

International tennis championships

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of raffle tickets and several donations have realised about £400. Special thanks to all supporters!

Around the middle of December, a boy from Switzerland who had run away from home — I felt so sorry for him — found a home in my vestry over Christmas. He did most of the decorations, polished the brass and silver, painted the worn-out steps, put up the Christmas tree and did his best to make me look nice and respectable. May God protect him on his journeys!

On 24th of December, Christmas Eve, well over 100 people attended Holy Mass and joined the Christmas party in the well-decorated club hall. Singing carols, they enjoyed a good meal and even entertained some kind policemen who protected them from harm and stray drunkards. Besides the happy faces, one also could notice some stray tears of homesickness. But I really admired those young boys who had organised a taxi service with their cars until 3.30 a.m. to take the girls home after Midnight Mass.

On Sunday, 29th December, the traditional Children's Christmas Party took place, and I had the chance of seeing many Swiss families with their children for the first time, since most of them live too far away to attend services here. There were about 150 parents and children at Holy Mass and the following tea party. Father Christmas paid them a visit and brought each child a lovely Christmas parcel.

Looking back on these busy days, I keep smiling about the happy life which had been going on within and without my blackened brick walls, for instance on New Year's Eve or at the different farewell parties. It is difficult for me to imagine that these young people of to-day should be worse than those of yesterday. They may have different problems and the same faults and they always will, but so many come to the right place to find strength, guidance and friendship. And I wish to express my sincere thanks to all who have helped to make last Christmas a happy memory in the lives of so many people.

P.B.

ZURICH IS PLANNING BIG RECREATION CENTRE

Zurich is Switzerland's largest population agglomeration. The metropolis on the River Limmat, with its steadily growing economy and its highly industrialised suburbs and neighbouring communities houses nearly one million inhabitants on a territory with a diameter of not much more than 50 km. (about 35 miles). The demand for recreation space within easy (and inexpensive) reach grows as quickly as the population. Modern man suffers from chronic lack of exercise. In order to make up for this deficiency he tries to substitute sports. Everybody, not only a sports champion, has to regenerate his body which is yearning for oxygen as often as possible with those elements he misses in places where people for the most part are engaged in commerce, business, industry and traffic. Therefore, it is only a natural defensive action to help oneself that manifests itself in an impulsive desire for sun, oxygen and ozone. Sports, games and hikes in clean mountain air, in forests enriched by ozone, are an excellent means of providing just that necessary replenishment. This is the result of modern scientific research in the fields of hygiene, sports and medicine. From this point of view one cannot but cordially welcome Zurich's project to create a modern centre for sports and recreation just to the South of the city, in the pre-Alpine region of Schwyz.

As a basis Oberiberg (also sometimes spelled Hoch-Ybrig) at an altitude of 1,000-1,800 m. (or 3,280-5,900 feet) is given consideration. This region has for a long time been well known to many summer and winter tourists and devotees of cross-country ski-ing. What with the growing trend "Return to Nature" it is conceivable that Zurich, due to its central location as an intercontinental airport city, would be able to offer its numerous visitors another welcome attraction if the plans for this recreation centre materialise.

[S.N.T.O.]

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

From 22nd to 27th July, Gstaad will organise what will probably be the biggest and most important international tennis championship which has ever taken place in Switzerland. Thanks to the renewed definite assurance, the International Lawn Tennis Association has given to the inhabitants of Gstaad, the "Internationals" will for the first time be played in Switzerland as a so-called "open", that is by professionals *and* amateurs. As far as Gstaad is concerned, this will be the second time that an "open" championship game has been granted this village so rich in the tradition of organising international championships. It is already known that eight professionals will take part, led by Roy Emerson, together with seven players of world-championship calibre. Also, the championships next July will feature such ladies of the world's top class as the Misses Casals, King, Dürr and Jones. Thus one may look forward to a tennis festival of the first order.

[S.N.T.O.]

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