

The paradise of the week-ender

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Notes and Gleanings—(Continued)

it, there is always the possibility that an abstract artist might.

Fishing.

If anybody asked you, dear Reader, why so and so has chosen *Maloja* for a holiday, you could advance several reasons, I think. But, I doubt very much whether you would include *Fishing* as one of such reasons. And yet I read the following in the *Fishing Gazette* of November 9th.

Dear Sirs,—I should be greatly obliged to any of your readers who could give me their personal experiences of the trout fishing in the lake at Maloja, Engadine, Switzerland. Apart from the fact that a permit to fish that lake from the "sides" only can be obtained from the local police, who are the actual owners of the fishing rights?—Yours faithfully,

Truly, Switzerland caters for all sorts of people. The above remarks of mine might, perhaps, also apply to places like Stansstad or Lugano, and I will, therefore, bow my head and say no more!

For Philatelists:

From *The Times*, 12th Nov.

The Swiss child-welfare stamps, "Pro Juventute," will present this year an attractive series of views in the Alps, off-set printed at Haarlem after the designs of eminent artists. Lake Lugano is the subject of the 5c. rose and violet by the Genevan painter Gos, while M. Ed. Boss, of Bern, is responsible for the pictures of Engstlensee, at the foot of the Tiltis, and Lyskamm, as seen from Riffelberg, appearing on the 10c. olive-green and brown on bluish and 20c. red and blue respectively. The fourth value, 30c. blue on azure, bears the head of the sainted Nicholas de Flue, who pacified the Swiss Confederacy in the 15th century. In accordance with precedent, these charity-cum-postage stamps will remain in circulation for one month only.

Owing to the dissatisfaction of the Prince of Liechtenstein with the proofs submitted by the Federal Mint at Bern in September and the consequent postponement of the issue of stamps bearing the Prince's likeness, it is understood that the new issue for that country is to be produced by the Austrian State Printing Works at Vienna.

TOM.

Tom, üse Kater, alte Herr,
Chlagt öfters, er wüss nid, woher
Es chöm, dass üsi donners Müs,
Wo neste frech im Ussegghüs,
So liecht sich nümme löje fo;
's sig Oeppis lätz gwüss irgendwo.
Uf dieser Welt git's mänge Ma,
Den me mit Tom verglyche cha.
Zum Byspiel i d'r Büroaukratie
Het's, wo nüm uf d'r Höchi si,
Und, statt sich selbst by'r Nase z'näh,
Gäng Oepper anger Schuld wei gä. Mutz.

Literature on Winter Sports.

Quite a crop of books on Winter Sports in Switzerland and other centres have lately appeared in England. Following is a short list with extracts of notices:

The Winter Sports Annual. By J. B. Wroughton. (Cecil Palmer, 1/-.)

A wonderful shillingsworth, replete with maps and photographic illustrations. This is the fourteenth edition of the Annual with its yearly record of achievements in skiing, skating, curling, ice hockey, and tobogganning. Full details are given as to what to wear for winter sports, the choice of a winter sport resort, and winter sport clubs. Sports centres of the British Isles, Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland and Scandinavia, are well described in directory section. This book should be on every winter traveller's bookshelf.

"Winter Sport in Europe." By Becket Williams. (Bell, 7s. 6d.)

By ARNOLD LUNN.

A readable and comprehensive survey of the winter sport countries of Europe meets an obvious demand.

In spite of irritating inaccuracies, the book does contain a great deal of valuable information. There can be very few ski-runners with a more varied knowledge of winter sport centres than Mr. Williams. He is a man of strong prejudices, but he writes agreeably, and is never dull.

SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA.

Mr. Williams begins his survey with Switzerland, which he considers to be comparatively dear, though he admits "that one generally gets value for one's money. Many could manage with less dances and palatial rooms, and a corresponding cheapness of tariff." Those, however, who do not want dances and palace hotels can find in Switzerland good ski-ing and comfortable accommodation at a reasonable price.

The best part of the book is that which deals with Austria. The author loves the country and its people, and writes charmingly about both. Austria is certainly a first-class ski-ing country, with a wide choice of magnificent ski-ing centres. But in comparing prices it should be remembered that the journey to Austria is longer and more expensive than to Switzerland. And surely the Swiss Alps are the more beautiful. The stupendous north wall of the Oberland and the Matterhorn from Zermatt have only one rival outside Switzerland, the south face of Mont Blanc.

SCANDINAVIA.

The author writes with great affection and real knowledge of Scandinavia. Every ski-runner should visit Norway and Sweden, partly because they will find in those countries the greatest experts at jumping and long distance races, partly because Scandinavia ski-ing is more adventurous than ski-ing in the Alps, and partly because every ski-runner ought to visit the homeland of our sport.

"Climbs and Ski Runs." By F. S. Smythe (Blackwood, 21s.)

Modern mountaineering is of many types and is active in many different continents; and it is a virtue of Mr. Smythe's book that he expresses this modern broadening of the sport. As a distinguished member of the younger school of British climbers, and a man who has had a wide experience of different types of mountaineering, he is able to speak with authority. He gives us adventures of many sorts and he carries on the old tradition in the modern spirit. Even some of the classical jokes re-appear in a modern garb. He takes us, as is right and proper, to the hills of our own country and thence to the Alps. Winter sport—ski-ing—and winter climbing have their place. But, as is again right and proper, the classical summer climbing remains the backbone of the book. His adventures rise in progressive interest. The Tödi, the Dolomites, a fine description of a thunderstorm on the Schreckhorn, the Petret ridge—and they culminate in the two new ascents of the east face of Mont Blanc in 1927 and 1928. The adventures are well told by a writer who has a vivid memory for dramatic incidents and who maintains the scientific tradition—a somewhat mysterious connection is traced between the colour of a stormy morning and that of the discharge in the Crookes tube. Mr. Smythe is, however, more reliable in his excellent note on "avalanches." His illustrations are good and portray the mountains in unusual aspects. He ends his book, which may be heartily recommended to all mountain lovers, with a confession of faith.

ECONOMIC SWITZERLAND.

THE BUILDING INDUSTRY.

During the first term of 1929 5,300 lodgings were built in Switzerland. During the same period 128 designs for the construction of factories were approved of. An unabated activity

characterises the building industry, especially in the larger Swiss towns.

RAILWAYS.

A large shunting-yard was opened recently at Muttentz (near Basle) which is considered to be the most up-to-date of the kind in Europe. Being situated at a junction of French, German and Swiss railways systems it is of international importance. The total costs amount to 22 million francs.

AUTOMOBILE TRANSPORT.

From 1920 to 1928 the network of regularly organized automobile transport increased from 800 to 1,200 km., the number of travellers from 880,000 to 2 millions and the quantity of goods conveyed from 16,000 to 49,000 tons.

ARTIFICIAL SILK.

The Fascist organ "La seta artificiale" publishes the following statistics concerning the production and consumption of artificial silk in the principal countries, reckoned in kilogrammes per capita of the inhabitants:

	Consumption	Production
Switzerland	0.70	1.26
Belgium	0.55	1.01
England	0.43	0.51
United States	0.41	0.37
Germany	0.38	0.34
France	0.30	0.41
Italy	0.29	0.65
Czechoslovakia	0.27	0.09
Canada	0.26	0.17
Austria	0.19	0.27
Holland	0.17	0.05
Japan	0.11	0.11

It is of interest to note that the smaller industrial countries, such as Switzerland, Belgium and Holland occupy, proportionately, a very important position.

RESPECT THE POLICE.

Fritz was on his way to school when he met a policeman and touched his cap to him.

Teacher: "I am glad to see you respect the police."

Fritz: "Yes, that is the policeman who brings dad home every Saturday night."

—Nebelspalter, Zurich.

The Paradise of the Week-End.

The following article does not deal with Switzerland, writes "Kyburg," but for many of us it has a joyous message or rather a faint, but sweet memory of other days. Something akin to the effect we feel when we hear "Erzählungen aus dem Wienerwald."

"Sunday excursions are an easy matter for the Viennese, as the magnificent Wienerwald (Vienna Forest) begins at the very outskirts of the city, extending about fifty miles west and south.

The Sunday excursion of the old Imperial days had its own peculiar Viennese character. Wine and music played no small part in it. The respectable Viennese citizen of twenty years ago, with his wife and family, took a tram-ride to one of the outer termini, and after about an hour's walk in the fine forest he sought refreshment in one of the inns, especially where he could get "Heurige," new wine of the seasons, vintage, fresh from some vineyard near by of the innkeeper's own. A hundred and fifty years ago the Emperor Joseph II. decreed that owners of vineyards should be permitted to sell their own wine on their premises without a licence, and this custom has survived right down to our day.

In these wineshops the family would take a seat at one of the long wooden tables under the lime trees and order a litre (little short of a quart) of wine. They would have their own food in a parcel. The contents would be very different from what an Englishman would take. Sandwiches, in the English sense, were unknown before the war, and the chief contents of the parcel would be innumerable "Natur oder Wiener Schnitzeln"—thin fried Vienna steaks, cold—a huge loaf of rye bread, some cheese, butter, and many and multifarious cakes, some filled with rich cream, others plain, others made with chocolate, and so forth. Knife and fork were neither supplied with the Heurige nor brought by the excursionists. Father's penknife was used to cut the Schnitzel and the cakes were taken between the fingers. The menfolk liked to eat dry and stale cakes because this gave a good excuse to order another, and again another, litre of the good Heurige wine.

In the corner of the garden the Schrammel-Quartet would be playing—a strangely combined small orchestra—violin, bass-viol, melodeon, and piano. The orchestra would play sentimental and generally obsolescent Vienna tunes: "Wien, Wien, nur du allein, Du sollst die Stadt meiner Träume sein..." ("Vienna, Vienna, thou alone shalt be the city of my dreams"), or "Ich möcht' wieder a mal in Grinzing sein, Beim Wein, beim Wein, beim Wein" ("I want to be in Grin-

zing again, at the wine, wine, wine"). Two popular singers, with doubtful voices but an apparently unshakable conviction of their musical talent, would wander from table to table and sing, accompanied by the Schrammel orchestra, the tunes which the father of the family or the young woman's young man might ask for.

After the war there came a sudden change. The English spirit suddenly invaded the Continent, and the English week-end penetrated, via Germany, to Vienna. In recent years the old-style Vienna excursions have been losing their attraction; the Viennese are now going on week-ends. No country is more bountifully equipped for the week-end excursions than Austria, with her magnificent Alps, and the Southern and Western termini in Vienna are packed out with an apparently unmanageable crowd every Saturday morning and noon. Mountaineering was always a favourite sport of the Austrians, but it has become infinitely more popular during the last five years. The Social Democrats of Vienna have intentionally trained their members to become good mountaineers. The party leaders considered that excursions in the Alps and a day in the open-air were both healthier and more dignified than spending the Sunday in wayside inns or in a Heurige, drinking wine all day long and far into the night. Tens of thousands of young Socialists have joined the Association of the "Naturfreunde" (Friends of Nature), and the leaders have arranged all sorts of facilities enabling the workers, grown-ups and young people, to spend the week-end in the glorious Austrian mountains at the least possible cost.

It is a common sight in Vienna on Saturdays to see a score of young people marching two by two towards one of the railway stations. The men wear khaki shirts, short leather trousers, and heavy nailed boots; the women are dressed in pleasant printed calico dresses, the so-called "Dirndl."

One of the most popular week-end excursions of the Viennese in summer is to one or other of the many beach bathing-places along the Danube. There are fine swimming possibilities, especially near Klosterneuburg and Kritzendorf, and at these places huge colonies, with small week-end houses, have sprung into existence during recent years.

Austria, like Switzerland, is in the happy position that her inhabitants can undertake week-end trips both summer and winter. In winter the many and excellent skiing slopes of the mountains are visited. A Saturday morning at a Vienna station conveys the impression of a huge military camp, men and women alike wearing the blue "Norwegians," the skiers' uniform: wide blue trousers fastened round the heavy boots, blue coats with high collars, and the typical Norwegian cap, and every one of them "armed" with their pair of skis, like lances. The new Austrian railway coaches provide special room on the top for the skis. There are plenty of excellent skiing places near Vienna. The Semmering district, the Styrian mountains, the Wechsel district can all be reached in one to three hours' time, and in the higher parts of Styria the snow lasts till the middle of April. Passionate skiers who are able to take a longer week-end, often travel to Tyrol or to the Arlberg, while others are satisfied to go to the Rax, which can be reached by train and by the cableway in two hours from Vienna. Saturday night is spent in the many very good if somewhat primitive hotels of the valleys.

What has become of the Heurige? They still flourish, but they are no longer frequented by the Viennese. Many foreigners, including a huge number of English and American tourists, now visit Vienna, and the Heurige has adopted itself to their requirements. The tables are now covered with white cloths, the oil lamps have given place to electric light. The customers of the Heurige no longer bring their food with them, but eat à la carte. The wine is no longer served in carafes, but sold in bottles, and less cheaply. The only thing which has not changed is the music and the two popular singers. They sing to rich Americans from the Middle West "Wien, Wien, nur du allein..."

A CANARD.

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ALL ORDERS EXECUTED IMMEDIATELY.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

Dr. R. Frei, Basle: "Divorce." J. Flückiger (Miss), Berne: "J. J. Rousseau." O. Amstad, Beckenried: "A Book I have recently read," and "Federal Councillor, the late Karl Scheurer." J. Menoud, Neuchâtel: "Marseilles." A. Rubi, Grindelwald: "A Ski-Trip." E. Baumgartner (Miss), Olten: "Gainsborough and Reynolds." E. Meyer, Wädenswil: "Fog." P. Pfister, Sonceboz: "The Fame of Swiss Watches." J. Frey, Wil-St. Gall: "A Tube in Basle."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"That the Principles of Darwinism are Unfounded." Proposer: Dr. L. Pfenniger, Zurich. Opposer: O. Amstad, Beckenried.

"My Impressions of London." O. Amstad, Beckenried; R. Pleuler, Basle; J. Flückiger (Miss), Berne; F. Falkner, St. Gall; A. Hürzeler, Aarburg.

Friday, November 22nd: A lecture was given by Miss M. A. Briggs, B.Sc., "Family Life among Animals," and illustrated by lantern slides.

Saturday, November 23rd: The Students visited the National Portrait Gallery.

PERSONAL.

The Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme wishes to return thanks for the many marks of sympathy extended to him from all sides; Madame Hoffmann is progressing quite satisfactorily.

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PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera
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Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C.2 (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.
Admissions.

Démotions.
Divers.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The members and friends of the Society are reminded that our

Next Cinderella Dance

will take place on

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7th, 1929,

at the

Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras Stn., N.W

from 6.45 for 7.0 to 11.45 p.m.

TICKETS at 8s. 6d. (incl. Supper during the interval) may be obtained from Mr. J. G. Nussle, 8, Cross Lane, E.C.3 (Tel. Royal 8834). Mr. R. Chapman, 31, Crockerston Rd., Upper Tooting, S.W.17, at Swiss House, 34-36, Fitzroy Square, W.1 (Tel. Museum 6888) and from Employment Department, 24, Queen Victoria St., E.C.4 (Tel. City 7119). THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE.

Divine Services.

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Dimanche 1er Décembre 1929: 1er Avent.—11h.

"Le Dieu caché"—Es. 45/15. M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6h30—3e Etude sur I Pierre.

7h30—Réunion de recueilement.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Archway 1798). Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 1. Dezember 1929.—I. ADVENT.

11 Uhr vorm. Gottesdienst und Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr abends Gottesdienst.

Dienstag, den 3. Dezember nachmittags 3 Uhr:

Näherer im "Foyer Suisse."

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen und Religionsunterricht sind erbeten an Pfr. C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4. Telefon: Chiswick 4156.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-1 Uhr in der Kirche.
Mittwoch 5-6 Uhr im "Foyer Suisse."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, December 4th, at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIÉTÉ DE SECOURS MUTUELS. Monthly Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Saturday, December 7th, at 7 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at the Midland Grand Hotel. (See advertisement.)

Wednesday, December 11th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting at Swiss House.

Wednesday, December 18th at 7.45 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Ordinary monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. Dr. Charles Ferrière will speak on "The Swiss National Park." All members cordially invited to this interesting causerie.

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