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★ HEDY'S CORNER

A pot-pourri of impressions, collected last year in Switzerland:

* To the best of my knowledge the "Apostle of Peace" Herr Dättwiler, has never come to New Zealand. We have certainly missed something, as he is quite famous and well known. As usual, the S.B.B. train we travelled in was completely filled. Opposite us, on the other side of the aisle sat an old gentleman with a beard of biblical dimensions and a face expressing non-stop geniality. Opposite him sat a young, saintly-looking very handsome man, holding a flagstaff with a white flag on it. His truly noble facial expression betrayed his discipleship of Mr Dättwiler. The moment the pair entered the carriage the old gentleman loudly greeted his fellow travellers as he sat down. He never stopped talking; looking around he commended those who smiled, berated those who looked glum, praised his Maker, told his life story with a loud voice. A man of simplest tastes, very little money, globetrotting per favour of patrons, proclaiming his Peace message with words of limited vocabulary and radiating affability. I asked myself whether this self-styled apostle was genuine or a good actor. Who knows? I wish to think that he sincerely does his thing for humanity. Both, the snowy-bearded old man and the young black-haired disciple with an arresting look of zeal in his eyes, cannot be easily forgotten.

* Stein am Rhein, jewel of a historical town, displays at its road approaches the following request: "Motorists, stop your car engine when waiting for green lights or any other reasons. Keep the air and the buildings clean. Thank you". Hardly a motorist who did not follow this request, and what a difference it makes to the air in the sometime very narrow streets.

* Believe it or not! In this our very clean, very hygiene-conscious Homeland, dogs are allowed in all eating places! How would your appetite be if you saw a large dog in a nice restaurant, with its large snout on the table? Even in a first-class hotel restaurant we saw two very well behaved poodles quietly lying under the dinner table. Upon our complaint the reason was given that customers would not come if they could not bring their dogs too.

* Finally something well worth copying in New Zealand: In a holiday resort a Christian youth camp was filled with children around intermediate school age. In two's and three's they walked through the main street, respectfully stopping pedestrians for the purpose of questioning them. The questions were: What do you think is most important in life? Do you wish you had done or not done certain things? They wrote the answers in a notebook and told us that after the evening meals they discussed the answers garnered during the day and tried to learn something from them.