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HELVETIA

Monthly Publication
of the Swiss Benevolent Society
in New Zealand.

AUCKLAND, 1st. January, 1937.

2nd. Year --- Vol. 4.

We wish to extend to all our compatriots a very happy and prosperous New Year. May all of you be blessed with health and happiness.

CIRCULATING LIBRARY.

Recently it has been suggested that arrangements should be made for a circulating library, to give our members an opportunity of obtaining literature in their own mother tongue. With the kind assistance of some of our members, we are now in a position to begin with a circulation of Illustrated Swiss Papers; some of these date back a number of years, but we feel they will nevertheless be welcome in your home. Some of these illustrations will take you back to your dear homeland and awaken memories of days gone by. The Secretary will shortly take the necessary steps to circulate portion of the Magazines. Your co:operation in passing the papers to your next countryman will be much appreciated.

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THE DWARF FOREST.

Few tourists travelling from the pretty little mountain village Brullisau, Appenzell, along the noisy stream and amongst beeches and pines to the lake Sambtis, know that part of the journey they walk through a truly magic forest. About 3 acres are covered with nearly 2,000 dwarf pines, 2 to 3 feet in height and from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in thickness. Many of these trees having been cut for examination purposes, proved to be 150 years old or more. What a freak of nature! Is it not wonderful that, notwithstanding the many existing handicaps, Nature understands the necessary requirements for every plant in her domain. Even in Summer the sun shines for only four hours and, besides this obstacle, these pines get very little nourishment from the poor soil. Most interesting also, is the fact that immediately adjoining the dwarf forest, you will find pines 60-70 feet high and about 250 years old, while near-by other trees of about 100 feet or more show an age of only 80-100 years.

Dr. Baechler, Director of the St. Gall Museum has been able to discover the reason for this freak of nature. For perhaps thousands of years, moss, fern, heather, alpin roses and many