

# The Schwabrig [to be continued]

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technical side of a very wide subject. He wrote a large number of books, among which may be mentioned "The Art of the Table," "A Book of Salads," "Meatless Fare," "A Dictionary of Foods and Culinary Encyclopaedia," "Practical Gastronomy," "Manual of Diabetic Diet," "Senn's Book of Sauces," "The Red Cross Society's Cookery Manuals," and "The War-Time Cookery Guide," and he also published "The Cookery Annual and Epicurean Year Book." There were many others.

In 1919 Mr. Senn was made M.B.E., to be advanced 10 years later to O.B.E. He was also F.R.H.S. and M.I.H. He is survived by his widow and one daughter, Ida.

### THE SCHWABRIG.

#### A Children's Country Home.

The Scotsman, 13th Oct., 1934.

The Canton of Appenzell in the North-East of Switzerland consists of two half-cantons: Ausser Rhoden and Inner Rhoden. The division was made over three hundred years ago as a means of avoiding religious strife, and was marked by clearings (Rhoden) in the forest. Ausser-Rhoden, which is Protestant, has become industrial and modern. But Inner-Rhoden, which is Catholic, remains pastoral, and retains its primitive character as well as many of its venerable customs.

In each half-canton the Landsgemeinde persists. This is an open-air assembly of the electorate, at which magistrates are chosen new laws confirmed, and the budget approved. Satisfied that four hours is enough for a Parliamentary session, the electors return home to deal with weightier matters: milk and pigs, poultry and embroidery. On the high hills at close of day they practise wrestling and choral singing till an alphon in the East proclaims the retreat, "Praise ye the Lord," to be answered by "The Lord's name be praised," ere the message speeds on towards the bath of all the Western start.

Sometimes there is an interruption. A Federal referendum has to be voted for. Inner Rhoden exclaims, "Why can't you leave it alone?" and votes consistently "No change." Every year there is a muster of recruits. In autumn the shepherds from the Grisons wander through with their flocks, and herdsmen from the Alps descend at the head of a long procession of cows and goats and gear. Otherwise life runs smoothly; there are no glaciers to tempt the cheap tripper and no facilities for hurried visits.

#### The Sântis and the Wildkirchli.

The highest peak, the Sântis, is well known internationally as a weather-station. Everyone in Appenzell is supposed to climb it once a year. This summer one man made his 500th ascent. Below the Sântis in the cliffs of the Ebenalp is a cavern, where is the Wildkirchli, described in Scheffel's "Ekkehard." It is the oldest dwelling-place in Switzerland, and serves the hill-folk as a church; but the landlord of the restaurant at the summit uses the inmost recesses as a wine-vault.

Business in the Canton is depressed. There is over-production of milk, and the best customer for condensed milk, the United States, has ceased to import. The making of salt butter is forbidden by law, all Swiss butter must be grass-fed and fresh. So the dairyman buys Danish salt butter to eat and sells his own produce fresh. Embroidery, the goddess of pin-money, pays the skilled worker scarcely 3d. an hour. So the men have looked to pigs for profit, whilst their wives advised by the convents, make a venture with poultry. The cantonal choice is White Leghorn, and each flock is pure-bred to a feather.

Other Cantons pity Appenzell as backward; but, like the tribe of Benjamin, Appenzell can on occasion produce a David. On the morrow of the Armistice the international riff-raff of Zürich thought to organise a *Putsch*. But the officer in command at the barracks came from Appenzell. If he could not reason, at any rate he could act. He ordered out a battery of machine-guns and then, alone and unarmed, rode out to face the mob. He spoke three sentences, and the mob found it was dinner-time. The *Putsch* was over! How Carlyle would have lauded this Swiss Abbot Samson!

#### Bion and His Work.

Along another path Appenzell has attained to world-wide fame. Above Gais lies the Schwäbrig, the first Children's Country Home in the world. Its founder, Walter Bion sprang from a line of Swiss pastors. He thought to break the line by taking a medical course, but tradition was too strong, and he began as pastor of a poverty-haunted parish on a stipend of a pound a week and a manse. He found he had a parish of beggars. So he speedily announced a division of labour. The flock must work and he must beg. Never was there a better professional beggar. He knew that a charity never flourished unless it was

in debt. Spending wisely and living hopefully, he soon put the parish on its legs. Presently came a call from another parish, with equally good results, and public recognition by selection for cantonal office. In 1873 he accepted a call to a slum parish in Zürich town, where he soon noticed the effect of town life on the health of the children. So in 1876 a band of 68 children was sent to his old parish in Appenzell for a summer holiday. And from those 68 grains of mustard seed sprang the Children's Country Holiday movement. And now Appenzell can show homes for sickly children attached to its convents, hill stations for those in need of sun and air, homes for tired nuns, and, on the Gábris, the mother-Lodge of the great fraternity.

(To be continued).



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**Sunday, October 21st, at 4 p.m.** — Union Helvetia — Annual Memorial Service, at Hendon Park Cemetery. (Private bus will leave 1, Gerrard Place, W.1, at 2.45 p.m.) Service conducted by Pasteur R. Hoffmann-de Visme and Pfarrer C. Th. Hahn.

**Tuesday, October 23rd** — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Cinderella Dance at the Royal Hotel, Woburn Place, Russell Square, W.C.1. (Details to follow).

**Wednesday, October 31st, at 8 p.m.** (Reception 7.30 p.m.) — "Jubilee Dinner" — To Monsieur le pasteur R. Hoffmann-de Visme, at the First Avenue Restaurant, High Holborn, London, W.C.1. (Ticket 5/- each) can be obtained by members of the committee, or by application to the Jubilee Committee, 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1, or at the offices of the Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.)

**Saturday, November 3rd, at 8 o'clock** — Swiss Rifle Team — Supper — at Swiss Hotel, Old Compton Street, W.

**Wednesday, November 7th, at 7.30 p.m.** — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

**Tuesday, November 20th** — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Cinderella Dance at the Royal Hotel, Woburn Place, Russell Square, W.C.1. (Details to follow).

**Friday, November 23rd** — City Swiss Club — Annual Banquet and Ball at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

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X, v. 23. — M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6h.30 — M. le pasteur F. Christol — par échange.

7h.30 — Répétition du Choeur.

M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme reçoit à l'église, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2, le mercredi de 11h. à 12h.30 et sur rendez-vous à son domicile, 102, Hornsey Lane, Highgate, N.6. S'adresser à lui (téléphone: ARChway 1798) pour tous renseignements concernant les instructions religieuses, les mariages et autres actes ecclésiastiques.

### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

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(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 21 Oktober 1934.

11 Uhr. vorm. Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr Chorprobe.

Am 28. Oktober feiern die beiden Gemeinden den Morgen-Gottesdienst gemeinsam in der Eglise Suisse.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmandenstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Telephon: Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche; Mittwoch 5-6 Uhr im "Foyer Suisse."

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