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★ HEDY'S CORNER

TRINKGELD INBEGRIFFEN

(Tips Included)

Since July 1st the two above words have become law in Switzerland, and thus compulsory for all public eating and drinking places. The amount of increase which may be charged is also taken care of by law.

I recall how much nervous energy I could have saved if these two words had been law in 1972 when I was home on a vacation. I remember the time when I rang my circle of faithful school mates and invited them to a cosy downtown "Konditorei" (tea room) for a chat and some extra rich calories for the hips!

What joy, what laughter, how much chatter we had! But gradually my blood pressure rose as the moment approached when I would have to add 15 per cent to the bill. The figures danced before my eyes, my brain malfunctioned for fear of underestimating the 15 per cent, so I raked together a handful of the larger silver coins and placed them on the waitresses tray. The thanks she proffered had distinct overtones of astonished delight!

In contrast, "shouting" my sister for a sumptuous luncheon was always undiluted pleasure. I gave her my purse beforehand and she handled the tip bogey with speed and aplomb under my admiring eye. When by myself I scrutinised the menu cards displayed in windows at eating places — the one I chose was always the one where the last sentence of the suggested menus was: "Trinkgeld inbegriffen!"

For the sake of my compatriots' peace of mind I hope that soon all "tip-able" situations will be embraced by the law, such as hotel staff, hairdresser assistants, ushers, delivery boys, bowser station attendants etc., etc. A fingercounting mathematician (as myself), and/or a compatriot not initiated into the complex tipping system, can only hail with fervour a total "TRINKGELD INBEGRIFFEN". May it arrive soon.

EXPANSION OF THE ALPINE GARDEN IN DAVOS

(snto)—The Alpine garden situated on the Schatzalp, the departure point for countless excursions in the region of Davos, was opened two years ago and has now been rearranged in part and further expanded. The Alpinarium, which is open to the general public, now boasts approximately 7,500 plants in 550 varieties belonging to the entire flora of the central Alpine region, ranging from the delicate blue Soldanella to the rarer "Bergaster".