

Holiday camps for swiss adolescents from abroad

Autor(en): [s.n]

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - (1951)

Heft 1157

PDF erstellt am: **24.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-691883>

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SWITZERLAND FROM A NEW ANGLE.

The N.S.H. has been lucky in securing for its last Open Meeting such an eminent lecturer as Prof. E. Egli of Zurich. The title of his lecture "Die Schweiz im neuen Flugbild" scarcely suggested the wonderful treat that was in store for the members and friends of the Society present on that occasion. Prof. Egli revealed himself not only as a brilliant lecturer and teacher but also as a philosopher, a politician, a poet and an artist — all rolled up into one magnificent conférencier.

Prof. Egli is a geographer, geologist and ethnologist who has a superb understanding of the correlation between nature and man, especially between the topography and the population of Switzerland. This is the field of his special interest and study, the results of which may be found in infinite richness in Prof. Egli's books, such as "Swiss Life and Landscape" published in London by Paul Elek at 12s. 6d.

This book has proved a best-seller in its limited field on the English market. A new book also conveying much of Prof. Egli's angle on these things has just been published under the title "Die Schweiz im Flugbild". It is a beautiful collection of views and close-ups from the air taken by a skillful photographer, together with a most stimulating commentary pointing out the significance of the works of nature and man. Prof. Egli, part-author of the text, delighted his audience at the N.S.H. meeting with the showing of many of these views through lantern slides and by

his commentary. He illustrated his comments with the aid of hand movements reminiscent of Indian dancers in their subtlety and rich content.

Prof. Egli showed first a series of pictures illustrating the numerous peculiarities of topographical and geological formations of mountains and valleys. He then presented his audience with a selection of views of the various forms of settlement of men in correlation with the territory they live in; single settlements widely spread in the woodlands that are slowly cleared by the hands of man; the villages that accumulate human habitations in the valleys, at the foot of the hills, on plateaus, on river deltas, at the end of the lakes along the outflowing river; the amazing variety of the cultivation of the ground in fields and acres composing geometrical patterns, following closely the inexhaustible variety of the ground formation.

It would be impossible to attempt to convey the inspiring message brought to us by Prof. Egli on the elemental influences that have helped in shaping the sturdy, rugged and wilful Swiss character, mellowed in the course of time into that rich variety of social units, small and large, rustic and urbane, composed of strong individuality whom nature has taught the necessity and enriching value of voluntary, dignified and loyal co-operation. We cannot thank Prof. Egli enough for the interesting, fascinating and uplifting lecture he has given us.

Dr. E.

HOLIDAY CAMPS FOR SWISS ADOLESCENTS FROM ABROAD.

Apart from the special arrangements for Swiss Children from abroad for holidays in Switzerland, on which full details have been published in the "Swiss Observer" during the last few weeks, the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger is also running wandering holiday camps for boys and girls between 16 and 22. In separate groups they are walking for 16 days each through some of the most wonderful parts of Switzerland. There are groups walking through the mountains from Adelboden to Lenk, Crans St. Luc, Torrentalp, Kandersteg, etc., including some considerable peaks. There are other groups of less experienced walkers enjoying themselves in the lake areas Thun, Sundlauenen, Brienz, Brienzler Rothorn, Meiringen, Giswil, Rotschuo, Rigi, etc.

The cost of these wonderful holidays is partly met by the "Schweizerhilfe", while only 60 — 70 S.Frs. for the 16 days are charged to the participants. These are also entitled to a contribution of 70 S.Frs. towards the cost of travel from abroad to Berne. These arrangements will enable many youngsters to take part in these holidays they might otherwise have to miss.

The mountain groups have their holidays from July 18th to August 2nd, and the groups of beginners from August 1st to August 16th. The Youth Service of the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger is responsible for all arrangements and qualified supervision under the direction of Dr. Erich Weisskopf. Fuller details may be obtained in German or French from the Hon. Secretary of the N.S.H., Miss A. Gretener, 49, Putney Hill, London, S.W.15.

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