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the Landesmuseum at Zurich left me quite unimpressed for a long while. Then I saw his "Der Lebensmüde," the figure of an old man sitting on a soap box, looking so infinitely weary that the whole force of Hodler's art was suddenly revealed to even my comprehension. He can put in a stroke or two, in a dash of seemingly roughly applied colour, a whole world of meaning, just as a novelist who knows his métier can, as it were, with one or two phrases make a character live. When next I saw the "Retreat from Marignano" the various figures of the Landsknechte assumed a quite different meaning, and even the famous pictures on the Swiss banknotes conveyed their message to me, apart from their intrinsic value as tokens of exchange! But—such is my poor judgment—I have never been able to call Hodler's picture beautiful, and to this day I do not believe that they are beautiful or even meant to be so. And I still prefer beautiful pictures! A basket of roses, for instance, such as I can see now from where I write, is to me more than the most famous Hodler picture, because the message it conveys to me is one of hope, of the coming of summer, and in these dark days this is a precious message indeed.

Which reminds me that Winter (with a capital "W") has been with us. And gone for the time being. Those of us who could indulge in skating, etc., no doubt liked it. There were others, unfortunately, who may be forgiven for feeling glad that the thermometer has risen considerably. Personally I had enough of the cold, the snow, ice and fog. Travelling last Friday from 1 o'clock to 11.45 p.m. to get from Liverpool Street to West-cliff-on-Sea was no pleasure. Even in the dining-car the ice could be taken off the inside of the windows!

But, personal experiences of that kind do not alter the fact, happily, that winter provides a lot of people—and I still hope to be one of them, by and by—with exquisite joys. Winter Sports are in full swing now in Switzerland, and the various matches and competitions are about to be decided or at least prepared. Says the *Morning Post* of 1st Dec.—

The Swiss University Ski Club is organising an international University Ski meeting to be held at St. Moritz on January 18 and 19. Two hundred invitations have been sent out to the Universities of Europe, the United States, and Canada.

And for those of you who think of learning ski-ing the following article from the *Westminster Gazette* (28th Nov.), written by Olga Major, British lady champion in ski-ing championships held at Murren in 1921 and 1923, may be of use:—

As ski-ing becomes more popular, the standard rises higher and higher. The result is that the novice must devote all her time to learning to ski, if she is to be able to join in expeditions and races.

The novice has to attain some slight proficiency before expeditions can be really enjoyed. As in other sports, it is the first step that counts, and beginners who are able to start off with good lessons are well on the way to become ski-ers.

The ski-er should always carry two sticks, but should use them only along the level and uphill. In going along the level the ski should not be lifted as in walking, but glided forward and a push given with the opposite stick at each step.

It is impossible to climb very steeply on ski without slipping back, so the hill should be climbed in gentle zigzags, making each traverse as long as possible. To turn the corners a "kick turn" is necessary. To do this stand with the ski pointing across the slope; then lift the lower foot, and, swinging the heel of the ski clear of the snow, turn the ski right round and bring it down parallel to the other one, but pointing in the opposite direction. Then swing the second ski round and put it beside the first.

Beginners should choose slopes for the descent which have a good run out, for, until the different turns (Christiania Telemark, and Stemming turns) have been learnt, falling is the only means of stopping.

Going downhill the sticks should be held one in each hand, with the points well behind and clear of the snow. The leather loops should not be over the hands, as this sometimes leads to sprained or broken wrists. The ski must be kept close together, with one about a foot in front of the other. The knees should be well bent and touching, and the body leaning forward. The steeper the slope the more necessary it is to lean well forward. At the bottom when reaching level ground the weight should be allowed to come slightly more back. When traversing across a slope the upper foot should be in front, with most of the weight on the lower one, and the body should lean outward as well as forward.

By stemming it is possible to go slowly down a steep slope, and it is a necessary accomplishment if there are any icy paths to be negotiated. The method is as follows: The ski are put in the form of a wide V, with the toes together and the heels apart. The ski are edged on their

inside edges and the knees bent inwards. The slower the speed desired the more the ski should be edged. It is very easy to steer when in the stemming position. To turn to the right, all that is required is to put all the weight on the left foot, and vice versa. Stemming is very difficult in soft snow, and is only practicable at slow speeds. So it cannot be used as a means of stopping when travelling fast.

It is very important to have the ski properly fitted. When the binding is fastened there should be no side play and it should be possible to kneel down on the ski, or a forward fall may cause serious injury.

Ski should be waxed frequently, or they will ice up underneath and refuse to run. The most lasting sort is the hard brown wax, which should be ironed in with a hot iron and polished afterward with a cork or old handkerchief. Paraffin wax is specially good in heavy snow and has the advantage that it can be rubbed in with the hand, which makes it very useful to take on an exhibition.

Sealskins are a very great help for climbing, and will be required for exhibitions. Spare woolies, dry gloves, a spare binding, some sort of repair outfit for ski, spare toe-straps and wax should always be taken in a rucksack.

To the above I would add one further advice, gained from personal experience: Remember, when first starting out on skis, that you will have many falls which look alarming to the onlooker, but are quite harmless to you, provided you do not try to prevent yourself from falling once the balance is lost.

#### QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES

BONDS.	Dec. 1	Dec. 8
Confederation 3% 1903 ...	79.50	79.50
5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln ...	100.72	100.65
Federal Railways 3½% A-K ...	81.67	81.20
" " 1924 IV Elect. Ln ...	100.67	100.32

SHARES.	Nom.	Dec. 1	Dec. 8
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Crédit Suisse ...	500	758	762
Union de Banques Suisses ...	500	604	605
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	1830	1836
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3375	3299
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe ...	1000	3310	3319
S.A. Brown Boveri ...	350	381	379
C. F. Bally ...	1000	1132	1135
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Entreprises Sulzer S.A. ...	1000	938	937
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