

Roth's inglorious Fight

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travelling shoemaker, in order to attend, mostly at night, to his priestly duties. The civil authorities of the Canton of Berne, supporting the newly-born sect of so-called "Old-Catholics," exiled the Bishop of the diocese. Fr. Weber, however, still obeyed his Bishop's commands, which led to his being persecuted. He was even fired at.

Papal honours have been bestowed on both Mgr. Stammer and Fr. Weber on the occasion of their jubilees.

It seems incredible nowadays to fear a revival of a Kulturkampf in Switzerland. And yet, while in the Canton of Zurich, I heard such fears expressed from at least three different sources. It appears that the Catholics are agitating for Catholic schools, whereas, so far at least, nominally the schools are neutral, the majority of the population, of course, being non-Catholic. The opinion I heard mostly expressed was that such agitation might lead to regrettable controversy, the majority of the population, of course, being unwilling to subsidise Catholic schools. I am not a judge on such matters. My view is simply this: it seems a great pity that such questions of religious feeling should come up for discussion in the Year of Grace 1923!

New Machine-Gun.

It is also a great pity that even Switzerland should still have to prepare against warlike aggression! *The Times* (Sept. 26th) prints the following:

Successful trials have just been made in the Swiss Army with a new light machine-gun, made by the Federal Arms factory. This weapon weighs only four or five pounds more than the ordinary infantry rifle, which it much resembles. Its magazine holds thirty rounds, and it is capable of firing at the rate of 450 rounds per minute. From sixteen to twenty-four of these machine-guns will be allotted to every infantry battalion.

But, happily, the day before the same paper is able to report a more peaceful invention, also due to Swiss brains:—

A private demonstration of a new "speaking film," which has been invented by three Swiss physicists, was given in Berlin. Though the invention is still in its elementary stages, it opens up a clear line of advance in the production of a successful speaking picture plant.

In order to secure the synchronization of sound and movement, a new microphone is introduced, by means of which the sound waves are converted into electric waves, which, in their turn, produce fluctuations of light in an electric lamp. These are reproduced by photography as small horizontal lines in varying degrees of density and thickness by the side of the main film. When the film is shown on the cinematograph, the revers of this process takes place, the sound being finally transmitted to the screen by an ordinary telephone wire and reproduced through a loud-speaking receiver.

The success which the invention has obtained is largely due to the last-named apparatus. A comparison was made between the playing of a piece of orchestral music on an expensive gramophone and its transmission through the loud-speaking receiver. The telephone was proved to be superior, the note, and even all the twangs of the stringed instruments which were being played in another part of the building, being reproduced distinctly.

Swiss Winter Begins.

Freeman's Journal (22nd Sept.):—

Winter has begun in Switzerland, and there have been heavy snowfalls, even as low as 5,900 feet above the sea level. Climbing is at a standstill, owing to the storms.

"Kyburg" evidently timed his holidays well, for during three weeks he suffered only one shower; all the rest of the time the weather was absolutely perfect. At Lugano it was even very warm, and I shall not easily forget the evenings spent at the Kursaal, Hugenin's and the Riviera, when the Asti Spumante or the Chianti sparkled, and the night air was wonderfully stirred by the sweet music of the orchestra. Or, again, walking late at night through the Park towards Paradiso, looking out over the still lake towards Caprino, stabbed now and then by the searchlight's gleam from Gandria, while the three large boats Ticino, Seppione and Morcote rode at anchor in the Bay, like white ghosts, one could hear a prima-donna's voice floating across the waters from the Kursaal. And from the Salvatore shone the immense querymark-like lights of the upper part of the Funicular Way. Yes, it was nice, and I think I know why so many Swiss make it a habit of visiting Lugano every year!

A new S.A.C. Hut.

The Times (26th Sept.):—

The Ticino Section of the Swiss Alpine Club has decided to erect in the Val Soja, near the Passo della Piotta, a hut, to be called the "Adula Hut," which will facilitate the ascent of the Rheinwaldhorn (11,150 ft.) and the neighbouring peaks.

The Sun Cure at Leysin.

Nursing Mirror (22nd Sept.):—

Some little time ago I came across a newspaper article which depicted in glowing terms the marvellous cures said to be effected by Dr. Rollier's sun cure at Leysin, in Switzerland. So striking indeed were the results claimed for this treatment in cases of Pott's disease, coxalgia and other forms of surgical tuberculosis, that I decided, if possible, to make a short stay at Leysin on my way to winter in Italy. The result was so intensely interesting that I think the readers of *The Nursing Mirror* may like to know some details as seen through the eyes of a nurse. First let me pay a tribute to the courtesy and consideration I met with from the officials at Leysin. I had no introductions to anyone in the place, but, on presenting myself at the principal clinic and explaining my desire to gain some knowledge of the treatment, I was most courteously received by the lady secretary, put in touch with the necessary officials, and introduced to a Russian lady doctor, who took me with her on her round.

The patients I was permitted to see were naturally the children, since grown persons could hardly be expected to receive visitors during a treatment which

necessitates very little clothing. But, as the children are the most interesting, as well as the most hopeful, feature of the Leysin treatment, this was all as it should be. Also I was shown a most interesting series of X-ray and other photographs of some of the most striking cases. In these dated photographs one could mark the gradual process of cure and elimination of the toxic symptoms. But photographs, no matter how striking, are never so satisfying as the actual case in process of cure. Of these, in going from one clinic to another, I saw many. There are some thirty or more of these clinics, of different grades, with varying fees to suit the needs of different classes of patients.

One characteristic which all the clinics seemed to have in common was the happiness and good temper of the children. We who have served in hospital wards know too well the pathetic, heart-breaking patience of a very sick child. But here were children recovering from chronic diseases, in that convalescent stage which tries the tempers of nurse and patient alike, with tingling life flowing back to their little frames, and yet chained to their beds in, as far as possible, perfect immobility. For that is one salient point about the treatment, almost as important as the healing rays of the sun itself—immobility, perfect rest to the affected part. At a certain stage bed cases are allowed to be up for part of the day; but in cases of Pott's disease and other grave lesions, this welcome stage of the treatment naturally does not come very early. But, though Dr. Rollier insists on the immobility, he entirely disapproves of the violent enforcement of it by means of plaster of Paris or ungainly and painful splints. Patients arriving in such are immediately released from them, and the necessary immobility is secured by means of a simple apparatus of stays and straps. During the actual treatment all such apparatus is removed, and the sun's rays allowed to play unchecked upon the body.

The essence of the treatment is that the whole body should be bathed in life-giving sun and air, and this work, Dr. Rollier maintains, would be seriously impeded by silical apparatus. As I have always had a peculiar hatred of plaster of Paris (many amongst us must be able to remember breaking a plaster bandage from a tubercular joint to find that underneath it a suppurating abscess had formed) I hailed this part of the treatment with joy. The actual exposure to the sun's rays is for a strictly limited and graduated time each day (at first only for a few minutes), and whatever part of the body is affected, the treatment begins with the feet. At the first treatment one foot is exposed for about five minutes, next the legs, and gradually other parts of the body, the time increasing daily, until it reaches a maximum of some two hours, beyond which no patient is allowed to go.

One word more of the diseases for which the sun treatment has been found peculiarly beneficial. They are Pott's disease, coxalgia, tuberculosis of the knee and foot, of the shoulder, elbow and hand, osteitis of the cranium, ribs and sternum, tubercular adenitis, tracheo-bronchial adenopathies, Poncet's rheumatism, tubercule of the peritoneum, kidneys, ureter bladder, testicles and epididymis, ileo-cæcal and intestinal tuberculosis, anal fistula, tubercle of eye, ear and larynx, lupus and many non-tubercular affections, such as open wounds, osteomyelitis and cutaneous affections. It is counter-indicated in cases of amyloid degeneration, ulcerous enteritis with diarrhoea and non-compensated cardiac affections. Cases of pulmonary tuberculosis are not admitted. It is claimed that the treatment is suitable to all ages, from infants to aged people, provided the patient is accustomed to it by degrees.

I must not conclude without a few words on Leysin itself. It stands high above Aigle at an altitude of some 4,000 to 4,500 feet above sea level, and generally speaking, above the clouds, so that one occasionally sees some remarkable effects in what is known as "the sea of clouds." One goes up from Aigle in a funicular railway which slowly ascends through dense forest. The foliage is beautiful at all times, but in the early autumn, when I was there, it is quite indescribably lovely.

Canada and Swiss Settlers.

The Canadian Gazette (20th Sept.):—

"Canada should grant to groups of Swiss permission to establish themselves in this country in a way to form Swiss villages," said Professor Charles Biegel, in proposing the toast of Canada at a supper dance, given by the Swiss National Society of Montreal on the occasion of the Confederation of the Helvetic states. "Canada would have all to win," continued Professor Biegel, "as the Swiss can be easily acclimatised to this country, which so resembles his own by its high mountains and beautiful lakes."

ROTH'S INGLORIOUS FIGHT.

Extreme disappointment—to put it mildly—is the impression caused by the performance last Monday at Olympia of Robert Roth, the would-be Swiss champion boxer. Of real boxing there was little evidence; it was all on the side of his opponent, Albert Lloyd. By the end of the second round he was severely mauled; in spite of the interval, he could not sufficiently recover presence of mind to emerge from his corner for the third round, with the result that Mr. Abplanalp found himself compelled to stop the fight. Roth had received a good deal of punishment, and experts are of opinion that he possesses the necessary material for a first-class boxer. Roth, however, does not seem to be able to free himself altogether from his wrestling notions and is slow in becoming familiar with the exigencies of the art of boxing. There would appear to be some truth in the oft-heard assertion that a successful wrestler can never be turned into a promising boxer. One thing is certain, and that is that training for boxing in this country demands a far greater mental concentration and undivided attention to details than the preparation which precedes the proclamation of a "Schwingerkönig." The only thing that Roth seems to have successfully assimilated is the traditional and boastful confidence in victory; to hear him talk before the event, one expected the easiest "Hosenlupf" ever demonstrated. This confident expectation had so deeply settled in his mind that he even refused to allow two of his sparring partners to accompany him as seconds. Roth has now left England, and is reported to have gone to Paris.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

BONDS.		Sept. 25	Oct. 2	
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	...	75.37%	76.00%	
Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5%	...	100.47%	100.65%	
Federal Railways A—K 3½%	...	81.35%	79.75%	
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921	...	103.25%	103.25%	
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892....	...	71.25%	71.37%	
SHARES.		Nom.	Sept. 25	Oct. 2
Swiss Bank Corporation	...	Fr. 500	Fr. 648	Fr. 644
Crédit Suisse	...	500	678	675
Union de Banques Suisses....	...	500	526	532
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3137	3075	
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2109	2100	
C. F. Bally S.A.	...	1000	1035	1087
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon...	500	663	665	
Entreprises Sulzer	...	1000	610	630
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)	...	500	283	291
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mlk. Co.	200	164	173	
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	100	109	111	
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	487	481	

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