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convinced me that Springtime in England is one of the most wonderful experiences one can enjoy and has again filled me with deep wonder as to why Britishers rush abroad in the Spring when they have such a beautiful country at home, a country, moreover, most of them never take the trouble to explore properly. The Alps, of course, are a thing apart, beyond comparison, *hors concours*, as it were, but otherwise I have yet to see a country in Europe which would compare favourably with the English countryside in the glorious month of May, always provided that the weather is as wonderful as it has been lately. Everything looked simply glorious, and even the Pottery District and the Black Country, north of Birmingham, looked nice, clean and full of colour. And where else could one find those glories of English rural settings, the trees and the hedgerows? And is there a place which could compare with Marlow-on-Thames for the enjoyment of a cup of tea on the lawn opposite the church, with the river carrying its gaily dressed burden slowly and lazily before your eyes?

Where else could you get that atmosphere of quietude, combined with deeply emotional thought-producing wonder, than at the Backs of Cambridge? What a wonderful thing to attend Evensong at King's, that jewel of Cambridge! And have you ever stood in Anne Hathaway's cottage at Stratford-on-Avon on a May morning? Then you know what an old-world English cottage garden can be, and your own efforts at gardening seem puny, although the experience may urge you on to further efforts.

Or have you ever looked down from Owlbar into valleys around Sheffield on a May evening, when the sun is shining brightly on the moors and when thunderstorms are raging far down below, making a most majestic picture and making you half afraid to drive down into the seemingly boiling and tearing battle of the elements?

And what of Chatsworth Hall, what of the seat of the Marlboroughs at Blenheim? 2,668 acres the latter, with 138 acres of charming lake, with one of the most exquisite bridges you could see across it? And what of the partridges, the pheasants, the deer, all so tame, all so beautiful, all so stately, and lending just that bit of English country touch to the picture? Ah, yes, my friends, you could do much worse than explore this wonderfully charming, beautiful land which gives you such liberal hospitality. Try it, and thank 'Kyburg' for having given you the tip! It's worth a real effort, believe me.

The Swiss Champion Cow,

of whose prowess in combat I remember writing in these "Notes" last spring, has added to her laurels, witness the *Daily Mail* (5th May):—

For the fourth year in succession a small, mild-looking cow named Violet was proclaimed "Queen of the Queens" at the cow-fighting tournament held at Sion, in the Rhone Valley, recently.

Violet is from Martigny, where she holds sway over all the local "queens."

The best animals that Sion could produce were collected to do battle against her.

In ten minutes her fights were over. Deliberately picking out her opponent, Violet bore down upon her with head lowered and nostrils dilated. Horns clashed and bells clanged as the two came together with a terrific impact.

Few of the rivals, however, could stand more than two seconds against Violet's hurricane charges, and after assuring herself that none was left to challenge her supremacy, she quietly trotted up to eat a piece of bread from the hand of her proud owner.

Snail Harvest in Switzerland.

Daily Express (11th May):—

The harvest of the succulent snail of the cultivated species for European consumption has begun in Switzerland and France, and thousands of men and women will be busy throughout the summer in this curious industry. The annual production in both countries is about 3 million pounds, but as the demand is far greater than the supply, the devices of the adulterator supplement nature, and pieces of meat, generally veal, are introduced into the empty shells.

The valleys on both sides of the Jura Alps on the Swiss-French frontier mark the centre of the industry, but the epicure prefers the snails of Burgundy, which have long been famed for their exquisite flavour and delicacy. The Burgundy district, however, contributes only a small proportion of the European output, owing, principally, to the treatment of the vines with phosphates against phylloxera.

The large fields which are prepared for the propagation of the snail generally lie at the edge of a wood or forest, sheltered from the sun. The soil of the farm is well sanded and limed, and round it is built a wall two to three feet high, thoroughly washed with vitriol to prevent the stock escaping into other pastures.

During their short lives cultivated snails are supplied daily with vegetables and greens in plenty.

A snail has thousands of tiny teeth. These are arranged in one hundred and thirty-five trans-

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verse rows on the tongue, and as there are as many as one hundred and five in each row, it follows that an average snail possesses over 14,000 teeth.

The price of snails in restaurants varies according to the season and the "crop," but the average tariff is 1s. to 1s. 6d. a dozen, and generally light wine is taken with the dish.

Switzerland and Foreign Investment.

The Times (8th May):—

Switzerland produced in 1924 a total of 43,646 tons of wheat, nearly 50 per cent. less than during the previous year, whereas the wheat consumption of the country amounts to nearly 420,000 tons a year. Switzerland imported 377,000 tons, mostly from Canada (202,000 tons), from the United States (128,000 tons), from Argentina (12,300 tons), and from Hungary (12,900 tons), also 8,605 tons were imported from Russia by means of intermediaries. The greater part of these imports were shipped to Antwerp and Rotterdam (191,000 tons), Marseilles (86,000 tons), Genoa (83,000 tons), and nearly 65,000 tons were transhipped and transported to Basel by the Swiss Rhine barges.

Switzerland's Wheat Requirements.

Daily Telegraph (30th April):—

Trade as a whole in Switzerland last year, bank deposits, Clearing House returns, and the proceeds of the stamp duty and coupon taxes increased, according to a report by the British Minister at Berne. Unemployment diminished so rapidly that unemployment relief was suspended in June. Bankruptcies were again fewer than in the previous year. The growth of confidence was also apparent in the higher quotations of securities and the rise in the exchange, a rise which is not accounted for by the figures of foreign trade alone. The best available statistics and estimates of the national wealth of Switzerland place it at 48½ milliard francs, or 12,100 fr. per head, which is higher than the published corresponding figure for the United States. Judging by the income-tax returns, this wealth is very uniformly distributed, extreme poverty and large fortunes being exceptional. Switzerland, it is pointed out, is a steady exporter of capital, which seeks the high rate of interest to be obtained abroad, there being a lack of local investment facilities. This is a continuation of the pre-war practice, when Swiss investments abroad amounted to 7,467 million francs, as compared with foreign investments in Switzerland of about 1,840 million francs.

During the war these figures fell to about 2,750 and 1,600 millions respectively, and Switzerland no longer offers sufficient inducement to lock up capital in home investments. The export of capital does not affect the economic stability of the country, and, moreover, brings in remunerative returns in interest: it appears to have no very great influence on Swiss interest rates, which, on the whole, do not nearly approach foreign rates. Normally, Switzerland's trade balance, owing to invisible exports, yields a surplus capital of 100–200 million francs per annum, which can be exported. Owing to war losses, however, future investments abroad are unlikely to be affected unless sufficient guarantee is forthcoming.

Submerged Village Reappears.

Daily Chronicle (6th May):—

According to the Swiss papers, a village, which has been submerged for nearly 300 years, has reappeared in the upper valley of the Saas, owing to the low level of the waters of Lake Antrona.

The original catastrophe was caused by a landslip from the Monte Pozzoli, which destroyed 42 houses of the village of Antrona Piana, together with the inhabitants and their cattle.

As a result of the landslip a lake was then formed, but owing to the waters now receding the roofs of the old dwellings are again visible.

A Double Translation.

Journal of Education (April):—

Pestalozzians will remember that an English translation of the "Letters on Early Education" was published in 1827, the year of Pestalozzi's death. Those letters were originally addressed to J. P. Greaves, who had taught English at Yverdon from 1817 to 1822, and on his return to England to spread the gospel of the new educa-

tion, had brought them home with him. No German text was ever printed, and the original manuscript has long been lost. The gap thus existing in German editions of the collected works has at last been filled by the publication of a new German text, translated from the English, under the title of "Mutter und Kind." The book is warmly welcomed by the "Pädagogische Zeitschrift" as containing "the unmistakably genuine thought of Pestalozzi, however the expression may have suffered in the double process of translation."

The same number of the "Zeitschrift" makes merry with specimens from the High Schools of translation into German from Latin. Parents demand Latin, it seems, as the only sure way to good German. And the proof of the goodness (comments the writer) is this hybrid stuff!

Your American Uncle?

I should think from the following (*The Times*, 8th May) that nearly everyone of us might still hope for an uncle from America turning up one day and, by his munificence, solving all our financial worries. If this should meet the eye of 'Kyburg's' uncle, and he should not know my present whereabouts, will he please communicate with the Editor, who will direct him, and to whom I will pay a small commission on the net result.

American statistics show that during the last 100 years 260,492 Swiss have emigrated to the United States. Only 12,700 Swiss had emigrated to the United States before 1850. Between 1911 and 1920 23,000 persons emigrated.

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Not exceeding 3 lines.—Per insertion 2/6; three insertions, 5/— Postage extra on replies addressed c/o *Swiss Observer*

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