

"1938 in Europe"

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Yet the four men came down safely, having had to cling all night to perilous ledges while 20 in. of snow fell and winds threatened to blow them into the abyss. Their only injuries were bruises from falling stones.

What a vastly simpler proposition the Matterhorn has become. But, with all its crowds of climbers, guides are finding business less prosperous than it used to be. The growth of winter sports is responsible.

"Nowadays," Gentinetta told me, "guiding would not be profitable if it were not for places like St. Moritz, where the guides give skiing and skating lessons during the winter. In fact, the skiing and skating are more important than climbing as a matter of business for us."

Since the first conquest of the Matterhorn by English climbers, more and more mountaineers have travelled from England to repeat the feat, and Zermatt, from being a tiny peasant village, has been transformed by the Seiler family into a resort equipped with fine hotels.

The Swiss climb chiefly as a means to getting about their mountainous country, and if it were not that the English climb just for sport, these hotels might never have been built.

I suppose it is only a matter of time until there will be an hotel with cocktail bar and dancing on top of the Matterhorn, with a tube like the Jungfrau railway to take tired tourists to the summit.

Then it will be breakfast in London, luncheon in Bâle, and tea on the Matterhorn with, possibly, supper in Paris, Rome, or Berlin.

Naturally the title of the above article is grossly misleading, being one of the Daily Mail's brainy young men's idea probably.

The other side of the picture comes from the Daily Express, Aug. 10th:

He Refused Guide:

A 20-year-old German Heinz Schwarz, who tried to climb the Matterhorn without a guide and without any mountaineering experience, was killed to-day.

He left Zermatt at 3 a.m. with a Swiss friend, Werner Meyer.

An hour-and-a-half later he slipped and fell 210 feet, dragging Meyer with him.

Meyer had severe head wounds.

While Englishmen go to Switzerland, there has come to this part of the world, at least, so far, to Ireland, Lt. Hans Schwarz whose hobby is riding through Europe on Horseback and who, in doing so, sheds no little lustre on the prowess of our Swiss mounted troops. Probably most of you have read the one or other travel book he has published. Myself I treasure the Ride Through France a good dear friend sent me a year or two ago and in which Hans Schwarz describes, more interestingly than any other travel book I know has ever done, some of the beautiful French Provinces, their customs, their people.

Swiss Officer enjoying Horseback Tour in Ireland:

Evening Herald, Dublin, 12th August:

Lieut. Hans Schwarz, the Swiss Army officer, is enjoying his horseback tour of Ireland.

He received a warm welcome on arrival at Castledermot, where he stayed overnight. He obtained a map there showing by-roads, which he wished to use more than main roads, as, he says, the latter are not so suitable for horses.

He also attended a dance at Castledermot, and readily responded to requests for songs, which won him much applause.

Lieut. Schwarz yesterday morning left Castledermot for Carlow. Having stayed there for a short while, he continued his journey to Kilkenny, where he stayed last night as the guest of Capt. Melville, Killcreene Lodge.

Otherwise there is really not very much of interest in the British Press at the moment, as far as Switzerland is concerned. There are travel stories galore, descriptions of this and that part of Switzerland. The provincial and parochial papers have long articles by this and that local Worthly who describes his experiences in our wonderful country and, thereby, makes all his readers mouths' water, so that, next year they will go and see for themselves!

The political upheavals, especially, of course, the Austrian Anschluss, have their strong repercussions in our beloved country. Probably recognising the old truth that a people is never conquered as long as it keeps its language, the good people of Zug, that delightful little Canton in the heart of Switzerland — where the Roetheli come from at Christmas! — have taken strong measures, as is shown by the following from The Times, Aug. 12th:

Use of Schwyzerdütsch in Switzerland:

The absorption of Austria by Germany has caused in the German-speaking Cantons of Switzerland a marked Nationalist reaction which is showing itself in language questions.

In recent months the Parliaments of several of these Cantons have permitted the use of *Schwyzerdütsch* — the Alemannic dialect spoken in Central and Eastern Switzerland — in Parliamentary debates. The Parliament of Canton Zug has now gone a step farther and has unanimously decided to ban ordinary German from all its proceedings and make the use of *Schwyzerdütsch* compulsory.

I think our good friends of Zug are right. Remembering some of our Zürcher Kantonsräte (Cantonal Counsellors) making speeches in what they fondly believed to be "hochdeutsch" many years ago, I certainly think that it will be much better and at the same time more elegant if such speeches are made in the homely dialects of the various Cantons. What could be more beautiful and Swiss? After all, our Schwyzerdütsch, we always maintain, is quite different from Hochdeutsch. Nobody ever convinced me yet that Ankebot is the same as Butterbrot! Nor has a Guggel the same etymological root as a Hahn!

Another powerful article will meet your eye, the Editor permitting, next week. Good night!

"1938 IN EUROPE."

In two volumes this "travel annual," published in London by W. Aldor, contains entertaining descriptions and informations regarding every single country in Europe — bar only unhappy Spain. It is not a Baedeker or one of the lesser imitations. Those seeking complete historical and artistic enumerations of things to see in the old-fashioned serious manner will do better to stick to their old-fashioned guides. But for up-to-date information on the more worldly joys of travel — sports facilities, best places for food, the culinary specialities and the local wines of each country, where and how to make "whoppee" — there is nothing like "1938 in Europe." This is not to say that the novel "travel annual" entirely neglects the historical cultural and artistic interests. It does contain fairly ample material also in this respect — but it has been relegated into the perspective of importance ordinarily attached to it by the average traveller, who nowadays is out to enjoy himself physically in the first place and mentally only by the way. The editors of "1938 in Europe" are consciously and competently catering for the most prevalent sort of want.

"Switzerland" is dealt with in that same carefree but up-to-the-minute spirit of modern life by our London compatriot G. J. Keller and the English travel writer D. A. Tansley. Those Swiss readers intending to pay their home-country a visit after years of estrangement will find a lot of useful hints and reminders in Mr. Keller's jaunty account to assist them in their choice of place or route of travelling.

Dr. E.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Frank Zogg, of 17, Cavendish Gardens, S.W.4, has met with an unfortunate accident last week when alighting from a 'bus. He was taken to the Bellingbroke Hospital, Bellingbroke Grove, S.W.11, where it was found that his right arm and left wrist were fractured. On behalf of his large circle of friends we wish to tender sincere wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi 6 Septembre au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Great Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7h. 15 précises (prix 5/-).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.	Démissions.
Admissions.	Divers.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 2321/2).

Le Comité.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

SWISS LADY in Torquay requires a cook-general, two in family. Write Box No. 4, c/o Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, September 6th (Dinner 7.15 sharp) City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting, at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.1.

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

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11h. — Culte. M. M. Pradervand.

Les cultes du soir reprendront le dimanche 4 septembre.

Pour l'instruction religieuse et les actes pastoraux, prière de s'adresser au pasteur, M. Marcel Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4 (Téléphone Mountview 5003). Heure de réception à l'église le mercredi de 11 — 12h.30.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 28. August 1938.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst.

Die Abendgottesdienste beginnen wieder am Sonntag, den 4. September um 7 Uhr.

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.

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