

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: - (1922)
Heft: 56

Buchbesprechung: Publications received

Autor: [s.n.]

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 10.07.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Trevelyan begins his record with a description of the quiet old England that still existed in 1782, before the Industrial Revolution destroyed it. At that time the country village was the principal nursery of national character. The ruling class lived then, he says, "a life more completely and finely human than any that has been lived by a whole class since the days of the freemen of Athens. Society, when Charles Fox was its leader, was as literary and cultivated, as it was fashionable, athletic, dissipated and political." It was a privileged class, whose prerogatives were unchallenged in a time possessing an essential static view of life. Our doctrine of evolution and continual change for the better has been holding human thought for but half a century.

* * *

Improved methods of agriculture, the factory system and machinery, the increase of population, the revolution of the means of transport, not to speak of new ideas, have upset the ancient state of affairs. In no period of our human annals have the changes been more rapid and more sweeping. The problems arising out of them have been as manifold as difficult. A corrupt government and incapable municipal administrations, obsolete laws and inveterate ideas have had to be changed and adapted to completely new conditions and purposes. New nations have arisen; new continents have awakened to political existence; new liberties have been reached and new duties have had to be recognised; an empire has developed. There is no room here to go into details. Trevelyan, in succinct and illuminative paragraphs, gives a clear account of these complex and intricate processes.

* * *

Owing to her insular situation, whose paramount importance in this day of the aeroplanes is decreasing, Great Britain's history has developed very differently from that of any continental country. Her history of the last century is the history of the greatest liberal and civilising factor in modern humanity. Politically as well as economically she has been the leading democratic and progressive liberal Power. "In the middle of the century the five continents consisted of a number of countries, all chiefly, and some entirely, agricultural, grouped for commercial purposes round the manufacturing centre of England." At the end of the period "a wholly new type of society had developed, infinitely more complicated and interdependent in its parts and more full of potentialities for progress and disaster than anything the world has before seen. British common-sense and good nature, British idiosyncrasy and prejudice has produced, after labours, errors and victories innumerable, the strange world of modern England."

In Switzerland we are exposed to the danger of having our sense of proportion marred by the very importance and nearness of our mighty neighbours. Britain and British history, seen through German or French goggles, are very different things from what they really are. It is, indeed, not easy to understand this peculiar blend of aristocratic and democratic elements, of a spirit of co-operation and imperialism, of utilitarian philosophy and idealistic enthusiasm.

No man interested in the history of our time can possibly read Trevelyan's book without lasting profit, and, in addition, he will surely read it with much pleasure.

June, 1922.

Dr. C. E. L.

BOARD-RESIDENCE at moderate terms offered to one or two Swiss gentlemen; comfortable home; good cuisine.—50, Aberdeen Road, Highbury, N.5. Phone: North 91.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Schweizer Mustermesse—Basle.—The June bulletin gives an account of the Sixth Basle Fair. In spite of the adverse trade conditions 812 exhibitors participated, showing a decrease as compared with last year; this decrease is, however, not so pronounced as has been the case with similar exhibitions held recently in other countries. A very considerable increase is recorded in the number of visitors as well as of buyers' cards, of the latter no less than 40,000 being issued—10,000 more than last year. Attention is drawn with satisfaction to the large attendance from foreign countries, which specially benefitted those exhibiting building materials, machines, electro-technical articles, silk fabrics, chemical products, watches and embroidery.—A special article deals with the film and cinema industry, which in the world's market now ranks third, coming directly after the coal and corn trades.

* * *

The World's Health—Geneva.—The May number publishes an obituary notice of Henry Pomeroy Davison, the founder of the League of Red Cross Societies. "Born in 1867, Mr. Davison began his career in a humble position in the Liberty National Bank, and rose to be its chairman within five years. Rapid though his advancement was, he had not yet attained the zenith of his success. In 1917, having by this time become one of the best-known financiers of his day, he was elected chairman of the War Council of the American Red Cross, a post which gave him ample opportunity of displaying his devotion to the highest ideals, as well as his great personal charm. The end of the war found him with a unique insight into Red Cross activities, and about the time of the Peace Conference he conceived a far-reaching plan for the development of peace-time Red Cross activities throughout the entire world."—A number of highly interesting and instructive articles deal with the origin and organisation of the "Swiss Red Cross" (by Dr. C. de Marval, its secretary), "How American Charities raise Money," "The Proper Choice of Food" (which latter, apart from some learned discourses about calories, gives extremely useful lessons on human diet), etc.

* * *

Informations Economiques—Lausanne, published by the "Bureau Industriel Suisse."—The No. 8 bulletin (May) contains a number of articles from correspondents all over the world dealing with the commercial situation and prospects of their respective spheres of influence. The bulletin, which indirectly, through the B.I.S., is subsidised by the Confederation and some of the Cantons, serves as a means of commercial propaganda abroad and proposes to enlighten the home trade about the conditions and possibilities in foreign centres. All this information is supplied free of charge, and the co-operation is invited of those residing abroad and interested in particular trades.

* * *

Comptoir Suisse—Lausanne.—The June bulletin (No. 16) gives full particulars of the trades and groups which will be represented at the Third Comptoir; the latter takes place from September 9th to September 24th. It is stated that the number of, and the space booked by, exhibitors in advance is in excess of the figures for last year. The crisis is still very acute in Switzerland, but in some industries there are indications that things are on the mend.