

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

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1922)

Heft: 67

Rubrik: Here and there

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 17.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

As a matter of economy M. de Candolle thought one stamp could be made to serve the requirements of the canton, instead of the two denominations, the 1d. black and 2d. blue, which had been adopted in England. 'This arrangement would be a needless expense in Geneva; it would be a saving to allow two labels to serve for a double letter; or one for every ounce.' There were two rates of postage to be provided for, 5 centimes for letters delivered within the commune in which they were posted, and 10 centimes for letters passing from one commune to another.

The Grand Council adopted the general proposals, and instructed the Finance Department to prepare plans and to issue a 5 centimes stamp, one such stamp to be used on letters posted and delivered within one commune, and two on letters going elsewhere in the canton. There was so far no indication of the peculiar double form of stamp, and the first hint of this peculiarity is in the 'Feuille d'Avis' of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, Sept. 27, 1843, where the charges for the new stamps were announced as:

5 francs per sheet of fifty double stamps.
50 centimes per row of five ditto.
10 centimes per double stamp.
5 centimes per single stamp.

Oct. 1, 1843, witnessed the issue to the public of the stamps, which were the kind we now style the 'double Geneva,' among the rarest of European stamp treasures. They were produced by 'the lithographer Schmidt' in the town, in sheets of fifty double stamps. The printing is black on green paper; the design shows the arms of the canton in each part, with the inscriptions 'Poste de Genève' and 'Port local.' Connecting each pair is a tablet across the top, inscribed '10. Port Cantonal Cent.'

Of this curious stamp 600 sheets were printed, giving a total of 60,000 singles or 30,000 doubles. Contrary to the excellent M. de Candolle's expressed opinion, the etiquette of prepayment did not at once appeal to the Genevans, who continued to send their letters unpaid, so in March, 1844, the postal authorities tried to tempt the people to prepay their letters by selling the stamps at a rebate. From March 11 onwards the double stamp sold at 8 centimes and the half at 4 centimes. The full rates of 10 centimes or 5 centimes continued to be charged on unpaid letters.

This stamp, which the Genevans had to be tempted to buy for postal use in 1844, is the most sought after of all Swiss stamps now. It fetches more in Switzerland than on the London stamp market, being quoted at 7,000 francs Swiss unused (about £340) and 5,000 francs Swiss used (£217). The 'demi-double,' that is to say, one of the 5 centimes portions, is quoted at 1,250 francs unused and 1,000 francs used. There are many of them in the exhibition, one exhibitor showing the stamp in almost every possible philatelic state, namely (1) unused, (2) used, (3) used on an original letter, (4) 'interverti,' that is to say, with the halves in the wrong order.'

* * *

LOVERS OF JASS, especially those who are devotees of this pastime near "Tons of Money," will be tempted by the following notice which appears in the current number of *Echo Suisse*:

"M. H. Laeser, rédacteur à la 'Revue,' a fait partie du groupe de journalistes suisses invités à visiter la Pologne pendant l'été. Au retour de Zoppot, il fit la connaissance d'un Appenzellois qui lui confessa ainsi les ennuis de l'exil: 'Nous ne sommes que trois Suisses ici, impossible de jouer un schieber. Ces Polonais ne sont pas f... d'apprendre. Puisque vous êtes dans les journaux, faites de la réclame pour qu'un quatrième Suisse, sachant le jass, vienne. On lui remboursera la moitié du voyage.'

Swiss Origin.

Established 1895. Closing time Saturday 1 p.m.

V. KEISER, Maître Tailleur,
55, GREEK STREET, SHAFTESBURY AVENUE, W. 1.

Hautes Nouveautés.

Alterations and Repairs.

Also Bunches of leading firms to view.

56

HERE AND THERE.

By J. H. Corthesy.

"I don't want any rubbish—no fine sentiments—if you please," said the widow who was asked what kind of epitaph she desired for her late husband's tombstone. "Let it be short and simple, something like this: 'William Johnstone, aged twenty-five years.—The good die young.'"

In the "olden" times of a decade ago, when "too old at forty" was the catchword, the widow's meaning would have been interpreted as a sarcasm, but it may be otherwise regarded at the present time, when we have such testimony as that of Bishop G. Forrest Browne, an eminent historian, who says: "I have not quite reached the beginning of my ninetieth year, and in these days that is scarcely old age." Again, now that "rejuvenation" is becoming popular and that processes are at hand for an extension of man's lease of life up to 150 years or more—even in London, where Dr. Spahlinger and Dr. Steinach will in future be ably represented—the man who dies before that age does so only through neglect or carelessness, say, by letting himself be crushed in a crowd, or under a car. If he leaves this world early in life, at the age of 75 or so, it may mean a waste of the treatment received or of monkey or other glands, and in this case "the good die young" of the widow would mean a simple expression of regret.

* * *

But after all, what does it matter how long we live, since we have "no souls" to take care of, and "we are only machines!" as stated by Prof. Sir Charles Scott Sherrington in his presidential address at the Annual Meeting of the British Association at Hull.

Thus "science" comes with elephantine tread and squashes our ideals and our faith; and those who believed they possessed something of a value above that of common earthly things may suffer disillusionment by this scientific dictum.

When Professor Sherrington says we are but machines he tells only a part of the truth. A machine, any machine, to be of value must "work" and work efficiently, and it is that that *makes it work* which counts; for without that it is useless and is not a machine. All machines are invented and constructed for a definite purpose. In steam engines it is the steam which counts and has to be studied in all its conditions in order to produce the machine to *suit* any such steam conditions. Steam, therefore, is the main thing, for without steam the engine has no value at all. So with man without soul and with everything that exists.

Nature is always in a state of evolution, inventing, attempting to find a higher material expression for the soul force that dominates the universe. On taking the patent on man—a thinking and judging device—a certain stage of development has been reached. Man, the human machine, however, wants still more perfecting and much oiling to enable him better to understand himself first and his neighbour next.

* * *

King Tino is also a scientist who missed his aim. He wanted to go East so far—so far that he got West. His results correspond to the law of extremes or to the effect of reactions, and his dream of a few weeks ago to walk into Constantinople has received such a terrible shock somewhere else that he will have to sleep quietly for a considerable time in future, or he will have to do as Mr. Newman did two or three weeks ago, viz., kick the wicket down in an ungovernable fit of fury; in regard to

which feat Mr. James Douglas, the Editor of the *Sunday Express*, makes the following confession:—

"I am as wicked as Mr. Newman. At seven o'clock on the same morning I also lost my temper. I was dressing in an hotel bedroom in order to catch an early train. I had opened three drawers in a chest of drawers. I tried to shut the bottom drawer. It stuck, as hotel drawers invariably stick, because they cannot always respond to kicks delivered at different angles every week all the year round. I kicked the drawer, as hundreds of infuriated men had kicked it during its hard life.

"On the top of the chest of drawers stood a vase filled with roses. The vase toppled over, and the water poured into the three open drawers, over collars, ties, evening shirts, day shirts, socks, lingerie, coats, plus fours, cigarettes, cigars, letters, and all the other things a man gathers during a holiday. I saw violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange, and red in the order of the spectrum. If I had not spoken I should have burst. My sleeping wife opened her horrified eyes. 'Oh!' she cried, 'I never heard you using such language before you edited the 'Sunday Express'.' She was right. Therefore I can sympathise with Mr. Newman. If there had been stumps and bails in my bedroom, I would have kicked them. I would even have kicked an umpire!'

Perhaps if Tino kicked his crown that might relieve his feelings or the situation. Anyway, that's his business.

* * *

Little by little the world is regaining some of its old aspects. Venice, the Pearl of the Adriatic, has once more come into her own, and the luxury and brilliance of the fashions at present is such, says a correspondent of the *Weekly Dispatch*, "as to put Deauville in the shade."

"Moonlight bathing parties, dinners by the light of bonfires on the beach during the soft, cool Venetian nights, and tennis matches in bathing costumes during the heat of the day are all the rage of the fashionable cosmopolitan crowd at present assembled at Venice. . . . Thousands of wealthy English, American, and French visitors have joined the throng of Italians. . . . Well-known people can be seen daily walking on the beach attired in picturesque, if scanty, bathing dresses. . . ."

Such is life on the Continent—at certain places, and someone who suggests bringing some of the features of Paris life to London says in the *Daily Express*:—

"Londoners are compelled day by day to see the biggest metropolis that ever existed as a blotched, sprawling, inert body flung across the mouth of the Thames valley. Why should not London, with far greater natural and artificial resources than Paris, be proportionately greater in beauty, in brightness in 'esprit'?"

"Look at the Thames to start with. Any honest Frenchman will give it supremacy over his miserable grey worm of a Parisian Seine. The Thames is lovely. The Thames is majestic. . . ."

"It has often been said that the climate makes the open-air café of the Continent an impracticable ideal here. But it is not evident why we should not bring into London a little of the boulevard spirit that infects Paris all the year round. Let there be chairs and music in Trafalgar-square and the big, empty, dull court in front of the British Museum; let us have stringed orchestras in all the picture galleries."

Meanwhile the *habitués* of the Café Royal in Regent Street, which has remained for years the centre of cosmopolitan life in London, are to miss—for a time at least—their place of rendez-vous. The house is to be rebuilt. The long hall will disappear, the restaurant on the ground floor will be extended, and a first-class ballroom is to be added.

* * *

Every part of the world has its own fashions, customs and funny little ways. For example, the following was heard in the East End:—

"Give us a lump of yer toffee, Amelia!"

"Shan't, but yer can kiss me while my mouth is sticky, if yer like!"

Continental Lines, Ltd.,

Shipowners,
Freight Brokers, Shipping & Insurance Agents,
3, Cross Lane, St. Mary at Hill, London, E.C.3.

Managing Director: Chas. Strubin.
General Manager: F. Eggenberger.
Telephone: Minor's 2714, 2715, 2716, 2717. Telegrams: Sialacuap, Bilgate, London.

CHARTERING SHIPPING & FORWARDING

REGULAR CARGO STEAMSHIP SERVICES

TO and FROM
ANTWERP, DUNKERQUE, CALAIS, BOUCOCNE,
HAVRE, ROUEN, PARIS.

Loading Berth: St. George's Wharf, Rotherhithe, London, S.E.

Freight Rates on Application.

FIRST RATE ENGLISH LESSONS

(Conversation, Dictation, Grammar) are given by experienced teacher with perfect knowledge of French and German (including Schwyzerdütsch). *Very moderate terms.* Individual method.—Apply: Frank Budgen, 116, Grosvenor Terrace, Camberwell, S.E. 5. Reference: Dr. Paul Lang, Secretary N.S.H., 28, Red Lion Square, W.C. 1.

NICE BIG FRONT BEDROOM to let; breakfast if required.—J. Manzoni, 42, Kimberley Gardens, Harringay, N.

GENERAL SERVANT wanted, aged about 20, by Swiss family in Essex; no children; German-Swiss preferred.—State particulars to "G.E.B.", c/o. *Swiss Observer*, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4. 65-67

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

BONDS.	Sep. 5th	Sep. 12th
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	83.40%	83.50%
Swiss Confederation 9th Mob. Loan 5%	103.50%	103.15%
Federal Railways A—K 3½%	88.15%	88.60%
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921	106.55%	106.50%
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892...	79.50%	79.15%
Zurich (Stadt) 4% 1909	101.10%	101.00%

SHARES.	Nom.	Sep. 5th	Sep. 12th
	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	664	660
Crédit Suisse...	500	700	695
Union de Banques Suisses...	500	595	583
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	1520	1572
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	1267	1287
C. F. Bally S.A.	1000	950	1000
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon...	500	600	600
Entreprises Sulzer	1000	700	787
S.A. Brown Boveri (new) ...	500	354	389
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co.	400	199	198
Chocolats Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler...	100	111	117
Compagnie de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	445	445