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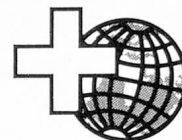
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Is that wise?

Book Reviews

Swiss Uniforms

«Schweizer Uniformen/ Uniformes suisses 1700-1850»

Before a federal law made provision for federal ordinance regulations, every Canton had decreed uniforms for its troops. When, as it happened in 1792 when the frontiers were manned near Basle, there was a concentration of troops from various federal parts, the federal army presented a colourful and most picturesque sight. This bright variety is shown in a book to be published in December 1976.

The Bernese uniform scholar R. Petitmermet

collected material during decades, which then enabled the well-known French painter of uniforms L. Rousselot to create 160 water-colours showing the development of uniforms of the troops provided by the Old Federal Cantons and their affiliated States from 1700 to 1798 and of the cantonal militia army from 1803 to 1850. He did this in a most effective manner. Each of the Old Cantons is given comprehensive appreciation, and captions and detailed comments are attached to the tables (18x25 cm). The quality of the 160 colour pages are guaranteed by the Bernese printing company of Stämpfli and Co, so that the tables alone make the volume a valuable bibliographic work.

The introduction containing information on uniforms and the interesting comments on military history (in German and French) also bear testimony to the development of the Swiss defence spirit. Often influenced by foreign models and also in connection with

the technical side of military development, one tried already in earlier centuries to find the best possible solution for Swiss circumstances. Thus the pictures of the troops of the various Cantons are a true reflection of the federalistic diversity of Switzerland. But they also show how the development gradually moved on towards a Swiss army of the new Confederation in the 19th century. Thus a piece of Swiss history is brought to life in this book in a manner which will be easily understood also by the reader not historically trained. It is therefore to be hoped that the Swiss abroad, too, will be interested in this book. Thanks to a noteworthy subsidy, the Historic Society of the Canton of Berne is able to offer this volume at a price which, in comparison with the 160 colour reproductions, may be called reasonable. The book can be ordered from the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, Postal Box, 3000 Berne 16, Switzerland, at the price of Fr. 260.—.



Swiss women who married non-Swiss and whose children would like to be also Swiss citizens, as may be the case when the father is a Swiss, can write, without obligation, to the Secretariat of the Swiss abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16, which will refer your correspondence to the committee of a group of Swiss from Great Britain who is treating this problem.