

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: - (1925)

Heft: 206

Rubrik: Publications

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, as evidence of good faith.

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer*.

Sir,—In reply to many enquiries from *British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club*, concerning the "Adula Group" in Ticino, its accessibility and attractiveness as a touring station, with special reference to the recently constructed Hut, which has been fitted out with up-to-date comforts and sanitary arrangements, I am pleased to send you a translation of a report, published in the *Alpina*, the official organ of the Swiss Alpine Club (Section Ticino) in October last on the occasion of the opening of the Hut.

I am sure, the "Adula" chain and the fine "Basin of Olivone," with different ways of access, with easy facilities for excursions, when better known, will become a great attraction for holiday-makers. Besides the Adula, we have the Greina Pass, the Luckmanier, the Scopi, the Lago Retico, the Sosto, the Toira, the Piora, etc.

I hope that you will see your way of publishing the enclosed *in extenso*, and remain,

Yours faithfully,

G. Cusi.

THE ADULA HUT.

A joyous festival, radiant with sunshine and mirth, such was Sunday, 28th September, 1924, for the Ticino section of the C.A.S., which on that date inaugurated its new Hut, named "Adula." The pleasant recollections of this day are still fresh, and will long endure in the memory.

Readers may be interested in having a brief description of the new building and its location. It is perched aloft at a height of 2,000 metres, in the midst of a magnificent chain of mountains and at a point whence many ascents of high peaks can be made. It is easily reached from Dangio in Valle di Blenio, across the Soia Valley, and from Olivone through the Val Carasina, by way of the Bresciana Alps. White and red streamers by the wayside in Val Soia and Val Carasina show the course to follow. The "Adula" shelter is but a short distance from the Piotta Pass (2,023 m.); thence an easy descending path, abutting on the square near the hut, has been made. From this square a wonderful Alpine panorama is unfolded to the view, extending from Simano, on the right, to the majestic icefields of Bresciana that culminates in the Adula peak, on the left. From Simano to Sasso di Casasco, to L'Uscio di Sasso, the Grauhorn (3,190 m.), the Adula (3,406 m.), the Pizzo Jut (3,128 m.), the Fornei Peak, the Casinot Peak, the Sorda Peak, the Torrone di Nava and down, far away, to the characteristic Sosto that dominates Olivone, is a whole succession of magnificent and easily accessible peaks, valleys and Alpine passes. The simple, yet attractive hut emerges in the middle of a large square, separated by a solid barrier from the precipice beneath, some 500 metres in depth. The external walls of the building are of rustic design, with a rough stone surface. The little arches above the windows, also in stone, give the entire structure a typically local architectural line, very well-conceived. Below the roof runs a well-defined projecting ledge which has the appearance of binding the whole together.

Very typical is the façade; a small overhanging ledge, consisting of two simple brackets upon which reposes a large stone slab, marks the door, reached by three little steps. Two small windows flanking it light the inside vestibule, while two larger ones give light and air to the rooms on the ground floor. Above the door ledge another window lights a small room on the first floor. Half-way up the wall, projecting from its corners, are two symbolical plaques, cut in the stone by the sculptor A. Pessina, one representing Simano and the other Adula.

The side walls of the hut present no peculiar features; the well-constructed windows give light and air in profusion to both the ground and the upper floors. The roof is covered with stone slabs, its warp being of solid wood, protected by tarred paper. A plain chimney stands in the middle, on the further slope of the roof. Not far from the surrounding square a large fountain has been constructed to serve as source of supply for the drinking water; its basin can also be used for laundry purposes. The exceptionally fresh water reaches it from a near-by reservoir, built at a distance of about 350 metres from the shelter. An overflow passes from the fountain to a hygienically constructed lavatory below.

The inside of the hut first shows, on the ground floor, a lobby that divides the place fitted up as kitchen and refectory, and leads by means of a wooden staircase to the room above intended for a dormitory. The ground floor, at present all one room, is intended for members on the left, and for non-members on the right; in the latter is space for five beds.

With two separate kitchenettes and a complete set of the necessary fittings this room could suffice for the use of several different parties. The kitchenettes have two cookers and two basins, covered in majolica tiles; the taps are supplied with running water from the same reservoir that feeds the fountain outside. The floor has a slight incline to facilitate the draining of any water used in cleaning the place.

The members' refectory is carefully finished, with an admirable ceiling panelled in squares. The walls are lined with wood, as are all the walls in the building, and this, besides protecting the place from damp and from sudden changes of temperature, give it a cosy and homelike aspect.

The upper floor is entirely assigned as a dormitory, divided into five parts: one for women, one for the caretaker (transformable at will into an infirmary), a recess that could be utilised as a dark-room for photographers, and the rest for members and non-members of the C.A.S. In the dormitory are arranged 35 comfortable metal-woven beds with mattresses of Wareck (a special kind of seaweed). Belonging to each bed is a pillow and a good woollen coverlet; an ample number of padded clogs are also provided as spare footwear for the members.

Many more details could be enlarged upon, so well has even the least item been thought out. But what has been written may avail to make all lovers of mountaineering realise the wholehearted zeal and spirit of self-sacrifice shown by the Ticino Section of the C.A.S. towards its new hut "Adula."

A CONCERT BY MISS FELIA DORIO.

We wish to draw attention to the recital which our compatriot, Miss Felia Dorio, will give, in conjunction with Miss Pattie Upton, on Wednesday, June 24th, at Wigmore Hall, W.1. Miss Dorio does not require any introduction in the Swiss Colony; her programme includes songs by Scarlatti, Schubert, Brahms, Strauss, etc.

Tickets may be obtained at the Box Office, Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W.1, or from the usual Agencies.

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Pierre Emile Louis Marc DAEPPEN, de Rugisberg
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Printed and Published for the Proprietor, P. F. BOHRINGER, by THE
FREDERICK PRINTING CO. LTD., at 21, GARLICK HILL, LONDON, E.C.