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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

A SWISS HOUSE AT THE PARIS UNIVERSITY.

After seven or eight years of perseverance on the part of a special committee constituted in Zurich and also thanks to the assistance of the Federal Council, the foundation of a Swiss House in the Cité university has now been laid. This is an institution, the need of which has been felt by the numerous Swiss students in Paris, and it will no doubt become a rallying point of our young intelligentsia. Unfortunately this institution has, so far, no working capital, and an appeal will be made in all the Swiss colonies in France to provide the necessary funds.

THE C.F.F. AND BIRDS.

At the request of the Swiss Society for the Study and Protection of Birds, the General Manager of the C.F.F. has invited all the District Managers to proceed with the installation of artificial nests for swifts and swallows on the new buildings erected, as long as same are adaptable and this installation does not entail too great an expense. We can but admire our authorities for this thoughtful step, which shows that even with a huge administration like the C.F.F. the smallest detail is not lost from view.

FEVER OUTBREAK.

A case of typhus was notified in Basle in September and has been followed by six others. In spite of the efforts of the municipal authorities to isolate this epidemic, other cases have occurred in Bienne and Basle and in the cantons of Neuchâtel and Vaud. No great anxiety is felt as rigorous measures are being taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Dr. W. C. Escher, President of the Schweizerische Kreditanstalt, has died. N.

BERN.

Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Hadorn died at the Salem hospital in Bern, aged 61. He was professor of theology at the Bern university. N.

LUZERN.

Councillor Albert Züst was elected Federal State Councillor in place of the late Mr. Winiger, and Judge Renggli replaces Mr. Züst as Councillor. N.

The coming election of two Federal Councillors, and the question whether Socialists should be in the Federal Council or not, is an apparently never-ending cause for discussion in newspapers. The "Vaterland" contains a leader signed Br. in a very vigorous strain, as shown by the following extracts:—

"Genosse Bundesrat," how does that sound? Until further news we are still Eidgenossen, not Moskauer Genossen, and our Federal Councillors should be the same. This is the real difference and the whole matter under discussion. It is all so terribly simple and clear, so why all this worry? Such worrying is the result of political considerations, as political reasoning makes people look in every direction but straight forward, or only very rarely so. This is a curious period: Zurich is on the lookout for a new Federal Councillor and cannot find him, and our other Confederates are debating, if they should abolish the oath of office for one of the new Councillors (this refers to a possible Socialist candidate being elected), and the comrades of Moscow do not know, whether to try to get in or stay out. So why not wait until the comrades themselves know their own mind? We must, first of all, know what the comrades want in the Federal Council. Are they willing to work for the existence and the benefit of the State in an honest and straightforward way, or do they want to bring discord into our highest authority? There is also no law, that a Federal Councillorship is reserved to members of the Bundesversammlung. It is of course agreed, that all members of Parliament are ex officio clever men; but it does not follow that all clever men are members of Parliament. V.

BASEL.

For a number of days the populace of Basle has been intrigued by what is supposed to be a haunted house at the Utengasse, and hundreds of people stand every day in front of these premises.

For some little time a boy of ten has been so terrified that there is a danger of his losing his reason, by sounds which he states he hears in the wall against which his bed is placed. What is so strange is the fact that the noise in question can only be heard when the boy is present. At first it was believed that it was a hoax on the part of the boy, but the police who had been called in, watched him very carefully. He was put in bed with legs and arms tied and placed near the wall. The noises could still be heard! The people living in the house itself and their neighbours are terrified and matters have reached such a pitch that the house will probably have to be evacuated. The police have searched the place from top to bottom but have found nothing, and as soon as the boy gets near the wall the noises, which are like the drumming of a skeleton's fingers, are again heard. The lad states moreover, that he has seen on several occasions an old woman with grey hair, clad in red who slowly crosses the room. This while other members of the family were present but saw nothing, but were horrified to see the child grow suddenly white and fall in a swoon.

Mr. A. Kreis, Director of the Bâle branch of the Schweizerische Kreditanstalt has died suddenly.

Dr. Eritz Sarasin took part, as an invited guest, at the 60th anniversary festival of the Berlin Society of Anthropology and Ethnology. He was presented with the Society's Gold Medal in recognition of his great merits as a scientist.

An unusual accident occurred at the Strassburgerallee. The wheel of a passing lorry glanced off a stone, flinging it aside with such force that the stone hit a woman in the face and smashed her nose. N.

AARGAU.

Mr. Stettler, proprietor of a wireless shop in Basle, was crossing the railway line between Frick and Elken in his new car, when the car stuck in the gravel of the permanent way, at the very moment when the woman guarding the crossing wanted to shut the gates. Mr. Stettler and his wife had barely time to jump out of the car, before the onrushing express train had reduced the car to a shapeless heap of twisted metal. N.

ST. GALLEN.

From Marbach comes the news of a disastrous fire, which destroyed three dwelling houses and three stables situated in the centre of the village. S. G. T.

APPENZELL.

Considerable apprehension is felt in the embroidery industry over Chinese competition. It was decided to request the Federal Council to insist on a most favourable treatment clause of hand embroidery in the new commercial treaty with China. As a safeguarding measure it was also decided to introduce a distinctive sign which, when embroidered on the goods, denotes their Appenzell origin, and efforts are to be made to prevent the affixing of this mark on goods of other origin. An association of embroidery manufacturers has been formed as the outcome of a meeting of interested parties. N. Z. Z.

GENEVE.

A young doctor, Mr. Albert Thévenod, has just succumbed, after a fortnight's illness, to bronchial pneumonia, contracted from one of his patients. Dr. Thévenod was a medical man of great promise, and his death is a real loss to the town of Geneva where he was very popular and had a large circle of friends. He had taken charge amongst other things of the laboratory at the children's clinic at the Cantonal hospital.

VAUD.

A serious avalanche of stones and rocks has descended on the village of Morcles, so well-known to alpinists and to those numerous countrymen of ours who have done their military service in the fortifications of Dailly and the Aiguille. This is no doubt due to the snow which fell recently and which melted rapidly in the heat of the sun. A considerable mass of earth and rocks came down from the top of the Aiguille, which towers above the village, and the Riondaz road has been cut off for a distance of about a hundred yards. The school and an adjoining house have been overwhelmed but fortunately there were no casualties.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

New Explosive Discovery:

Daily Express, 18th Nov.

Professor A. Stettbacher, of Zurich, after many years experimenting, has discovered a substitute for nitro-glycerine, which, as is known, is dangerous to handle on account of its liability to explode on the slightest knock or friction.

The Swiss inventor has invented a new chemical mixture of which nitro-glycerine forms 20 per cent. The new explosive is much safer to handle, and possesses greater explosive force. It is also much cheaper to manufacture.

I wished the Daily Express had been able to add "and can be used for peace-purposes only."

Out-Fording Ford:

We all know how Henry Ford is said to make even the sick in his Hospital do some sort of work, partly in order to keep their mind occupied and partly in order to make them feel that although bedridden, they can still be of some use. I now read in Nottingham Evening News of 13th inst. of a similar attempt to make the sick and suffering do some work to be made in Switzerland.

British victims of consumption are to be admitted to the astonishing factory, 4,500 feet above sea level, which Dr. Rollier, the famous sunlight specialist, is opening at Leysin early next year.

On the flat roof of this factory clinic knitting, watch-making, pottery work and so on will be done in full exposure to the sun. On one floor is a school of commerce; on others are open verandah workshops glazed with vitaglass.

Each bed in the factory is being equipped with a work table with special apparatus to allow the patient to work in any position demanded by his particular "cure."

I fancy that illness will yield better if the mind is satisfactorily occupied and doing some useful work, however slight it might be, surely is one of the finest means towards that end. So good luck! to the enterprise.

Writing about illness, makes me think of preserving health. We have, of course, every wish to keep our readers in good health, because most of the subscriptions will soon be due again and, a cold Season is on us, the following article may not come amiss:

Warmth in Winter:

Dr. C. W. SALEEBY in the Daily News, 20th Nov.

Undoubtedly winter is the deadly season. Every doctor in general practice knows that, and every vital statistician. The respiratory diseases run amok, killing hosts at all ages, but especially the very young and the very old. I believe, however, that more than the cold as such, we should blame the darkness, the foulness of the air, and the confinement at close quarters, favouring nose-and-mouth infections at short range.

However that may be, we must maintain the temperature of the blood. And, in the first place, whatever we do about the external temperature, we must take personal steps to provide fuel, to burn that fuel, and to conserve enough of the resulting heat.

The principal fuel foods, we know, are fats and the carbo-hydrates (starch and sugar) proteins and maintain our warmth thereby, but this is a stupid way of doing so, for proteins are expensive in money, and expensive in terms of what they cost in the body for safe handling. Instead, therefore, of eating more lean meat in winter, we shall turn to the true fuel foods, of which the most productive are the fats.

If we eat an excessive proportion of fats we suffer from poison-symptoms due to the presence in the blood of substances called

NOTA BENE!

On December 14th, another Special Issue of the Swiss Observer will be broadcast so as to reach the whole Swiss Colony in Great Britain. This will be a unique opportunity for advertisers to secure the Christmas trade. Please communicate in good time if you wish to secure space, which can be booked at the ordinary rates for serial advertisements.