 21st May (Feldschiessen and Obligatorisch).

CITY SWISS CLUB: AGM on 25th April. Card Evening on 23rd May.

SWISS PHILATELIC: Monthly Meeting on 28th April. Miss Grunberg will show Switzerland. AGM on 26th May.

SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH: "Maimummel" on 1st May. Meet at 8 p.m. at Park Entrance, Holyrood Road.

24th **LANDSGEMEINDE OF THE SWISS OF THE NORTH:** Hedden Bridge, 18th June.

FORTHCOMING CULTURAL EVENTS

Friday, 21st April. New College Chapel, Oxford, 2.30 p.m. English Bach Festival: Organ recital by *Lionel Rogg* (The Art of Fugue).

Sunday, 23rd April. Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, 3 p.m. English Bach Festival: The bass *Jakob Stämpfli* is one of the soloists in the St. Matthew Passion.

Monday, 24th April. Royal Albert Hall, 7.30 p.m. English Bach Festival: The bass *Jakob Stämpfli* is one of the soloists in the Mass in B minor.

Tuesday, 25th April. Queen Elizabeth Hall, 5.55 p.m. English Bach Festival: Organ recital by *Lionel Rogg*.

Wednesday, 26th April. Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 p.m. English Bach Festival: *Michael Tabachnik* conducts music by the Greek composer Xenakis.

Friday, 28th April and Saturday, 29th April. Round House, 7.30 p.m. (also 3 p.m. on Saturday). English Bach Festival: Histoire du Soldat by Stravinsky (music) and *Ramuz* (libretto).

Friday, 5th May. The Brompton Oratory, 7.30 p.m. English Bach Festival: *Kurt Widmer* sings the part of Christ in the St. John Passion.