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SWITZERLAND'S RIVALS.

Mr. Buxton, Minister of Agriculture in the present Government, in "Travels and Reflections," compresses into small compass his impressions of his travels in the Middle and Near East, Japan and the Sahara, and, dispensing with wearisome detail and touching but lightly on politics, has produced a book of singular charm, spiced with adventure and humour. He envisages the Balkans and the Sahara as the future rivals of Switzerland—the Balkans in scenery and the Sahara in sport.

His description of the Balkan peninsula, with its contrasts of scenery, is particularly vivid and he states that of all the scenic attractions which, in no distant future, will make the Balkans a new and fashionable Switzerland, its lakes will probably be the most popular. Motoring over the sand dunes of the Sahara—charging up a slope and sliding down the other side—provides such novelty as almost to constitute a sport, he says, and he is "inclined to think that just as the English invented 'winter sport' in the snow, they will develop a game out of the dunes for which the next generation will be swarming to Africa instead of to Switzerland." Perhaps a rather sanguine prophecy, but this is an age for seeking new thrills.

When mountaineering in Japan with the Rev. Walter Weston, he and Mr. Weston were reported as having lost their lives in a storm on Mount Fuji, and the supposed disaster was attributed to their temerity in climbing the mountains without the sanction of the spirits of Fuji obtained through the priests. Mr. Buxton claims that he and Mr. Weston were the first Europeans to climb Mount Enasan, in Japan.

WINTER SPORTS.

The extension of summer into autumn has rather thrust winter into the background; but the year is slipping away, and a reminder that winter looms ahead is furnished by a profusely illustrated booklet, "Winter Sports, 1929-30," which Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son have issued, detailing their arrangements for the coming season in Switzerland and Chamonix. The booklet is an annual publication, and its continual increase in size—this year it extends to 168 pages—is eloquent of the growing popularity of winter sports. Among the contents, "Initiation Parties"—arranged for the benefit of the novice—are given special prominence, while full provision is also made for the needs of other sports enthusiasts. Two features of general interest are a series of notes on individual sports centres, and a table showing the cost of a visit to any one of them.

Savings Interest Raised.

It will be good news to some of our readers to hear that the Swiss Bank Corporation has raised the interest rate paid on Savings Bank accounts to 4½ per cent.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

Our readers will be interested to hear that a series of lectures in French "*Le voyage et la mentalité française au XVIIIe siècle*" will be given by M. le Prof. PAUL HAZARD of the Collège de France, Paris, at the Bedford College, Regent's Park, N.W. 1. (Entrance: York Gate), on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 4th, 5th and 6th, 1929. Admission free, without tickets. The lectures begin at 5.30 p.m.

A course of six lectures by Professor HANS ZICKENDRANT, of the University of Basle, on "*Scientific Radio Research in Switzerland*," will be given at King's College, Strand, beginning on November 18.

ADVERTISE in the "SWISS OBSERVER"

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DARING ESCAPE FROM FOREIGN LEGION.

Four deserters from the French Foreign Legion sailed under police escort from Liverpool to Hamburg.

Three days before the German steamer Jersbek left Tunis, the Legionaries stole on board under cover of darkness, and lay concealed during that period in a cargo of loose grain, while a search party from their regiment combed the ship. At times the searchers almost walked over the concealed men, two Germans, a Czechoslovakian, and a Swiss.

Two days after the Jersbek left port, a sailor on the night watch noticed a man crawling out of a ventilation funnel, to be followed by three others, who immediately collapsed on the deck beside him. It was then revealed that the men had been nearly five days without food.

When they had sufficiently recovered they worked with the crew during the remainder of the voyage. On their arrival at Liverpool the immigration authorities were communicated with, and the stowaways were handed over to the police.

Whatever is in store for them, all the men are congratulating themselves on their remarkable escape. One of them remarked, "Put me in prison as long as you like, but we are out of the Legion."

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

R. Pleuler, Basle: "Baden-Powell." M. v. Arx, St. Imier: "Spain." W. Blattmann, Waedenswil: "Aluminium." Miss V. Buol, Flims: "Faithful Friends," and "Careers for Girls." Miss R. Stotzer, Berne: "Petticoat Lane." A. Bloesch, Neu St. Johann (St. Gall): "Foreign Industry in Switzerland." M. Rechsteiner, Basle: "Carnival in Basle." O. Gloor, Rapperswil: "Swiss Beggars." O. Walther, Weymuelle-Berne: "Swiss Railways and Roads." A. Stoecklin, Neuhausen a/Rh.: "Confucius." B. Wirth, St. Gall: "Music."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Is America Fair in her Attitude Towards Europe?" Proposer, E. Cornamusaz. Opposer: P. M. Bezengon.

"Have Modern Newspapers a Good Influence?" Proposer, M. v. Arx. Opposer: W. Blattmann.

Friday, September 27th: A very interesting lecture (illustrated by slides) was delivered by Paul Seaford, Esq. The title of the lecture was "The Flying Scotsman," and the lecturer took his interested audience for a trip from King's Cross to Edinburgh, pausing by the way to visit many historic cities and some delightful landscapes.

Mr. B. Davis, B.A., who presided, thanked Mr. Seaford for his excellent lecture.

On Saturday the school went to the London Museum via Trafalgar Square, Whitehall, Horse Guards Parade and St. James' Park.

After lunch about forty students were able to visit the Royal Stables where they were very much interested in the King's horses and the State coach.

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Shooting Practice

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EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

Luncheons and Teas provided for on Sundays.
NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

The Committee wish to draw the attention of the Contributing Members and friends to the

Annual Banquet and Ball

which will be held on **Friday, 8th November**
AT THE
FIRST AVENUE HOTEL (High Holborn)

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762),
(Langue française.)

79, Endell Street, near New Oxford St., W.C.1.

Dimanche 6 Octobre, 11h.—Mr. Marcel Praderwand.
6.30h. Mr. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.
7.30h. Réunion de recueillement.

BAPTÊMES.

Diana Marcelle Magron KENYON et Lina Valérie Magron KENYON, filles de feu James Herbert Kenyon et de Claire Emilie, née Magron, de Berne—le 29 Septembre 1929.

SERVICE FUNEBRE

Théodore PIM, de Snowdenham Hall, Bramley, Surrey, décédé le 22 Septembre, 1929 à l'âge de 84 ans—à l'église et au cimetière de Bramley, de concert avec Rev. Selby Lowndes—le 25 Septembre 1929.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 6. Oktober 1929.—11 Uhr vorm. Gottesdienst und Sonntagschule.
7 Uhr abends Gottesdienst.

Begraben wurde am 26. September, Johannes AEBERSOLD von Niederhuenigen (Bern): geboren am 18/1/1875—gest. am 23. September, 1929.

Anmeldungen fuer den Konfirmandenunterricht sind an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde erbeten.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Sunday, October 6th, at 3.45 p.m.—UNION HELVETIA MEMORIAL SERVICE at Hendon Park Cemetery. Pasteur R. Hoffmann-de Visme and Pfarrer C. T. Hahn will conduct the services.

Wednesday, October 9th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting at Swiss House.

Wednesday, 16th October at 7.45 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE, Council Meeting.

Wednesday, October 16th, at 3 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE, Film Show at King George Hall, Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.

Saturday, October 19th, at 2 and 4 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE, Film Show at King George Hall, Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOC.: Every Saturday and Sunday, Shooting Practice on the Rifle Range near the Welsh Harp, Hendon

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NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE (LONDON GROUP.)

A Travers La Suisse

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KING GEORGE'S HALL

Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road (at back of Central Y.M.C.A. Building) on

Wednesday, October 16 at 3 p.m. and Saturday, October 19 at 2 & 4 p.m.

We will take you for one and a half hours on an exquisite journey through all the beauties of Swiss scenery. We will show you the immortal Alps from an aeroplane. You will learn how to make watches, chocolate and cheese, electricity, locomotives and wine. Come and see your compatriots at work and at play.

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