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future.

But the Swiss Churches in London are alive. Let nobody form his opinion after just attending a Sunday morning service at the Eglise. The handful of people are only a symbol. Dozens meet in local services, at the homes of compatriots living away from the centre of London, in fact right in the Home Counties. There are studies, prayer meetings and other gatherings — a miracle that the life of the Swiss Churches in London goes on in such a rich and rewarding way.

Many are still outside, "orphans on the doorstep of the world". There is warmth and help and companionship waiting for them. They must not hesitate to let the Church know. If the Ministers and the active helpers are ignorant of the need of individual compatriots, they can't do anything about it. Maybe, some loneliness or boredom could be allayed by offering help to others. Many have found companionhip where they least expected it.

Something William Morris said in *The Dream of John Bull* comes to my mind:

"Fellowship is heaven, and lack of fellowship is hell; fellowship is life, and lack of fellowship is death; and the deeds that ye do upon the earth, it is for fellowship's sake that ye do them."

These deeds done in so many different quarters and in such a variety of ways form the miracle that adds up to the Swiss Churches in London.

M.M.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER: Thursday, 1st August, 1974, National Day celebration at the Cottons Hotel, near Knutsford. Friday, 27th September, Disco Dance at the Clayton Aniline premises, Clayton, Manchester.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE; Wednesday, 3rd July, at the Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, at 7.45 p.m. Harpischord Recital by the well-known Swiss artist Gloria Vanoli organised by the International Liszt Centre for 19th century Music. Works by Handel, Back, Bartok, Scarlatti, Soler, Couperin and Rameau.

SWISS CHURCH; Sunday, 15th September, at 79 Endell Street. Golden Jubilee of the German-speaking Parish.

LONDON NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION: Merton Town Hall, Wimbledon on 1st August (see advert).

CHURCHES BAZAAR: Saturday, 2nd November, at Central Hall. Opening at 12 a.m.

ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD: 23rd–25th August at Neuchatel. Applications to be made to the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad.

SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH: Swiss National Day Celebration on 1st August. Details obtainable from Mr. Hansjoerg Wirz. Tel: 031-664 3665.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Shoots at Bisley Camp on Sundays, June 30th, September 1st and September

8th. Information regarding shooting range obtainable through Surrey Club House.

SCHWEIZERBUND, Friday, 6th September. Dinner at the Old Palace, Hatfield Park at 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

The following readers are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the next few weeks:

Prof. J. Inebnit will be 84 on 5th July, and Consul-General Mr. Enrico Tosio (Poschiavo) will be 61 on 10th of the month. The same day Mr. C. A. Aeschmann (Guernsey C.I.) will be 82. Mr. J. Zimmermann will celebrate his 84th birthday on 21st July and Monsieur Beat de Fischer (Berne) his 73rd on 22nd July. The same day Mr. A. Boog will be 92. Mr. J. Vogel will be 93 on 28th July.

Mr. & Mrs. P. B. Haberstick will have been married for 52 years on 7th July and Mr. & Mrs. W. Pellet for 56 years on 16th of the month. On 18th July, Mr. & Mrs. W. Schedler will celebrate their 39th wedding anniversary, and on 21st July Mr. & Mrs. R. Chappuis will have been married for 51 years. Finally, Mr. & Mrs. F. Delaloye will have their 62nd wedding anniversary on 27th July.

Congratulations and best wishes all round!

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Leaflets are available from:

Swiss Embassy, 16–18 Montagu Place,
London W1H 2BQ Tel: 01-723 0701
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organising a *Rambler's Camp in Appenzell and Toggenburg* from 22nd July to 10th August, 1974, for young Swiss living abroad (15–24 years of age). The cost will be Sw.Fr. 210 for parties of ramblers, sportsmen and mountaineers: Sw.Fr. 240 for parties of artists (folk-dancing, photography, etc.); Sw.Fr. 170 for working parties (scheme to help deprived communities). Reductions may be granted on application. Those interested can get detailed information and application forms from the Swiss Embassy, 16–18 Montagu Place, London, W1H 2BQ. Tel: 273-0701; the Swiss Consulate-General, Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester, M14 BH. Tel: 236-2933; or the "Jugenddienst des Auslandschweizersekretariats der NHG". Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne 16. Applications should be sent to the "Jugenddienst" by the 30th June, 1974.

SWITZERLAND – THE HOBBY SCENE

"Switzerland – The Hobby Scene" is the title of a new brochure just published by the Swiss National Tourist Office. The publication describes made-to-measure holidays in Switzerland and lists, in alphabetical order, the many hobby activities that can be enjoyed this summer, with detailed information on dates of hobby courses, venue and prices.

Already a great number of Swiss holiday resorts specialise in hobby

activities for visitors. In North-Eastern Switzerland, for instance, courses for alphorn blowing are held at Appenzell and for rustic painting at Gais and Wildhaus. Also at Wildhaus a local craftswoman gives instruction in handweaving, and a young artist teaches clay modelling.

Brienz, Brunnen, Engelberg and Mörel offer possibilities for wood-carving and root-carving. Painting and drawing can be enjoyed at Klosters, Lugano, Münchenwiler and Mürren, whereas photography and filming is taught at

Gstaad, Mürren and Pontresina.

For the more adventurous, there is an eight-day tour in horse-drawn carriages through the Jura, and a Mule Safari through the valleys of the Valais.

Numerous resorts organise "Hobby Weeks" in tennis, golf, summer ski-ing, riding, sailing and touring.

At Bedano (Ticino), it is possible to combine a riding holiday with Italian lessons. An introductory course in Rhaeto-Romansch, Switzerland's fourth national language spoken in the canton of Grisons, is held at Samedan.

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(After dark, our Vintage Room takes on a night-club atmosphere where you can dine and dance from 9.0 until 3 a.m.)

Inn on the Park

Hamilton Place, Park Lane, London, W.1. Tel: 01-499 0888

CARETAKER WANTED in Central London from August or September. Small three-roomed flat on the first floor and large kitchen in the basement provided as remuneration. Please apply to Mrs. A. R. Sharp, Secretary, Swiss Benevolent Society, 31 Conway Street, London, W1P 5HL. Telephone: 01-387 2173.

Furnished flats for sale or rental. Les Diablerets and Montreux, Dettwiler Management Corporation, 55 Moillebeau, 1211 Geneva.
£3 per night or £15.40 inc. VAT per week. Proprietor: Ad Schmid.

Armchairs and/or easy chairs in good condition would be very welcome at one of the vicarages of the Swiss Church in London.
Please ring the Rev. M. Languillat (346 5281) or the Rev. U. Stefan (340 9740).

ABOUT OUR CHANGE OF LAYOUT

Readers who already have experience of our *Special Issues* may be surprised to see that this present one uses two different typefaces and a different layout from the previous numbers. This is because the Political Department in Berne and the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, who have supplied text for the first nineteen pages of this issue, have decided to send the same set of films for offset production to all the English-speaking

countries where the *Special Issues* are published. As it happens, the films are tailored to the format of existing Swiss publications in France, Belgium and elsewhere. This format is smaller than ours and the only way to compensate for this is by pushing the unwieldy headings which you see atop the pages coming from Berne. Hitherto, the layout of the *Special Issues* had been entrusted to us and the results of our efforts used in the *Canadian Special Issues*. Berne has since decided to rationalise and centralise. This Swiss efficiency is the reason for our change of appearance.

P.M.B.

Comment

SHOULD THE CONSTITUTION BE REVISED?

The Federal Constitution was adopted a hundred years ago on May 29th. This bulky document plays a fundamental role in Swiss life and is invoked even more often than the American Constitution in the United States. It is the charter that has enabled the Swiss Confederation to grow and develop through a century of troubled history and to become the country that it is today, enjoying a unique reputation in the world.

This document, which is a revised version of the 1848 Constitution which

laid down the foundations of modern Switzerland, has in its turn been due for revision for over five years. Opinions vary as to the need to revise this fundamental text, but a commission chaired by a former federal councillor, Mr. Fritz T. Wahlen, undertook to establish whether the Swiss people were in favour of a renewed constitution and if so, to ask them to give their views on the provisions and aims of a new draft. Originally it was expected that these answers would be available in time for the drafting of a new Constitution by the end of this year to mark the Centenary of the 1874 Constitution. This task, which is being carried further by a new working group of no less than 46 members headed by federal councillor Kurt Furgler, is now expected to take another four years.

The Wahlen Commission recorded the conclusions of its extensive enquiry among Cantons, political parties, churches, associations and individuals in an 860-page volume containing 22 chapters. The enquiry had been carried out mainly by means of a detailed questionnaire which was filled in by hundreds of Swiss citizens at home and abroad.

For all its thickness, this study proposes very little that is new. Perhaps the only important suggestions are to inscribe social rights into the Constitution. To the three immutable pillars consisting of federalism, democracy and individual freedom would be added the basic rights to work and

1st August Celebration at Merton Town Hall

incorporating "Fete Suisse"
THURSDAY, 1st AUGUST, at 19.30 sharp
(Doors open at 19.00)

Next door to Wimbledon Station

PROGRAMME

The programme, as usual, includes items of a patriotic nature.

The main address will be given by

H. E. The Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Albert Weitnauer

The famous Swiss Dixieland Jazz Band "The Old Time Jungle Cats" will provide entertainment and play for dancing

DANCING

REFRESHMENTS

LICENSED BAR

TICKETS at 50p available at the door or in advance at 40p from the Swiss Mercantile College. Children free.