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"A unique meteorological station where scientists from all over the world will conduct important investigations is to be built by the Swiss Society of Scientific Research high on the icy Jungfrau, the famous mountain in the Swiss Alps whose summit towers three miles above sea level.

Usually the study of the higher air strata is conducted by sending up balloons and kites fitted with recording instruments, but no systematic registration is possible with this method.

The new station, however, is to be inhabited all the year round, and regular classified meteorological statistics will be compiled.

Arrangements are to be made by which scientists from any country may rent rooms in the Institute for research work and experiments. Astronomers and students of Alpine flora and glaciology will carry out important research work as well as scientists who are studying solar therapy and electro-magnetic waves.

The conditions, it is claimed, will be practically ideal for such observations to be made, as the pure Swiss air is very thin and clear at such tremendous altitudes.

#### The 'Saffa.'

The publicity campaign in connection with this exhibition has been pursued with marvellous insistence. The following is typical of the articles which appear in the English Press and is taken from the *Sunday Mercury* (Sept. 23rd). The modern mother will learn therefrom how to manage fractious infants.

"All over Switzerland during the past month visitors have been intrigued by the Saffa posters. Saffa is not a word. It represents the initials of Schweizer Ausstellung für Frauen Arbeit, which means Swiss Exhibition of Women's Work.

It is a novelty, an exhibition designed, organised and carried out entirely by women. And it has lured to Berne vast crowds of enthusiastic Swiss people and has invited dalliance in the most delightful of European cities of thousands of tourists.

Mere man, of course, has his place in the affair. He does the menial work of clearing the tables in the biggest refreshment hall, and he acts as doorkeeper, marshal, and even as attendant at some of the stalls, albeit somewhat sheepishly.

The exhibits demonstrate the needs as well as the activities of women. There are all the appurtenances of the house and the school, with the latest ideas in domestic science and educational methods, with displays of cookery, washing and teaching.

Women's work in medicine and surgery, in art and architecture, in agriculture and gardening, in the professions, literature, music, are all demonstrated.

A crèche in full blast, with lusty, squalling babies, is entertaining as well as instructive. The work of the nurses excite the admiration of the mothers, but it is surprising to note the manner in which a fractious infant is left to yell itself tired.

A kindergarten was less noisy, whilst cocks and hens and pigs added their special notes to the symphony of sound.

There is censure as well as humour in the huge cartoon depicting a snail to show the progress of the women's suffrage movement in the country."

#### The 'Make' of the Mountains.

Under this title the *Evening Standard* (Sept. 22nd) publishes some impressions about the "world's most expensive place"—St. Moritz. We can forgive the writer his gibes on the business acumen of the Swiss hoteliers and shopkeepers; similar conditions prevail all the world over wherever the tastes of the wealthy are catered for.

"The other day I met a friend in the street in Pontresina. "What a wonderful people the Swiss are," he observed. "I think that they are the best business people in the world. Yesterday the shoemaker charged me twopence for knocking a nail out of my shoe. To-day I am again her customer, for the nail has reappeared."

The Engadine is beautiful. The Engadine has a fine climate. And in the Engadine there has evolved through education and the survival of the fittest a race of shopkeepers who can look you in the face and demand twice the value of an article, and get it. Such a combination of assets should make for a country's prosperity, and from all appearances it certainly does, for the hotels this summer have been full and they talk of an extended season.

Nowhere in Europe can a stranger assortment of people be found than in this valley 6000 feet above the sea. The Germans outnumber all the other nationalities put together. Their figures suggest that they had been preparing for a six months' siege.

The German men have shaved heads and the women wear ill-fitting clothes which we associate with pre-war English fashions. I am informed that these people are not typical of post-war Germany, but are mainly Berlin profiteers.

The other visitors consist of English, Americans, Italians and a few Swiss. The German and the English in the Engadine do not mix well. One ingenious hotel proprietor who realises this has two hotels, and by carefully co-ordinated staff work receives Germans at one and other nationalities at the other, thus discreetly maintaining a balance of power.

The impression gained of the activities of the visitors is roughly that the Swiss, English

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and Americans spend their time in climbing and walking, the Italians in motoring, and the Germans in eating, with a stroll afterwards in order to earn their next meal.

The English-speaking climbers are of three kinds. All of them obviously take climbing seriously.

Here is a group of young men and women (indistinguishable by their clothes) immaculately clad in plus-fours and gorgeous pull-overs. With ropes coiled on their shoulders, axe in hand and objects like grappling irons hanging from bulky rucksacks, they present a truly impressive spectacle.

You might think that these were super-climbers, almost too good for the Engadine. But you would be wrong. They are the Tartarins of 1928, and though they may march into the hotel in the evening begrimed with dust and carrying Edelweiss in their mouths, nobody will pay much attention to them.

In another group are some men who look rather like tramps. They are wearing old trousers and flannel shirts and carry steel-pointed sticks. One of them probably has a rope hidden away in his rucksack. You might pass these people by in the street without noticing them. They are the genuine climbers.

The older men who can now only undertake the easier climbs and walks compose the remaining class of climber. But what they lack in present achievement is fully compensated for by their splendid power of narrative.

Sometimes by some process of mental gymnastics these memories are transferred to what are now, at any rate, easy climbs or walks, with consequent disillusionment to the tenderfoot.

The two other great pursuits of visitors to this district are eating and motoring. The gastronomic temple of the Engadine is a certain tea-shop in St. Moritz. Worship begins at 3.30 every afternoon and continues until the cakes run out. Anyone harbouring the belief that appetites are not good at 6000 feet should look in here and reassured himself.

Motor vehicles have only recently been allowed in St. Moritz and already the narrow streets, totally unsuitable for any but horse traffic, are crowded with flashy, high-powered cars, the magnificence of which completely eclipses their owners. At this rate of increase there will be chaos in a few years' time.

St. Moritz, so a barber informs me, enjoys the distinction of being the most expensive place in the world. A woman friend of mine was offered a woollen pull-over at £6 and a pair of woollen over-socks at 10s. Small consolation to be told, "But Madame, it is the same price at Bâle and at Geneva."

There are three denizens of the resorts of Normandy and Brittany that I have been lucky enough to miss in the Engadine. They are the amateur mannequin, the professional gambler and the gigolot or lounge lizard with his wasp waist and pointed, patent-leather shoes. Perhaps they only thrive at sea level."

#### Fritz Platten.

The following reference in the *Times* (Sept. 27th) does not concern the former member of the National Council but his father: the once prominent Fritz Platten is said to be still busy somewhere in Russia.

"The Communal authorities of Tablat, in the Canton of Saint-Gallen, have officially presumed the death of Fritz Platten, a native of that village, who had not been heard of for nearly four years. Platten was a Socialist Deputy in the Swiss National Council. He was in close touch with Bolshevik leaders in Switzerland and accompanied Lenin to Russia in the famous sealed railway coach in 1917. According to some reports he died in Russia in 1925."

#### 2LO and a Swiss Programme.

The following report about what has been advertised by the B.B.C. as a Swiss National Programme appeared in the *Radio Times* (Sept. 28th):

"A notable virtue of the recent Swiss National Programme was the excellence of the background of voices. The scene, you will remember, was a café in Switzerland. A chatter of voices speaking three or four languages provided local colour of a very convincing nature. Such effects are not lightly achieved. In this instance the

voices were those of a score of teachers from a famous school of languages who in the cause of art were content to come to Savoy Hill and talk loudly to each other in several foreign tongues across a studio, while somewhere above them the producer, seated at his 'control panel,' faded them in and out of his programme. And the yodelling was provided by a choral society of genuine Swiss waiters from Soho."

We are glad to gather that this critic has discovered some virtue in that fantastic production which to Swiss listeners must have been more like a burlesque. We appreciate that the organiser of the B.B.C. has sometimes a difficult task to perform, but we suggest that when he treads on unknown ground he might call in the assistance of people who can tell what a Swiss National Programme should be and how to make it up. There is plenty of talent in our Colony for this purpose. The solo artists who, in the above report, are stated to have been supplied by a school of languages, were anything but Swiss; the accordion players came perhaps nearest to that description. The yodlers who masqueraded under the cloak of genuine Swiss waiters from Soho were practically all members of the staff of a well-known City bank.

#### QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

	BONDS.	Sept. 25		Sept. 29	
		Fr.	Sfr.	Fr.	Sfr.
Confederation 3% 1903	...	81.60	81.10		
5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln.	...	102.00	101.90		
Federal Railways 3½% A-K	...	87.00	87.25		
" 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	...	101.20	101.10		
	SHARES.	Nom. Sept. 25		Sept. 29	
		Fr.	Sfr.	Fr.	Sfr.
Swiss Bank Corporation	...	500	838	838	
Crédit Suisse	...	500	944	945	
Union de Banques Suisses	...	500	748	760	
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	3322	3410		
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	5165	5300		
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	...	1000	4145	4240	
S.A. Brown Boveri	...	350	598	598	
C. F. Bally	...	1000	1540	1540	
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	952	972		
Entreprises Suisses S.A.	...	1000	1240	1250	
Comp. de Navig. sur le Lac Léman	500	530	520		
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco	100	344	347		
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	...	500	895	892	

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