

Notes & gleanings

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of the church and was adorned with most beautiful floral tributes from the President of the Reich, the German Foreign Office, whose wreath Dr. Rathenau deposited personally when attending the service, from the "Corps Diplomatique," the Swiss Federal Council (red and white flowers) and from the Swiss Legations at Berlin and the Hague.

The Swiss Federal Council had requested Colonel Pfyffer, Swiss Minister to Poland, to represent them, but sudden illness prevented him from carrying out that mission, which was then entrusted to Minister Dr. L. Vogel, from the Swiss Legation at Berlin.

President Ebert was represented by the German Chancellor, Dr. Wirth. The Diplomatic Corps attended the service in full force, and most of the Ambassadors were accompanied by their ladies and the Legations' staffs. The Swiss Colony of Berlin was also suitably represented.

After the memorial service the widow, Mme. Carlin, and her daughters received the personal condolences of the German Chancellor, Dr. Wirth, and the Secretary of State, Herr von Haniel, while Minister Dr. Vogel accepted the condolences tendered by the Diplomatic Corps.

The coffin, enclosing the remains of M. Carlin, was entrained at Berlin on Saturday afternoon and reached Berne on the following Sunday evening, a deputation from the Political Department being in attendance at the station.

Last Monday afternoon the funeral service took place at the Bremgarten Cemetery Chapel, attended, amongst others, by Federal Councillors G. Motta and E. Schulthess, and was followed by the interment in the Bremgarten Friedhof.

* * *

OBITUARY.

Dr. Henri Jaccard, Professor of Botany, died at Lausanne at the age of 78.

He was honorary member of various Swiss Societies for Natural Science and History, *doctor honoris causa* of the Lausanne University, and the author of several scientific works treating particularly of the alpine *fauna* and *flora*.

* * *

Fräulein Marie Herwig, the proprietress of the well-known sanatorium "Arosa," died on the 8th inst., aged 74.

Fräulein Herwig went to Arosa in 1885, building in the following year the sanatorium named, the first of alpine sanatoria in existence, and thereby, so to speak, laying the foundation stone of the development of Arosa as a world-renowned health resort.

NOTES & GLEANINGS.

The new Irish Constitution is supposed to be partly modelled on the Swiss form of government, and it is stated that a semi-official delegation is about to proceed to Switzerland to study at first hand its application. We cannot find much similarity, but it is at least doubtful whether the principles of our Constitution, which are the result of a natural process of evolution, to which practically each generation has contributed its share, can be adopted with advantage by a people who in whole or in part lacks the experience of self-government and is pervaded by an atmosphere of distrust and lawlessness.

* * *

Golfing is becoming more popular in Switzerland every year, and the facilities provided and tournaments fixed for this season are dealt with in a useful article in the *Westminster Gazette* (June 16th). The same paper (June 12th) publishes a fascinating description of what it calls "A Yearly Miracle," i.e., the narcissus time at Caux, and we cull the following passages:—

"It is beyond description, but let me try just to give the headings, so to speak. As the snow melted on the meadows just above us up came the crocuses, battalions of them, white and purple alternately. The hot sun withered them in five days, and then followed masses of oxlip and cowslip, turning the meadows to a sober yellow. A steep slope five hundred feet above us was now starred with gentian, the first and most charming of the tribe, with its shining blue petals and delicate white centre. Mix them in a shallow bowl with the white crocuses on the days when they overlap, and you have an enchanting combination. The great yellow globe-flower, or trolius, next begins to appear wherever there is water, and is presently in great golden clumps catching the eye a mile away. A day later, and the tall purple orchid is marching up from the lower levels, pushing up among the cowslips and oxlips, with the blue forget-me-not hard on its heels. Now you begin to look for the narcissus. By the tenth of May there is still not a sign of it on the higher levels, and though the green is up on the lower levels, there is still not a bud. Your worst forebodings seem to be justified. Then suddenly it comes with a rush, the great white tide flowing up from below and filling the air with its scent. Look across the valley to Les Havants and you can measure its levels day by day. Starting slowly, it quickens its pace as it mounts and covers the last thousand feet up to its extreme limit (about 4,800 feet above sea-level) with incredible rapidity. Where on May 10th there was not a green spike above ground, there was on May 24th a sea of white narcissus. Here on the heights it is at its best, for it has left behind it all the rank growths which compete with it on the lower slopes, and now holds undisputed sway.

But this needs correcting as soon as said, for on one great slope with a northern aspect a new movement is on foot. Here the great white anemone is rushing down from above, and there is a spot, which shall remain my secret, where the narcissus tide and anemone tide meet and cross, the narcissus swirling into the anemone and the anemone rushing past it into the narcissus. This is the climax, and to the flower-lover it is positively intoxicating. The immense quantity of these flowers, their scent, the play of sun and shadow and wind on their petals, their great sweeping movements as they stride up and down these enormous valleys, the miracle of their creation in this glorious three weeks—one gropes for words to convey the impression, but there are none, and this sentence must pass into silence. And yet, down below in the hotel they tell me that 'the season has not begun,' and there are only a dozen rather eccentric beings who are making the experiment of coming to Switzerland in May.

The present spring has no doubt been exceptional in the rush with which it has followed a late winter, but this miracle takes place yearly from the beginning of May till the middle of June, and, having witnessed it twice, I cannot resist the impulse to tell others to go and do likewise. All the world rushes to Switzerland in August, which is undoubtedly the climber's month and the month for the high mountains. But the glory of Switzerland is its spring, and when the flowers are gone and the meadows cleared, half of it is departed. All Switzerland is beautiful in spring, but the central spot and the place of pilgrimage for the flower-lover is surely the region above Montreux—Les Havants, Gijon, Caux, and from Caux

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upwards to the Rochers de Naye. I know what one brings on one's head if one recommends one place more than another in Switzerland, but I will risk saying that Caux in the month of May seems to me perfection. The view which you may have for the asking from your window—the lake spread below you, the Savoy mountains opposite, the Rhone Valley and the Dent du Midi to the south, and the whole expanse of the Jura broadening out to the north—has a large openness which you seldom get at this level in Switzerland, and the sunsets are superb. It would be beautiful without the flowers, but with them every day is an excitement beside which the Genoa Conference and 'all that' fades into a forgotten nightmare."

* * *

The recent opening of the electrified line Lucerne—Chiasso has generally been hailed in the English press as a great engineering feat; on this section of 140 miles alone about 100,000 tons of coal per year will be saved. The following from the *Daily Dispatch* (June 7th) will be read with interest, and the concluding sentence ought to fortify many a weak heart:—

"The success and enterprise of the Swiss in carrying through this important work might well evoke emulation in this country. On the other hand, it must be remembered that in Switzerland electricity is comparatively cheap. Water-power, of course, is abundant everywhere; and in consequence electricity is universally used for almost every conceivable purpose. Heating, lighting, cooking, locomotion—to all these electricity brings incomparable qualities of cheapness, cleanliness and economy of labour.

As for the telephone, which in England is a device hardly to be mentioned in polite society for fear of provoking some outburst of unseemly language, in Switzerland it is almost as much a thing of daily use as one's boots. Every housekeeper does her shopping by its means. Even on the slopes of the Rigi, for example, an order for, e.g., groceries can be telephoned at breakfast time to the shop in Lucerne, and the goods delivered in ample time for lunch. Switzerland is a happy land."

* * *

Lucerne is described as one of the most picturesque cities of Europe by the *Daily Mail* (June 14th) correspondent, who writes:—

"Amid the present-day beauties of Lucerne and its environs there is much that will appeal to the lover of ancient lore in a study of the old town, with what remains to be seen of the old buildings and frescoes.

In many of the principal squares, notably those of the Corn Market and the Wine Market, there is much to delight the eye in the exquisite old houses dating from the fourteenth century and onward, with their delicately coloured paintings and charming fountains, with decorative central pillars surmounted by artistic representative figures.

The revival of decorative art at Lucerne is shown on every side. Modern villas and shops have not only the exterior walls, but also the inside walls and ceilings decorated with frescoes.

At present Lucerne is one of the most picturesque cities of Europe, but when the art of exterior decoration has come into its own again, and every house has its outside walls frescoed as they were in the Middle Ages, it should be not only unique in this respect, but also one of the most beautiful in every way."

* * *

It is always instructive to know "how others see us," although the sight of others may at times be defective. The *Sunday Pictorial* (June 11th) entertains its readers with the pros and cons of the modern craze among ladies for cosmetics. It is in the towns that these deceptions tempt the stronger sex, whilst the girl in the country does not require these artificial charms; however, to infer from this that the woman living in the country need simply spend plenty of time in the open air in order to acquire and keep a beautiful complexion, is a fallacy. The writer has been to Switzerland, where he had "studied" the subject, and he has discovered that "hardly any Swiss women use 'cosmetics.' Most Swiss women spend a great deal of 'time in the open air.' Yet very few Swiss women have 'good complexions. Their skin, as a rule, is dried up 'and wrinkled and crinkled soon after they have passed 'out of their teens.'"

"Foreign Maids," says E. C. Davies in the *Westminster Gazette* (June 14th), "are as easy, or as difficult, to obtain 'as English domestic staff, and for the average household 'the French-Swiss maids make the best servants.'" According to him it is quite easy to obtain the latter, as they cannot find really good employment in their own country unless they can speak English; the branches of the Y.W.C.A. often hear of girls who wish to come over to England, and to those who do not care for this agency he recommends the office of "L'Amie de la Jeune Fille" in Geneva.

* * *

The *Daily News* has invited correspondence from its readers about the height of Mount Everest as compared with the highest peak in Switzerland. Most of the answers received have naturally indicated the Matterhorn, but the verdict which the *Daily News* has given in the controversy must be challenged, for according to our contemporary the Dom is the highest peak in Switzerland. For the information of our readers who may have forgotten the geographical lessons of their schooldays we give the names and heights of the five highest peaks, viz.:—

Dufour Spitze (Monte Rosa Massive) ...	15,217 feet.
Dom (Mischabelhörner)	14,937 "
Lyskamm	14,889 "
Weisshorn	14,799 "
Matterhorn	14,776 "



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