

The fountains of Berne

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Depuis 1938, les livres étrangers utilisés dans les écoles secondaires suisses ont diminué de 700 à 800 titres et une été remplacés par des livres suisses. Les écoles primaires utilisent presque exclusivement des manuels suisses.

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Le Dr. Franz Seiler, président de la Société suisse des hôteliers, vient d'être élu président de l'Union internationale des hôteliers.

* * *

Le professeur William Rappard, de Genève, délégué gouvernemental de la Suisse, a été élu à l'unanimité président de la 34ème conférence internationale du travail.

* * *

La "Chronocaméra Longines" donne en 4 secondes des temps photographiés, précis au centième de seconde. Cet appareil révolutionne la méthode de contrôle des temps, dans les applications techniques et sportives. Adoptée officiellement par la Fédération internationale de l'automobile, en octobre dernier, à Paris, elle vient de l'être également par la Fédération internationale motocycliste à Stockholm.

THE FOUNTAINS OF BERNE.

That pleasing feature, the public fountain, is nowhere in Europe in more abundant evidence than in the towns and villages of Switzerland. Many of them are exquisite artistic creations and their style ranges from the Gothic to Renaissance, from Baroque to just utilitarian.

Perhaps the most perfect of such artistic fountains are found in Berne where they are remarkable for both their number and their admirable setting. The wide streets and squares in which they are placed form a background from which they stand out in all their beauty. Not only are they admirable expressions of their builders' art, they also represent something of the town's cultural history, notably the influence of the Renaissance period. To this period belong the "Schützenbrunnen" (1527); the "Seilerbrunnen" (Käfigturm 1549); the "Ryfflibrunnen" (1540-50); the "Dudelsackspfeifer" (1507); the "Zähringerbrunnen" (1542); the "Samsonbrunnen" (1544); and many others, all creations of the 16th century. One of the most charming of these is the quaint *Kindlifresser*, built between 1540 and 1550, picturing the ogre with a collection of babies in his bag and a procession of bears around its column.

Classical fountains of the eighteenth century are also to be found but they are quite eclipsed by the older erections we have enumerated.

The fountains, of course, are not the only attractions offered to the visitor to Berne. The town itself, founded in the 12th century by the Dukes of Zähringen, is of great historical interest. Its ground plan is much the same as it was hundreds of years ago and its arcades give it a distinctive character and peculiar charm.

For the benefit of the tourist, the *Verkehrsverein der Stadt Bern* has published an illustrated folder and map with notes in four languages, one in English. Anyone visiting Berne will be well advised to obtain a copy, he will find it useful and instructive. To quote from the English version: "the fountains ... will tell you their own stories. Go and see them, look and listen!"

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION.

Dear Compatriot,

The First of August Committee of the Swiss Colony in London have much pleasure in extending to all Swiss and their families in Great Britain a cordial invitation to join in this year's celebration of our SWISS NATIONAL DAY.

The date, time and place will be found on the front page.

Admission will be BY TICKET ONLY, which will be FREE OF CHARGE and must be applied for in advance. Application should be made by post, to Mr. A. Gandon, The Hon. Secretary, THE FIRST OF AUGUST COMMITTEE, 53, Friars Place Lane, Acton, London, W.3. No ticket can be sent unless a 2½d. STAMPED and ADDRESSED ENVELOPE is enclosed with the application. The full names of all persons for whom tickets are required must be stated.

The Theatre holds some 2,400 people. All seats are reserved. Tickets will be issued in strict rotation. Early application is therefore advisable to save disappointment.

It will greatly help the Committee if ticket holders who find themselves prevented from attending the celebration will be kind enough to return their unwanted tickets AT ONCE to the above address for the benefit of other fellow countrymen.

And last but not least, it is hoped again that as many visitors as possible will wear national costume.

THE COMMITTEE.

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