

Correspondence

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who had both been frozen to death while attempting to cross the path in winter.

The pass was used by the Gauls; the legions of Caesar crossed it and constructed a road, some remains of which are to be seen on the Plan de Jupiter, where a temple dedicated to Jupiter Peninus was erected on the site of a Celtic sanctuary; there are traces of the temple near the statue of Saint Bernard de Menton, as well as traces of other buildings, probably a travellers' rest-house. The museum of the hospice contains a number of Roman relics, coins, medals and implements. Charlemagne passed over the Great St. Bernard in 812, and at Bourg St. Pierre an old bridge still bears the name of Pont Charlemagne; in May, 1800, Bonaparte crossed the pass with his army before the battle of Marengo, and in the church there is a monument to General Desaix, who fell in that battle. Up to the end of the 19th century thousands of pilgrims, merchants, soldiers and travellers passed over the Great St. Bernard, which is not only used by human beings but also by animals and plants which have chosen this way for migrating from one side of the Alps to the other.

The Canons are nearly all men of science, and have made important contributions to natural history and meteorology; they have at their disposal a library of 30,000 volumes and collections of animals, plants and stones that are to be found up there, as well as a meteorological station which was opened a century ago by Marc Auguste Pictet, of Geneva. The meteorological observations made here show that there are about 118 days of rain, that the average temperature is about 17deg. Fahr. in winter, 27 in spring, 33 in summer; very often the lake on the pass is covered with a thin skin of ice even on summer mornings, and it remains completely frozen from the middle of October to the first days of July. Several attempts were made at acclimatizing fishes in this lake, which is 350 yards long, 210 yards wide and 36ft. deep, but the tench and carp which were put in it in 1817 and 1820 did not live long, some minnows introduced in 1822 still exist in great quantities, while trout brought in 1827, disappeared in a few years. The Hospice is the highest permanent dwelling in the Alps, and though the climate is very trying, the Canons and their companions enjoy perfect health and good sport when, in winter, they go about skiing in the neighbouring mountains.

The Canons of the Great Saint Bernard are helped in their rescue work by the men of the village of St. Rémy, in Italy, who enjoy a curious privilege: they are completely free from military service, but, on the other hand, they are bound to answer any call for assistance, to maintain the road in good order, and to accompany travellers if they should ask for guides, and all this work they have to do gratuitously; the men of St. Rémy are therefore called the "Soldiers of the Snow," a name of which they are proud.

The Seiche.

The storms which have ravaged the western part of Switzerland have been accompanied by that curious phenomenon locally called the "Seiche." No conclusive explanation has yet been offered by the scientists, but a description which appeared in the *Referee* (Aug. 14th) supplies some interesting information:—

"Western Switzerland seems to be passing through a spell of ill-luck, all the more unfortunate because it has come just at the height of the tourist season. Hurricanes, landslides, tremendous thunderstorms, and such hail as is never seen in England have all combined to wreak their fury upon that delectable country which lies between Mont Blanc and the Jungfrau.

The lake of Geneva, by whose shores Rousseau dreamed and Gibbon wrote, has once again displayed that strangely perplexing phenomenon known locally as the "Seiche." One English paper, in despair of expressing it in any other way, called it a tidal wave, though almost the only thing certain about it is that it has nothing to do with the tides.

From the most distant period at which the great lake has attracted anything like scientific observation it has been noted that its waters suddenly rise at irregular intervals about a foot. The rise is not, apparently, connected in any flooding of the Rhône or of the other streams which flow into the lake, for the phenomenon lasts on an average only about six minutes, which certainly would not be the case if it were due to any great influx of water.

Thursday's "Seiche" seems to have been quite abnormal for the rise was as much as twenty-nine inches—and it lasted for twenty minutes. The thing remains a puzzle which no one as yet has been able to solve, and we seem to be driven almost to the conclusion that there must be some sort of upheaval of the bottom.

Yet Geneva is far away from the region of volcanoes and earthquakes and there is no sort of evidence of any such disturbances when the "Seiche" happens. Whatever the unknown cause, it must have operated on Thursday on a most astonishing scale, for there is no record of

any previous "Seiche" which raised the level of the lake to this extent.

That it happened when a great storm was raging is probably only a coincidence, for the "Seiche" occurs in any sort of weather, and has often been observed on a perfectly calm day. Take it altogether, it is perhaps the most perplexing geological phenomenon which Europe has to show. Unfortunately, since it obeys no ascertainably periodic law and may be years without making an appearance, the Swiss cannot catalogue it as among their attractions to tourists."

The strange spectacle was witnessed by the many English visitors along the banks of Lac Léman.

Though this is one of the worst Alpine years, reports seem to show that it has not affected the influx of tourists. The damage to orchards and crops has been considerable, but human life has been spared, and the passengers on the great transcontinental lines have never been exposed to danger thanks to the efficient system of supervision and timely warnings.

The Moving Alp.

This is what the *Daily Chronicle* publishes under this heading:—

"Motto Arbino, a mountain near Bellinzona, in the canton of Ticino, whose summit has subsided several yards in past years, is causing much anxiety in Switzerland.

As a result of a recent geological report upon the subject, the Government has decided that a large number of villages in the neighbourhood must be evacuated.

So great is the movement becoming that the Government is making a monthly examination of the crevasses, which are widening.

This widening must result in the fall of the summit; and what might prove a catastrophe will follow.

Since 1888 a watch has been kept on this 5,500ft. height of Arbino.

Measurements show that the platform which forms the summit, 100,000 square yards in area, is dangerously undermined.

It has long been slipping horizontally at the rate of nearly an inch a year, and this rate has recently increased to four inches a year.

Fissures and hillocks have appeared, and at times projecting rocks have broken off and been hurled hundreds of yards into the abyss.

When the underlying mass of rock gives way—an event which no human skill can avert—the whole plateau will crash into the valley.

From the Coalmines to the Alps.

In connection with new research work and experiments to determine the effects of ultra-violet ray treatment in industry, a party of seven pit lads has been taken to Switzerland under the auspices of the New Health Society; the immediate purpose is to demonstrate what can be achieved in a short period by the enjoyment of pure natural Alpine sun. The following particulars are culled from the *Yorkshire Observer* (Aug. 13th):—

"Five bright, smiling lads, with kit-bags on their backs, travelled from Nottingham to London on August 12th from the pithead of Sherwood Colliery, Mansfield, on the first stage of the journey to the top of the snow-clad Alps of Switzerland.

They will cross the glaciers to mountain huts 8,000ft. up, and will climb the Blumelis Alponn, 12,600ft. high.

They were bubbling over with excitement and enthusiasm. Two or three weeks' adventure lay ahead of them. None of them had previously been so far as London, and the prospect of going abroad filled them with exultance.

These lads are all sons of sons of miners—pitboys by inheritance—and they are part of an interesting experiment of the effect of light and air on people engaged in the heavy industries.

Although the trip will be a holiday for the boys, the result of the experiment will be shown by the heights and weights when they return.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. Hutchinson, a super-enthusiast regarding the value of ultra-violet rays in industry, is in charge of the boys.

"I have chosen these boys from what is reputed to be the healthiest pit in Britain," he told me. "They were selected haphazard. I am taking them to the Châlet Soldanella, Gris Alp, Kiental, Switzerland, where we shall stay for two or three weeks, according to the weather and the state of their own progress.

"While the two ends of the mining industry are fighting with each other, I am taking this step to draw attention to something really practical—the need for doing everything to improve the health of the people engaged in the mining industry and to safeguard them from diseases peculiar to that industry."

The trip is a preliminary to a pithead test of the value of ultra-violet light.

Colonel Hutchinson, who is a member of the New Health Society and the Swiss Alpine Club, is anxious that every colliery company in the country shall follow the lead given by the Sherwood Pit owners, in providing baths of ultra-violet rays for the workers, and in the

establishment of an up-to-date clinic at the pithead, with artificial sunlight lamps.

It is hoped that the Sherwood Colliery clinic will be completed by October. When installed a medical officer will keep records of the various blood-tests, weight-tests, and X-ray results, while a specialist will superintend the actual ultra-violet ray treatment.

Colonel Hutchinson has taken a record of the boys' physical fitness, and when in Switzerland they will be exposed without clothes to the full light from the wide horizon. They will live on simple food, and indulge in long walks and rock climbing. They will not be allowed to drink beer, but they can smoke.

"If I had taken boys from a South Wales pit," Colonel Hutchinson explained, "my experiment would not have been difficult, but by taking boys already healthy in every respect I hope to prove the great beneficial effect exposure to light will have upon them."

When the boys return their records will be sent to the Safety-in-Mines Research Board, and it is hoped that the results will be sufficiently satisfactory to justify the installation of clinics at all pitheads.

None of the boys would say that he liked mining. "I should like to be a butcher," said one of them to me to-day. "And I want to be a photographer," chimed in another.

Nevertheless, they were a party of jolly boys; and however much they may be measured and weighed and examined they intend to have a great time—and Colonel Hutchinson is confident that they will prove his case."

The Scouts' Châlet at Kandersteg.

Of the many schemes to promote international understanding and friendship the Scouts' Châlet at Kandersteg should prove one of the most hopeful; unfortunately, the scheme is at present run on too small a scale for its influence to permeate the coming generation in the different countries. The following is taken from the *Dublin Evening Mail* (Aug. 15th):—

"Visitors to Switzerland are tremendously interested in the International Châlet for Boy Scouts at Kandersteg, one of the most attractive holiday centres in the Bernese Oberland. Here, Scouts of all nations are spending a cheap and healthful holiday among the mountains.

One finds them everywhere—little Britons, Germans, Italians, French and Swiss—in perfect chumship, talking a composite language that carries them comfortably over all their difficulties. It is remarkable how quickly the Scouts obtain a working smattering of the various languages and dialects of their youthful colleagues and settle down as members of a large and happy family.

It was in 1923 that the International Châlet was presented to the Scout movement by Count Bonstettin as a house where Scouts of any nationality could spend a holiday at the trifling cost of 50 centimes, or about 6d. a day.

Such a chance was eagerly taken by Scouts from many countries, and the fame of the International Châlet grew like a snowball.

There is every indication that the International Châlet will soon become even more popular as a centre for all scouts who are able to visit the Continent."

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

	BONDS.	Aug. 16		Aug. 22	
		Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
Confederation 3% 1903	...	79.50	79.50	79.50	79.50
5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln	...	101.80	101.75	101.75	101.75
Federal Railways 3½% A—K	...	84.05	84.15	84.15	84.15
" 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	...	101.35	101.40	101.40	101.40
	SHARES.	Aug. 16		Aug. 22	
		Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
Swiss Bank Corporation	...	500	782	782	782
Crédit Suisse	...	500	846	841	841
Union de Banques Suisses	...	500	717	725	725
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	...	1000	2578	2565	2565
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	...	1000	4270	4210	4210
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	...	1000	2578	2860	2860
S.A. Brown Boveri	...	350	574	563	563
C. F. Bally	...	1000	1247	1255	1255
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	...	200	719	714	714
Entreprises Sulzer S.A.	...	1000	1065	1065	1065
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	...	500	575	565	565
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco	...	100	137	140	140
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	...	500	750	752	752

CORRESPONDENCE.

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J. H.'s WEEKLY LETTERS TO HIS FRIENDS AND COMPATRIOTS.

Ladies and Gentlemen.—J. B. Rusch, the Editor of *Die Republikanischen Blätter* likes to tell his neighbours the truth. I have always read his articles with great interest, and I admire his courage while not concurring in everything he writes. He has written an article in the *National Zeitung* on the "Demagogentum," condemning the demagogues of to-day as bunglers not knowing the ways of their trade. In ancient Greece, he says, the demagogue was looked upon as an essential member of the community. His duty and pleasure it was to draw out of the heart of man the last thing sentimentality and emotion could produce. He had to kindle the fire, to feed it with

his wit and knowledge, and then use the glowing mass, molten by its own desire, to form the image of his idea.

To do this, says Rusch, they are in our time no longer capable. They light the fire, feed it with their own emotion: they kindle it with promises and gestures. But when the mass is molten they let it run uncontrolled, and, so far as they are concerned, uncontrollable, and consequently destroy what they never desired to destroy. And Rusch, I think, is right. It is one thing to rouse emotion and desire to the pitch of action, and another to guide the mob when once the storm has broken out. But even so, what are we to expect if we ourselves have no idea of how to help those who want help, who want guidance before everything else? How many of us are free to decide what is good for them, and if we could decide, how many are strong enough to live a life as noble as we find it should be lived?

The greatest mistake man makes, I think, is that he deems himself as righteous, as experienced and as much entitled to what any one of us may have or be as those who have or are what he desires. I think that if we trusted more to our inner self and less to our outer vision, then the demagogue would not so easily get hold of us. He only makes us boil in rousing our own desires, and mostly it is greed and hatred that he plays upon—successfully.

Now, the demagogue is not always, nay, very seldom, as bad as his acts show him to our view. He is very often convinced of the excellence of his idea, and sincere in its promulgation. But where he fails is where we all fail (or at least most of us) at the point where egoism and humanism part. It is the point where discrimination is needed in choosing the way. So why, then, condemn? I think we ourselves had better first learn to discriminate. Don't you think so, too?

But Ladies and Gentlemen, there is another point I venture to bring to your notice again. A gentleman of our Colony has written a few words in last week's *Swiss Observer* with regard to the organisation by a single society of the Fête Suisse. Don't you think his arguments might with profit be considered? I do. Please forgive me if you think otherwise. But there it is: we have a 'holy dozen,' or more, of societies, but no Colony. Might not, perhaps, there be some wisdom in copying the example of our beloved Republic at home and bring the many Cantons of Song and Music, Education and Commerce, City and Schweizerbund, Mutual Help and Spiritual Enlightenment, into a Federal Union with a small Council of State? There are one or two things beside the Fête Suisse which might profitably be handled by such a Federation. There are some things which any one of us might be able to do, but there are other problems where the help of all is needed.

Wishing you all a fine week-end and sound health for its enjoyment,

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours sincerely, JOHN HENRY.

VACANCIES IN SWITZERLAND.

At the request of the Federal Labour Office (Eidgen. Arbeitsamt, 8, Bundesgasse, Bern) we are publishing, at regular intervals, lists of special vacancies in Switzerland for which suitable candidates are not available at home. Whilst it is intended to fill these vacancies, whenever possible, with Swiss from abroad, applications are considered from foreigners possessing the necessary qualifications. Offers, stating date of publication and reference number, should be addressed to the Swiss Consulate in whose district the applicant resides, and will then be forwarded to the proper quarter in Switzerland. We publish the list in the original text as received from the Labour Office.

- E 4788 Kürschnermeister, erfahrener, langjähriger Praktiker, befähigt, einem Atelier als Meister vorzustehen; für Pelzwarengeschäft in Basel.
- F 4931 Abteilungsleiterin, für die Stepperei einer Schuhfabrik im Kanton Bern.
- J 4935 Klüppelspizzenmeister, gewandter; nach dem Kanton Schweiz.
- K 5032 Operateur - linotypiste, connaissant à fond le métier; pour imprimerie à Genève.
- N 4842 Schreibmaschinenmechaniker, mit sämtlichen gangbaren Schreib- und Rechenmaschinen, vertraut und Spezialfachmann für die elektrischen Woodstockschriftmaschinen; nach Basel.
- N 4843 Aufzugmonteur, 30-40 jähriger, mit absolvierter Maschinenschlosser-Lehrzeit und langer Praxis im Aufzugsbau; für Maschinenfabrik in Basel.
- N 4896 Blattmacher, selbständiger, befähigt eine Filiale zu leiten; für Webbläuttenfabrik im Kanton Glarus.
- N 4938 Chemonteur auf Eisenbahnsicherungsanlagen, Spezialist in Bau von Sicherungsanlagen für den zentralen Weichen- und Signaldienst; nach dem Kanton Zürich.
- N 4939 Werkführer in Autogarage, Spezialist auf Fordwagen und Fordson-Traktoren und guten Kenntnissen in den übrigen Auto-

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- mobilmarken besitzend; deutsche, französische und englische Sprachkenntnisse erwünscht; für grosse Garage im Kanton Luzern.
- R 4810 Lokomotiv-Führer, 3. sowohl mit Dampf als Oelmotoren vertraut; für Bauunternehmung im Kanton Bern.
- S 4798 Dessinateur graphique s/verre, capable d'exécuter des ébauches, projets, chichés s/zinc pour réclames artistiques diverses; pour atelier graphique à Genève.
- S 4852 Wollwäscherei-Fachmann, jüngerer, technisch gebildeter und praktisch erfahrener, befähigt, ein neues Wollwäschmittel vorzuführen; Sprachkenntnisse erwünscht; für chemische Fabrik in Basel.
- S 4879 Lack- und Farbentechniker, als Betriebsleiter; für Lackfarbenfabrik im Kanton Aargau.
- S 4901 Facharbeiter, zum Bau und Betrieb elektrischer Metall-Schmelzöfen mit Temperaturen von 2000 bis 3000 Grad Celsius; für metallurgische Fabrik der Zentral-schweiz.
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ATTITUDE.

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Dimanche, 28 Août, 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme,
Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux,
etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme,
102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Mountview 1798).
Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE
(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)
St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
Sonntag, den 28. August 1927, vorm, 11 Uhr: Gottes-
dienst, Pfr. Hahn.
Am 18. September, Eidgenössischer Dank- Buss-
und Bettag und Feier des Hlg. Abendmahls.
Eltern, die religiösen Unterricht ihrer Kinder wün-
schen, sind gebeten dies dem Pfarrer bekannt zu
geben.
Die Abendgottesdienste finden erst wieder im kom-
menden September statt.
Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12—1 Uhr in der Kirche.
Mittwoch, 3—5 Uhr, im Foyer Suisse.
Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen etc., an den
Pfarrer der Gemeinde C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane,
W.4. Telefon Chiswick 4156.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.
Tuesday, September 6th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS
CLUB: Monthly Meeting at Pagani's Restaurant,
42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1.
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