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We apologise to our readers for the fact that this issue is late in appearing. This is due to circumstances beyond our control in that material for the official part of the issue was received with a substantial delay from Bern, thus upsetting the production schedule with our printers.

It is with great regret that we have to advise our Readers that a 25% increase in production charges has been imposed on us by our printers due to wage awards. In addition to which Postage Charges are again being increased in February 1980, postage alone will account for 14½p per issue.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The *Swiss Observer* is a non-profit making organisation and in order for us to survive we are reluctantly compelled to pass some of these increases on to our Readers. We feel

sure you will agree that the new rates displayed in the box on page 2 mean that your paper is still good value.

We hope that, as in the past, we may still count on your loyal support which will enable us to continue publishing this 60-year-old Colony publication.

ETERNAL WOMAN

Sitting erect – in perfect posture of waiting
Hands in my lap – open – relaxed
Silent – inactive – but present and ready
Like a blank scroll – prepared to receive
And take in!

No charming, female attraction –
an empty cave – hollow and dark!
A homely shelter – safety and warmth?
Or a dangerous, bottomless abyss?
I do not know – you have to find out!

Are you afraid? Do not run away!
I follow – and bring you to fall –
Like Adam – Paradise lost!
Accept me – I mean no harm –
Will we find it again? You must discover!

Look – the Child – within the darkness!
Not of my doing – the work of the Spirit.
I cannot hold it – it comes of its own
A free gift – grace from within!

Be still – let it come – surrender.
It leads us ahead – we will follow?

If the child were born a thousand times in
Bethlehem – But not in you – His birth for you
would be in vain!

IS THIS CHRISTMAS?

This I wish you with all sincerity,
Fr. Paul Bossard.

