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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED BY DR. H. W. EGLI WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

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## HOME NEWS

### FEDERAL.

#### PARLIAMENTARY CHANGES.

A great change in the political situation has been made by the decision of the Socialist party conference at Basle by a large majority to demand participation in the Government. The extreme Left elements of the party have now for the first time been beaten by the more moderate Socialists, who are for improving the conditions of the working-class by democratic Parliamentary methods. This victory is mainly the result of the action by the leaders of the trade unions. On Monday last the Second Chamber elected as President of the Chamber in 1930 one of the leaders of the moderate Socialists.

Next week two vacant Liberal seats are to be filled on the Federal Council. For years the composition of the Council has been four Liberals and two Catholics. The Socialists and the Peasants are now demanding one seat each. The Liberals are prepared to give up one of the two seats, but while the Left wing of the party are for giving it to the Socialists, the Right wing would choose the Peasants.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

Friedrich Mülli, cooper, domiciled at Gotthelfstrasse in Zurich-Wiedikon, was found lying on the Adlikon-Regensdorf road. He was unconscious and, on examination at the hospital, his skull was found to be badly fractured. So far, nobody has been traced who could explain the mystery.

\*\*\*

Grinder Hangartner, of Niederhasli, escaped from the Dielsdorf prison and forcibly entered a house at Mettmenhasli, where his wife and child are living. People in the house were awakened by groans and found Hangartner in the act of strangling his wife. The ogre disappeared and was discovered in another room, where he made a similar attempt on the life of his 4 years old child.

\*\*\*

Bankprokurist Schmid, of Zurich, was driving along the Limmatquai, when he suddenly swerved across the road and seemed unable to stop. His car pushed three women through a plate-glass window into a furrier's shop. The victims were very badly cut about the legs, and they are now lying in hospital in a serious condition. The driver appeared to be under the influence of drink, and the police have taken the matter in hand.

N.Z.Z.

BERN.

The Central Committee of the Bernese Bauern-, Bürger- und Gewerbe-Partei has unanimously decided to lay claim to the vacant Bernese Federal Councillor's seat and recommends the election of National Councillor Minger.

\*\*\*

The traditional Zibele- and Chachelimär, formerly the excuse for considerable horseplay, has passed calmly this year. A considerable number of police, uniformed and otherwise, was massed in the main thoroughfares, and the batons were kept ready for all emergencies. In spite of all this, and one might have believed oneself in a town under martial law, no incidents occurred.

\*\*\*

A bus accident happened near the Rosengarten on the line Berne-Ostermundingen. A cyclist, swerving to give right of way to the bus, fell on the icy road. The bus driver put on the brakes, but the vehicle skidded on to the cyclist. The cyclist, who was killed, was identified as Fritz Rolli, aged 32, of Bümpliz.

N.Z.Z.

#### SOLOTHURN.

Shunter Hermann von Dach slipped while crossing the lines at Lyss and fell, landing under a carriage. He lost both his legs and died in hospital.

N.Z.Z.

BASEL.

The canton Basel-Town's population at the end of October numbered 156,685, of which 148,068 live in the town itself. Building oper-

ations are going on everywhere at a steady pace, and the employment returns are satisfactory.

\*\*\*

Sly humour characterizes a burglary at the A.C.V. shop in the St. Johannvorstadt. The "customer" used a ladder to get at one of the windows overlooking the Rhine, although access without it would have been an easy matter. He then twisted the iron bars and smashed the window. He did not steal anything, but left the shop in disorder. He seems to have made an exit through the door, anyway the ladder was left against the window. This happened within 100 meters of the St. Johann police station which, so the newspaper adds, is however known to give no cause for uneasiness.

\*\*\*

A queer sort of amusement took place in a restaurant in the Spalenquartier. Some guests passed part of an afternoon by throwing to each other the saucers put under the glasses. One of these saucers struck the right eye of a woman spectator and caused a most serious injury. N.

#### SCHAFFHAUSEN.

The recent elections for the Town Council have brought about a return to the old conservative majority, at the expense of the communist party whose troubles seem to be getting into a chronic state.

N.Z.Z.

#### ST. GALLEN.

Mr. Eduard Sturzenegger, citizen of Trogen and living in St. Gall, has celebrated his 75th birthday by making donations amounting to 250,000 Fs. The St. Gall "Stiftung für das Alter" receives 50,000 Fs., and the similar institution in Appenzell the sum of 25,000 Fs. A like sum has been paid to the Schweizerische "Stiftung für das Alter," and 50,000 Fs. each to the welfare fund of Mr. Sturzenegger's firm and to the fund for supporting aged hand-machine embroiderers.

N.Z.Z.

#### GRAUBUENDEN.

Unusual election practice in various communities was discovered after the Democratic party had lodged a protest against a recent election return made by Tinzen. It appears that in a good many communities no ballot boxes are provided, that the voting papers are simply put on a table at the polling station, or that they are collected from house to house. In some cases the voting papers of all the members of the same family were brought by women or children. At the recent election of a National Councillor 112 electors at Tinzen recorded their votes and 11 have not voted, not even by proxy. Yet it has been established and proved, that 120 voting papers were handed in. The cantonal authorities have decided to take stringent measures to stop such malpractice and to ensure exact control.

N.

#### MARIAU.

Two suspicious looking men passed through Stein and were stopped by a policeman, who asked to see their papers. Their reply was the presentation of papers by one of them and two revolver bullets in the policeman's body from the other. While rushing away from the scene of their misdeed, they encountered a postman and, believing him to be another policeman, also fired on him, fortunately without hitting. The postman grappled with the would-be murderer and, with the help of others, managed to secure him. His companion was also captured.

N.

## THE SEASON'S GREETINGS.

In order to save our readers the trouble of sending out personal cards with seasonable greetings to their friends in our Colony, the *Swiss Observer* is this year reserving space—under an appropriate heading—for the insertion of names and addresses of readers who wish to convey their greetings in this simpler way. Lists will be published in next week's special issue (14th December), and the following two numbers, the charge per insertion is 2/6. Prepaid orders must reach our offices on Thursday morning of each week at the latest.

## 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.

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

### Is the World going to be blown to bits from Monte Generoso?

Daily Express, 3rd. December, 1929.

Heroic attempts to split the atom by means of a high tension current are being made on the famous Monte Generoso, which towers above the Lake of Lugano. These experiments were begun by Herr Arno Brasch, Dr. Fritz Lange, and Herr C. Urban, three famous Berlin scientists, but the danger of erecting an experimental station at the height of 5,590 feet has already cost the little group the life of one of its members. Herr Urban slipped and fell over a precipice last year, and was immediately killed.

"We want to split the atom," said Herr Brasch to our correspondent, "by means of a high tension current."

"We had two problems when we began. First, that of getting the necessary high tension, and, secondly, that of finding a tube capable of carrying the enormous high tension current. We could have got this current perhaps in the laboratory, but only at a cost of many millions of marks, which we could not afford, so we had to find some other way, and hit on the idea of harnessing lightning.

"We built an experimental station on the famous Monte Generoso, which is the storm centre of Europe, and constructed a cable which is earthed one end and is insulated at the other by means of a double chain of 160 steatite insulators weighing together 5,280 lbs."

"What will happen," I asked, "if you split the atom? Will the world fly to pieces as some predict?"

Herr Brasch laughed and shrugged his shoulders. "We cannot say," he said, "but it is very unlikely that the world would do this, although it is not absolutely impossible. Still, we do not even know if we will split the atom, and if we do it is a step in the dark.

"We are in the position of the man who first made fire, and if we split the atom the energy obtained may be as revolutionary as was the discovery of fire.

"The German electrical industry realises this, and we have been able to try out our experiments only by the generosity of the leading German electrical firms. We have also a small State grant."

Some might object to the heading of the above article, saying that it might harm Switzerland by frightening away its tourists! I do not think so, because if atomic energy is ever discovered or rather tamed, we shall all live to benefit by it. If we are blown to bits, all of a sudden, we shan't know afterwards what's happened, shall we?

So, presuming that Switzerland will still be where it has been for ages, we may still be interested in its Health Resorts and the following, from the "Queen" 20/11/29, may bring news to many who have not heard much about sun-cures yet:

In view of the important part played by ultra-violet rays in the King's recovery from his serious illness, it may be of interest to know something of the wonderful cures effected by sunlight in thousands of cases of tubercular and similar diseases at Leysin, Switzerland, under the auspices of Dr. Rollier, whose fame is now world wide.

This clever and far-seeing physician has been advocating the practice of heliotherapy at high altitudes since 1903, and maintains that this is the only form of treatment calculated to cure surgical tuberculosis in its varying forms, at whatever stage in its development, and at any age, although naturally, the best results are experienced with very young children.

It has long been a matter of common belief that tuberculosis was merely a local ailment, but now it has been discovered that it is a general disease involving the entire organism of the body. The formation of the tuberculous foci is generally preceded by a general failing of health, which means that the tissues are less able to withstand the bacillus of tubercle which it is now considered certain is inherent in every child.

This disease, therefore, is rightly regarded as the white scourge, and is of all ailments the most dangerous and insidious.

Its treatment must inevitably be directed towards the building up or, it may be, the reconstruction of the entire system and not simply the alleviation of purely local conditions.

The best and quickest method of effecting this, is the application of the direct rays of the sun on the entire surface of the patient's naked body, amid the purest and most bracing mountain air, and nowhere are these combined benefits to be obtained in more ideal surroundings than at Leysin, which stands above 4,000-ft. above sea level and is picturesquely perched at the base of the Dent Du Midi, high on the roof of the Alps, and protected from every wind that blows by the massive proportions of the famous mountain.

The high altitude, being extremely pure, is most suitable for sun cures, as the sun shines there even in the dreary months of December, January and February, as it does here in June, July and August. When it is borne in mind that it is in the cities and on the plains the sun's rays must pass through a thick atmosphere, impregnated with fog, moisture, dust and smoke, it is readily understood that they must lose much of their beneficial influences.

The cure is graduated to suit the individual requirements, for some bodies can stand more heat than others.

The feet are first exposed and then gradually the entire body, and it is little short of miraculous to note the progress towards health, for crooked limbs and backs are straightened, hollows in cheeks are filled out, and a healthy tan succeeds the previous unnatural pallor.

Neither medicine nor massage are employed, and the patients are wheeled out on to balconies bathed in sunlight with the fresh pure airs of heaven blowing around and an extensive view of the mountain peaks, snow clad, and pine forests silhouetted against the prevailing whiteness of such a loveliness as takes one's breath away.

Dr. Rollier started at first in 1903 with one small clinic, now there are close on forty, including two sanatoria for the exclusive benefit of the tubercular soldiers. Many of the prisoners of war interned here during the war demonstrated the benefits of the sun and air cure in a very marked degree, for after only a few weeks wounds which had been suppurating for eighteen months and more healed up beautifully and signs of inflammation and irritation completely disappeared.

Naturally, the treatment takes time, and patients are apt to become weary and bored with the long inaction; so the soldiers are taught a trade, and others are interested in work and hobbies, whilst the children in many instances receive a certain amount of education.

Many attend the Sun School, and wander up the mountain side until they reach a shady spot where they halt for a lesson in geography, botany, etc. They play all their games and dance in the gardens or meadows, and their healthy little bodies and rosy faces are a pleasure to see when contrasted with the puny, wasted appearance on their arrival.

Many of the women and girls knit, sew, and machine articles of clothing whilst undergoing their daily sun-bath. The balconies are draped or decorated with the flags of all nations, for the patients come from every corner of the earth, and the cheerful sounds of the singing or a gramophone are wafted along the single street up the many-stepped rock-hewn escalier which reaches to the highest part of the village.

The white chalets with their red roofs look like a collection of Noah's Ark toys which some giant or aeroplane had dropped in passing *en route* for the farthest peak.

The various shops are owned by men and women who came originally as patients and feel that they are better here than anywhere else almost, and others are employed at Cergnat and Sepet at the agricultural colony there.

Motor cars and char-a-banes find their way up, even through the deep snows, but the chief link of communication with the outside world is the small funicular railway, which leisurely descends the mountains and takes over an hour to reach the valley and Aigle junction, which is but a small distance from Vevey, Territet, and all the beauties of the Lake of Geneva.

We are almost developing into a sort of "Lancet." Perhaps our Homeland, being a natural Sanatorium lends itself to all sorts of articles on health and health-services. Anyhow, reading about

#### Warmth in Winter

won't do us any harm just now. So here goes.

C. W. SALEBURY in the *Daily News*, 27th Nov.

If we take in fuel and do not burn it, of course it accumulates and we become fat—I had written "grow" fat, but the accumulation of dead fat, encumbering and even invading vital organs, is not properly to be called growth. We may fail to digest the fuel and then we suffer from indigestion. We may be bio-chemically so constituted, like the razor-

backed pig, that no quantity of fat will fatten us. But, in any case, if our fuel is to keep us warm we must burn it.

The liver and the muscles are the fireplaces of the body. The blood leaving the liver is always warmer than when it entered. Day and night that much-abused and versatile organ—it has at least a dozen priceless functions—is working for us. But our muscles are mostly under our own control, and we need more heat than the heart and the breathing-muscles can provide.

This is one of the many uses of exercise. We need not over-rate that activity if we remember the number of useful and vital people who contrive to do splendidly without it—though not all of them can quite rank with Florence Nightingale. Such cases as hers are, however, *tours de force*, and ordinary people should take plenty of exercise, not least in order to keep warm in winter. For its real value we must go out into the cold, and challenge that, and meet its stimulus, after the fashion of the people who go for winter sports to Switzerland. The air is very cold indeed. Lie down in the snow and soon you sleep never to wake again. But move about in it, after taking in abundance of fuel food, and you become deliciously warm, and soon throw off your heavy clothing, and illustrate the truth of Dr. Leonard Hill's saying that cold is a stimulating friend of the well fed.

Even though we cannot go to Switzerland we should still accept the challenge of the cold and take vigorous exercise in the open air: or, at the least, before an open window, but that is not so good.

We are apt to cool down pretty quickly afterwards; and indeed no one likes a fuggy, overheated indoor atmosphere more than the average hunting man: so much the worse for him.

And, since we cannot be taking vigorous exercise all the time, of course, we must take steps to retain at a sufficiently high level—which we call temperature—the volume of heat which we have produced voluntarily in our muscles, and for which our liver is doing its best all the time.

First, keep the head cool and the feet warm. The rate at which the blood loses heat through cold feet is very surprising when measured; and most of us have heard of Pasteur's experiment, long ago, which showed how cold feet made fowls susceptible to infections which otherwise would have been harmless. All feet must be dry in winter.

Switzerland is not only a health-Country, but also the roof of Europe and even the height of its mountains can be utilised for the furtherance of science and that, in more ways than one. Jules Verne would have loved reading the following—*Sunday Pictorial*, 24th Nov. entitled

#### Calling Mars

no, not the god of that sinister name, but the planet—

Once again somebody has come forward with an idea for getting into communication with Mars. According to Mr. Harry Price, director of the National Laboratory of Psychological Research, the idea is to ignite ten tons of magnesium in a powerful oxygen flame and to use a system of powerful reflectors to add to the beam.

This slightly-larger-than-usual torch is to be lit on top of the Jungfrau in Switzerland, a point 11,340-ft. above sea level, and it is hoped that the beam will strike the Martian snow-fields, thus reflecting enough light to bring it to the notice of the inhabitants—if there are any. This experiment seems more or less harmless, but I hope nobody will suggest trying to wake Mars by sound. Imagine a super-fog-horn or some other similar monstrosity! If we do get into communication with Martians I hope their answer will be polite.

It has often been stated by eminent scientists that if there are living beings on Mars, it is to be expected that they may enjoy a much higher civilisation than we have yet dreamt of. There is ground for fear that if the "call to Mars" gets through, some Martian may get very annoyed. Is it not, he may think, as if some naughty schoolboy directed the beam from his pocket mirror to the eye of an elderly gentleman?

While we were bathing at Stanstaad and enticing numbers of Egils out of their watery element—yes, I wrote "numbers" and I can furnish undeniable evidence to any doubting son of Walton who may disbelieve me—an aeroplane from Lucerne frequently came over to load up passengers for a quarter of an hour's flight around the lake of Lucerne. That service has now been extended into a regular sight-seeing service, as proves the following from *Midland Daily Tribune*, 19th Nov.

A new service of passenger-carrying aeroplanes is to be inaugurated for Alpine sightseers. The Jungfrau, Matterhorn, Eiger, Mont Blanc, and other famous peaks and glaciers are to be flown over.

The machines are Armstrong Siddeley Fokkers of the latest three-engined type. In the event of one engine failing over the

#### GESCHÄFTS-ANZEIGE

Anstatt durch Zirkular, gestatte ich mir auf diesem Wege meinen verehrten Landsleuten anzuseigen, dass ich das von Herrn F. W. Rümann anno 1887 gegründete, sich eines sehr guten Rufes erfreuende,

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"Ich luh nüd nah, und luh nüd seidt:

Wä mer würtli öppi Guets will z'Esse ha

So mues mer zu ürem Landsma Störi gäh."

Erfreuen Sie mich durch Ihren werten Besuch, ich werde dafür sorgen, dass Sie wiederkommen!

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mountains, the other two provide enough power to carry the machine and ten passengers to a safe landing ground.

The headquarters of the new Alpine Service are at Zurich and at the new aerodrome at Lucerne.

I wonder how long it will be ere ordinary life-insurance policies cover flying risks?

#### United States and Swiss Watchmakers:

Much indignation is being aroused in Swiss watch-making circles by the systematic efforts which are being made on behalf of American competitors to induce really first-class watchmakers to leave Switzerland for the United States. Not only are offers extremely tempting, but every facility is assured in respect of migration and quota regulations. This action, taking place as it does at a time when increased American duties on Swiss watches are being put forward in Washington, is being criticized very severely. It is naturally impossible for the Confederation to prevent Swiss subjects from going to whatever country offers them the greatest advantage for the exercise of their trade or profession, even if by so doing they contribute to the decline of an important industry, but in this particular case it is alleged that the activities of American agents, although exceedingly discreet, are contrary to the provisions of the Swiss law governing emigration.

And now, to wind up, I have an article especially for the Ladies and I am sure they will be interested, although their husbands may not thank me for publishing it. However, it may come handy even for them, inasmuch as it may help them to select their Christmas Present for the chief sharer of their daily joys and troubles.

#### Morning, Noon and Night in Switzerland.

*Daily News*, 25th Nov.

Many women on their first visit to Switzerland lumber themselves up with too many heavy things which are not needed. The sun can be very warm in snowy regions and as one is in continual movement it is light-weight woollies that are required, and not heavy clothes that are most tiring.

The new angora and fleecy jumpers in delightful designs and colours, are made expressly for winter sports, and the well cut suède cloth skirts have just the correct swing and do not blow about in ungainly fashion with the wind. Another advantage with such clothes is, that they can be cleaned by merely sponging, and anyone who is a winter sports devotee will realize what a boon that is.

The popular colours vary with each season, and where mustard yellow, bright blues and pillar box red were seen on every hand a year or so back, now there is a leaning towards black and white, a deeper red, marine blue and a glistening copper which is exceptionally becoming.

The caps have changed also, the beret in all kinds of materials and even fur now takes pride of place, also the American dinky cap which had such a vogue on the French plages this summer.

Scarves are much bigger and longer just now and some are attached to the cap. With scarves as with all the other outdoor winter sports clothes, designs are in the modern cubist style and of many colours.

When the wants for skating, skiing, etc., are supplied, one turns to ordinary outdoor wear, which is equally important, as there are many expeditions planned and lunch parties to go to by motor and the choice is mainly tweeds.

Dinner and dance frocks are a big item in the trousser, as the hotels in the more popular Swiss resorts are like English country houses and parties of all kinds are always being arranged, so a good deal of change is needed.

That there are all sorts of things to be seen, heard and otherwise witnessed in Switzerland is evident from the following, entitled

#### Glacier That Moaned:

*Daily Mail* 24/10/29.

What is it like to be caught by a series of violent thunderstorms on one of the highest Alps is told by that well-known climber, Mr. F. S. Smythe, in his book, *Climbs and Ski Runs* (Blackwood, 21s.), the pages of which are replete with thrills. The mountain on which he encountered the storm was the Schreckhorn, and the coming of the storm was preluded by—

A weird greenish glow . . . The plain of Bern was drowned in a green haze.

They were only 500-ft. from the summit when the trouble began:

Every few seconds the lightning struck the ridge a few feet above us with a rending, tearing BANG! After one particularly brilliant flash that flamed all round us, accompanied by a terrific report, there was another crash and a mass of rock—dislodged by the lightning—fell to the left of us.

After an hour's bombardment the storm abated and they fled down some small distance when once more—

The storm was upon us in a blinding tourmente of snow and hail, snarling wind and crashing thunder. . . . There was a blinding

glare and a terrible explosion. I received a stunning blow on the head as if I had been sandbagged. For a second or so I was completely knocked out.

The wind rose to such a pitch that the party "were in imminent danger of being blown off the mountain." For three hours they were in the most deadly peril when the "wind suddenly moderated," and they escaped.

Two strange experiences on the Brenva ridge of Mont Blanc are recounted. At a bivouac above the Brenva Glacier, while brewing tea—

We were startled to hear three long-drawn moans come up from the Brenva Glacier. Each moan was several seconds in duration, and seemed expressive of the utmost agony. They were inhuman in tone and yet unlike any mechanical noise or siren that we had ever yet heard. I can offer no explanation. Glacier ice under pressure makes curious noises. . . .

#### THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL SILK CONGRESS.

The third International Silk Congress was held in Zurich from September 12th. till September 14th. under the presidency of Mr. Etienne Fougère, the well-known Lyon industrialist. After Paris and Milan a Swiss town was to become the seat of the International Confederation that counts among its members delegates from all the principal European States interested in the silk industry.

The choice of Switzerland and of the town of Zurich in particular was undoubtedly determined by the desire to do homage to Zurich, heart of Swiss trade and industry. Zurich, the Swiss economic metropolis, occupies a rank equal to that of the most important European silk-dealing centres. The patent of nobility of the Zurich silk trade testifies of quite an imposing age since silk-weaving has been recorded as far back as the 13th. century. But it was not until the middle of the 16th. century that silk industries (spinning, silk-throwing, weaving, etc.) and the silk trade in general became really prosperous and rapidly acquired an international renown.

For a long time the silk industry was jealously monopolized by the burghers of the town of Zurich. The 19th. century witnessed the introduction of factories and soon after many large silk firms were founded in Zurich which helped to enrich the city and made themselves appreciated abroad.

The third International Silk Congress was sure to find in Zurich a stimulating atmosphere to perform its work. The order of the day was heavily charged comprising most varied subjects which ranged from the breeding of silk-worms to the sale of fabrics. During three days of strenuous and closely organized work, the Congress was able to successfully conclude its work which consisted, firstly, in solving various problems already treated in the course of former sessions and, secondly in taking fresh steps necessary for the development of the present international situation. A detailed account of the results obtained during the Congress is far too lengthy to be given here, we will, therefore, mention only the principal points.

In the first place, the Congress completed a codification of international rules for the sale of raw and worked silks, a result which received the marked approval of all. The work undertaken by the former assemblies has been ended and it is presented to the public in book form, comprising 100 pages of code relating to the unification of international usages which varied, previously, from one district to another. The date for the enforcement of these regulations has been fixed on January 1st. 1930, and they are to be adopted on trial until the next International Congress.

A solution was also found of the problem connected with the limitation in the loading of fabrics. The Congress set up certain regulations in this line and decided to create a guarantee-mark to be applied to goods treated according to these regulations. The International Silk Federation is to be the owner of the mark and its application is to remain optional for a year, after which period it can be made compulsory if judged advisable.

As the Swiss silk industry owes its prosperity largely to its export trade, special attention was paid to the efforts made to unify conditions of payment for the sale of fabrics. A committee was charged to present to the associations of all countries interested a uniform regulation, in order to obtain any eventual counter-proposition or suggestions. As soon as this regulation will have been accepted by the different States, it will be recommended by the Federation.

S.I.T.

#### Modernism in the Alps.

By HOWARD ROBERTSON, F.R.I.B.A., S.A.D.G.  
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How difficult it is to trust our judgment where novelty is concerned! There is so much in habit, in what the eye is accustomed to. The new shocks at first, unless it is preceded by preparatory introduction in the form of a gentle transition. And yet how rapidly our first astonishment is dissipated, how completely we assimilate new forms which have some basis in reason.

We well remember the controversy which raged round the building of the British Medical Association in the Strand, enriched by Epstein's sculpture, and the milder excitement created by Mr. Belcher in his Piccadilly Insurance building, both of which were prophetic of a changing attitude towards architectural expression. Yet to-day these buildings are scarcely noticed, and if they were might conceivably be judged as old-fashioned. Sculpture passes through the same phases. Carpeaux, whose group "La Danse" in front of the Opéra in Paris was besmirched with ink, is now amongst the academicians of his art. Bourdelle, who has just died, was almost derided when his friezes on the Champs-Elysées Theatre were unveiled, and yet to-day there is talk in France of a posthumous and very tardy official recognition of his place amongst a trio of leaders in sculpture. Epstein's Rima is still in process of being tarred and feathered by the ignorant, though it has become so softened by increasing public understanding that many visitors enjoy it without realising that it had the honour of being publicly condemned by a President of the Royal Academy, coincident with a demonstration held in front of it by a disappointed artist, who frightened more birds in two days than Rima in a life-time.

And now we have the same process in regard to very modern architecture. For better or worse, what is loosely termed "Corbusier stuff" is becoming in many countries quite a commonplace, Le Corbusier, like every other man of talent, did not so much invent as crystallise ideas. He collected, and pushed to a very logical conclusion, certain scattered germs of thought which were held by various coterie of architects and laymen. He is a little too logical in fact, and therefore runs counter to human nature. But he has exerted, and is exerting, a powerful influence in Russia and Central Europe, and while we here have been discovering Sweden, the Swedish have discovered Le Corbusier. We do not say this is good; it is merely a fact.

Le Corbusier, and no doubt others who think along parallel lines, has also reacted on the modern architecture of Switzerland. This is the more comprehensible since he is of Swiss origin and has built in Switzerland. That, no doubt, is why a quotation from his work, *Towards a New Architecture*, slips easily into place as the text of the introduction to a very interesting little book which is devoted to what is even to-day quite a unique example of modern architectural design.

The book is entitled *Neue Wege im Hotel Bau*, and is published by Orell Füssli, of Zürich and Leipzig, at the modest sum of 3 Swiss francs. Its subject is the consideration, in a brief but attractive and comprehensive form, of the architectural ideas which have found expression in two hotels which, though modest in size, claim attention for the boldness and originality of their treatment. A treatment which gains added relief from the fact that it is still an unfamiliar spectacle in a setting of Swiss mountains. The author of the book is Dr. Walter Amstutz, himself connected with an old family of *hôteliers*, which is an assurance that the reading matter, though slight in bulk, is written with a thorough understanding of the subject.

Dr. Amstutz is not addressing himself either to architects or to hotel-keepers, but to all those whose appetite for travel has been blunted by contact with that type of dear and uncomfortable hotel accommodation which includes the tasteless curtains and floor coverings, the sofa which invites not ease, the chair on which one does not care to sit; in other words, to the general travelling public.

He begins by a survey of the modern tendency towards the rational outlook in design, the objectives of which are the simplicity, the economy, the logical planning which were first dictated by present-day conditions, and which have since been elevated to the position of desiderata on their own merits. He points out the importance in this scheme of things to the element of standardisation, the advantages from a practical standpoint of the repetition of well-designed standard articles of equipment and furniture, following a principle which can be applied to buildings as it has been applied to most branches of commercial activity.

The origin of two new buildings in the Berne Oberland (Hotels Alpina & Edelweiss) turns on a disastrous fire which occurred in Mürren in the autumn of 1926, in which both these hotels, which, though independent, adjoined each other, were burned down. It was decided to rebuild, and the same architect was chosen for both, a very

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