

The Aeroplane disaster

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things first in such a way that it is subsequently difficult to learn the "wrong" things, even if one wishes to, is, of course, nowadays accepted in the case of high-grade skills like learning a foreign language or learning to play a difficult musical instrument. That it should be applied to the performances in which "initiative" is so often confused with freedom to muddle is interesting and encouraging.

The spread or transference of skill, learnt in one performance, to skills apparently closely allied to it—raising questions answered with universal emphasis but amusing inconsistency by athletes—is of importance in industry; for if there be no such spread, then to speak of a person having "general muscular ability" is unjustified, for he will merely possess many special abilities not necessarily related to each other. If "general muscular ability" exists, we may select a man for a job on the ground that, though he cannot do it, he will learn it easily. If, however, such a central factor is a myth, the only proof of muscular ability will be actual demonstration that the man has done the job.

About this question many others cluster—for instance, the rival claims of the "sample" or "trade" tests for apprentices (those which offer him as a test the actual job which he is to do) and the "analytic" (those which attempt to analyse the performance into simpler ones, which are the separately tested).

The following, however, must not be taken as an afterthought to the preceding article, but, as it also deals with education and that of even more difficult subjects than normal apprentices, I really think it is very interesting. After all, we Swiss rather pride ourselves on more advanced thinking and we have, I hope, long ago foregone the old idea of punishing without reforming or attempting to reform and rather believe that reform or cure is really the thing that is wanted when dealing with so-called criminals, i.e., people who, for the sake of organised society and because they are nefarious to that organisation, must be cured of their anti-social tendencies. Here goes:

Prison Methods.

(*Glasgow Herald*, 4th June).

Rumours reach us now and then of an experiment in Switzerland for breakers of that country's laws. In view of the talk—some of it dangerously vague, though well-meaning—about scrapping our own prison methods and devising something more in accordance with our newer conceptions of offenders and attempts to reform them, some facts may be helpful. They may answer a few of the questions that are often asked as to how such a practical demonstration of a favourite theory is worked out.

There is actually in existence in the valley between Lake Neuchâtel and Berne a penal colony of farm workers earning their living and building up quite a large prosperous rural trade. There are private enterprises and farms alongside, but no difficulties seem to be reported among the community, which has gradually reclaimed the swampy land in the last 40 years and covered it with well tilled fields and pastures, built farm houses, barns, mills, cheese factories and shops, until it is now a busy, useful area.

To make the Witzwill Farm Colony, which started over 30 years ago with 50 men, money had to be spent on fertilisers, but that has been long paid back. The colony defrays its own salaries to four or five workers and makes a steady profit for a building and development reserve fund after paying interest on all capital invested in its farms.

The workers are mainly first offenders, probably only serving for a year, but there are found among them a good number of long-sentence men. All must work directly on the land for two or three months, though other trades are taught, and later a prisoner may continue his own choice. One gathers that a well-trained Witzwill farmworker is fairly sure of a job on the land when he is finished the good apprenticeship, but the alternative courses make an impressive list—blacksmith, shoemaker, bookbinder, carpenter, painter, mason, gardener, sugar beet grower, etc.—in fact, all that is required to keep the community itself well fed and well housed. The pay is about 10 centimes a day for the prisoner himself, his family getting food and help while he is under sentence. There is a village institute where lectures and services are held and where the choir practises and performs, so that though work is hard there are other interests encouraged.

Of course all this is mainly dependant upon the personality of the staff. The director and his wife must be remarkable people, but no one doubts such capable, understanding friends of our rebels and vagrants really do exist, and because of their attitude to their charges the work of helping is eased and made pleasant.

Fifty officers act under the director, getting about 250 francs a month, with house and produce. They work along with and as hard as the prisoners, making community life a reality. The centre of the village is the administrative block and the director's house, with the men's sleeping cells and larger dormitories jutting off at each end. The cell windows are barred, but otherwise there are not many signs of prison to be seen. To be allowed to sleep in a dormitory with a small group of men is looked upon as a reward.

Above all, of interest to those of us who are worried by the shortcomings and gaps in the splendid machinery of the penal system of our country, there is a remarkable colony attached for discharged prisoners, where men stay on till they get work. They are free to come and go, and many seem to feel that they get on best in the planned systematic life of a colony. Of all the reports of this experiment and of the somewhat similar work in Sweden it is the possibilities of after-care that appeal most. Less populous and less industrial countries may find the treatment an easier proposition, but could Great Britain not establish its own institutions based on some such idea?

Some of you may have followed the fortunes of the several English Football Teams on their journeys abroad recently. You may have read what they said had been their awful experiences in some of the continental countries they visited. The following article, from the *Sheffield Mail*, 31st May, gives an account of the

Sheffield Wednesday Team's Visit to Switzerland.

Sheffield Wednesday returned last night from their tour of Switzerland looking fit and well. They had played six games, winning each, and had enjoyed to the full the novel experiences which usually fall to the lot of the traveller on the Continent. Mr. G. W. Turner the chairman of the club, was naturally delighted with the trip, and spoke highly of the sportsmanship of the Swiss.

"We broke our journey at Paris," he said "and had a look round, after which we travelled to Zurich for the first match in which we beat the Young Fellows F.C., by 3—0, on May 9. I was surprised at the keenness with which the Swiss people follow English football. All the statistics are at their finger tips and the games are followed with the closest interest.

"We were presented before the match with a banner to commemorate the occasion and then three cheers were given for the English footballers. To these we replied in like manner. Then our players did what no other English club had done in Switzerland; they lined up and saluted the Swiss flag. This, of course was well received."

Mr. Turner thought the football much slower at Zurich than in England. It was considered as foul to charge a player and for that reason goalkeepers were allowed to stand still with the ball in their hands.

The pitch at Zurich was very poor. The ground had not had a heavy roller on it, and this of course excluded "carpet" football. In places there were long grass; then a patch of dandelions, and then spots entirely without grass. However, we won that match alright.

From Zurich the party travelled to Basle, where a pleasant surprise awaited them. During the match with Nordesten an aeroplane circled over the ground and at half-time dropped a bunch of flowers and a message. These came from Mr. Stauber, who, a native of Switzerland, is well-known in Sheffield.

Mr. Stauber's nephew, who at one time was also resident in Sheffield and gained several athletic successes, showed the tourists round the city after the match. The Wednesday won comfortably by 2—1 after a good game. They had been "primed" beforehand that the team at Basle would be one of the strongest, but though the ground gave every opportunity for splendid football the game was not so hotly contested as had been expected.

After leaving Basle the party spent a few days sight-seeing. At Neuchâtel they were cordially received, and they astounded the "locals" with the quality of football they displayed.

This was the first match of its type played on the Cantonal ground, and though Swiss clubs were considered very bold when they invited the Wednesday, they were rewarded by attracting one of the biggest gates.

A local newspaper reported the match to be "a splendid demonstration of true football." It went on to say "The English played a game which was very effective and clean and Cantonal owed the smallness of their defeat to their goalkeeper, who stupefied the spectators by some of his saves. Except for his play, Cantonal would have lost by many more goals."

The following day the Grasshoppers were met at Zurich, which town was reached after a very hasty and trying journey.

The ground was in splendid trim, with the result that the game was one of the fastest of the series. The Grasshoppers possessed some splendid half-backs, and these, in addition to a rule which would make most English football enthusiasts laugh, somewhat stopped the Wednesday from having matters all their own way. However, the tourists won all right.

The rule referred to allowed each team occasionally to change a player or two. Thus it was no uncommon sight to see one centre-forward playing in the first half and another after the change of ends. While this, of course, applied to both sides Wednesday remained unchanged throughout.

At Lucerne the tourists had the experience of being broiled in the sun—the temperature being in the 80's—and seeing in the distance the cool, snow-covered tops of the mountains. It had been intended to visit Lucerne earlier in the tour but the city team had to cancel the match. They had drawn in a cup-tie and the replay had been fixed for the day of the Wednesday's visit. However, by the sanction of the English F.A. another match was arranged and on a splendid ground the Swiss gave the best exhibition of the tour. They possessed an inside-left who would have been good enough, Mr. Turner believes, for English Football.

The matches resulted:

- v. Young Fellows F.C., at Zurich, 3—0.
- v. Nordesten, at Basle, 2—1.
- v. Cantonal, at Neuchâtel, 3—0.
- v. Grasshoppers, at Zurich, 4—0.
- v. Lucerne, at Lucerne, 4—0.
- v. Basle, at Basle, 3—1.

THE AEROPLANE DISASTER.

Among the seven passengers who lost their lives in the somewhat mysterious accident which befell an air-liner crossing the Channel last Monday morning were two compatriots of ours, namely Mr. Adolph Meister and Frau Bösiger. Both were on a temporary visit to this country where they have relatives and friends. Frau Louisa Bösiger, who is from Burgdorf (Berthoud), had spent a short holiday with a son who is a student at the Swiss Mercantile Society; she was in her 52nd year and leaves a husband and two sons. Her body has not yet been recovered. On behalf of the Colony we tender our sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends.

We are indebted to a correspondent for the following particulars about the late

MR. ADOLPH MEISTER.

Adolph Meister was on a visit to his relations in Switzerland, combining his tour with a business mission in Europe.

His first stay was with his relatives in London, the family of Mr. F. M. Gamper-Meister and all who came into contact with him have been struck by the youth and happiness of the man, who carried his 73 years with all the airs of an active and energetic business man.

This terrible tragedy is all the more poignant for the fact that for fifty years Mr. Meister had not been back in Europe and seen his native country. It can therefore be imagined with what keen pleasure he was looking forward to revisit the scene of his youth combining with this event the celebration of his nomination as Vice-President of the Garfield Manufacturing Co. in which he had been in a leading position for well over twenty years.

He spoke with keen anticipation of his Aeroplane trip to Paris, and the fact that his grandson was just about taking his first Pilot certificate in America.

Widowed for many years, he leaves a married daughter in the States, who looks back on a distinguished University career and holds the Golden Key, which is a very rare distinction in the United States.

His various activities included a Directorship of the National Bank of Garfield.

His relatives and friends lose in him a man of exceptional character and amiable disposition. He was without doubt one of those unofficial ambassadors of our country who give to the name of Switzerland and the Swiss the Stamp of dignity, straightforwardness and character.

All who have had the privilege of knowing him, either in business or private life, will feel the deepest sorrow for his awful fate and keep the souvenir of his personality as a shining example to follow in life.

OFF TO THE SUNNY SOUTH.

We learn that a unique treat is in store for the members and friends of the London Swiss Rifle Association, who may have the time and inclination to participate in the forthcoming Swiss National Shooting Competition (Tir Fédéral), to be held towards the end of July at Bellinzona, in the lovely Canton of Ticino.

The party will leave Victoria Station on July 24th next at 4 o'clock p.m. by direct route to Bâle, arriving the following morning at 6 o'clock, and they will find awaiting them the most luxurious passenger coach, which now caters