Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1930)

Heft: 468

Rubrik: Notes and gleanings

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Mehr erfahren

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. En savoir plus

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. Find out more

Download PDF: 06.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch

The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595 — *Published every Friday at* 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2. — Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 10—No. 468 — LONDON, OCTOBER 11, 1930. — PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	3 Months (13 issues, post free)	3/6
	6 " (26 " ")	6/6
	12 " (52 " ")	12/-
SWITZERLAND	6 Months (26 issues, post free)	Frs. 7.50
	12 " (52 ")	" 14.—

HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

FELIX CALONDER NOT TO RESIGN.

It is reported that, on account of the incessant exhortations on the part of the Council of the League of Nations, M. Felix Calonder, President of the German-Polish Arbitration Commission, has withdrawn his resignation.

DAY'S REST A WEEK BY LAW.

The National Council passed, last week, a bill providing for a compulsory period of 24 hours rest each week in trade and industry.

SWISS LOAN FOR HUNGARY.

The Hungarian Commercial Bank has placed with a syndicate headed by the Swiss Bank Corporation Hungarian Seven per cent. Bonds to the extent of 15,000,000 Swiss francs. Subscriptions for the bonds opened at 98.

NEW SWISS HOLDING COMPANY.

Details are now available regarding the Swiss holding company which has just been formed to take over the industrial participations of the Oesterreichische Creditanstalt in Vienna. The new company is to be known as "Continentale Gesellschaft für Bank und Industriewerte" and is to have its headquarters in Basle. Its object is "to participate in banking and industrial undertakings, principally on the Continent of Europe."

The immediate purpose is to take over a part of the industrial and banking holdings of the Oesterreichische Creditanstalt, which comprise interests in every branch of activity and are widely distributed over Europe. The capital is 60,000,000 francs in 40,000 fully paid shares and 80,000 shares 50 per cent. paid up.

It is expected that the company will proceed at an early date to a bond issue, which is likely to total 40,000,000 francs, of a Five and a-Half per cent. type and having a currency of 15 years, with an option of redemption after 10 years.

The company is being formed under the auspices of an international group of bankers headed by the Swiss Bank Corporation in Basle, the Oesterreichische Creditanstalt in Vienna, S. M. Rothschild in Vienna, Helbert Wagg and Co., Ltd., in London, and Warburg and Co. in Amsterdam. The Board, which is under the Chairmanship of Mr. Armand Dreyfus, of the Swiss Bank Corporation, has among its members representatives of the various participating concerns. Mr. Albert Palache represents the interests of Helbert Wagg and Co., Ltd.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION IN BERNE.

The Federal Council has allocated an amount of £76,000 towards the expenses of an international exhibition of popular art, to be held at Berne in 1934.

SCHOOL CHILDREN'S TRIPS THROUGH THE ST. GOTTHARD TUNNEL.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the St. Gotthard Tunnel, the Swiss Federal Railways arranged specially reduced fares for school children travelling in parties over the line. Schools from every part of the country took advantage of this offer, and on certain days as many as 5,000 children passed through the tunnel. Up to the end of June already 60,000 school children had made the journey.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

After the fiasco of the Communist rally in Schaffhausen the contingent from Zurich tried to demonstrate on their return. They met some of their stay-at-home confrères and held a rally of their own on the Helvetia Platz. Hair-raising stories were told of how the military motors, laden with soldiery and machine guns, were rushed through the streets; how the comrades had been beaten and illtreated by them until blood ran in streams, but that in spite of all the Communists had not only gained a moral but a very effective victory. The Bourgoisie had at last realised that Communism is getting more and more powerful even in Switzerland, and that it would become a force which would repay a thousand-fold the shameful acts of the murderers of the Proletariat. From the plinth of the Helvetia fountain a youngster exhorted his Communist listeners, now that the moment had arrived, to "go for the whole lot" and to establish a Swiss Soviet; the opponents must all "be done in" and no respite should be given until the whole of the miserable opposition had been "done away with."

But the beautiful evening was irresistible and instead of "demonstrating" the crowd of about 300 dispersed after a revolutionary song.

N.Z.Z.

* * *

In the night of Saturday-Sunday last a motorist reported himself to the police after having placed his car into the garage.

He stated that he drove some people from Zurich to Baden and that suddenly in Neuhof, near Baden, his off-side rear window was smashed. As he noticed some fellows in front of him, he thought that it was an act of animosity and drove on. On his return journey he noticed at Neuhof a motor car and some fellows standing around it. He did not stop. On arriving home and putting his car into the garage he looked at the smashed window closer and found blood and hair adhering to the frame work of it and he came to the conclusion that an accident must have happened.

On investigation by the police it was found that one of the fellows had lurched towards the quickly moving motor car and with his head had smashed the window. The man had his head split open and fell dead into the road. He is Robert Scherz, 31, single, of Dürlingen, Berne, who, a week previously, had started work on the new Limmat power works in Wettingen. The motorist, who at first was detained on remand, has been liberated.

St.G.T.

BERNE.

The Canton of Berne is issuing a 4 per cent. loan of 25,000,000 francs for the conversion of the 5 per cent. loan 1919. The issue price is 98½ per cent., and the bonds are redeemable by 1948.

* * *

The Jungfrau Bahn showed receipts for the month of August of 448,000 Frs. as against 517,000 Frs. in 1929, and expenditure in both years of 83,000 Frs.

The amounts for January to August are: receipts 119,830 Frs. against 255,576 Frs. in 1929 with an expenditure of 457,000 Frs. in both years.

V.

* * *

That quadruplets should celebrate the 50th anniversary of their birth is not a very common occurrence. But this extraordinary jubilee was commemorated by the four brothers and sisters Gehri in Münchenbuchsee on September 26th. Oscar, Berta, Rosa and Anton Gehri were born on the 26th of September, 1880, in Oberlinbach. Their father was the artist Charles Samuel Gehri, who was well-known through his pictures representing Bernese customs and was one of the illustrators of Zahn's Edition of the works of Jeremias Gotthelf.

St.G.T.

GRIMSEL STAUSEE.

Since last week the old Grimsel Hospiz has disappeared in the waters of the new lake, which has already gained a considerable size. The one-time clear waters of the Grimsel lakes are now muddy and discoloured, but are filling up the basin which has been artificially formed.

N.Z.Z.

BASELLAND.

In the night of September 18th-19th a wire was drawn across the road just outside the village of Lausen on the Basel-Olten road, evidently with the intention of attacking any oncoming motorcyclist. A saloon car was, however, the first to encounter this obstacle, suffering only slight damage.

The Basel section of the Swiss Automobile Club has offered a reward of 250 Frs. for the apprehension of the perpetrators. Last Saturday the cantonal police from Liestal arrested the 21-year-old Hans Merz and the 16-year-old locksmith apprentice W. Blatter, both from Lausen. The two have admitted the deed, but state that it was done in a spirit of youthful exuberance. *St.G.T.*

FRIBOURG.

The death is reported of Dr. Félix Rémy, doyen of the medical corps of the canton of Fribourg, at Bulle at the age of 82. He accomplished his studies at the Universities of Berne and Paris and had an extensive practice at Bulle, where he was highly esteemed for his skill and aimability.

Continued on back page.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

R. 101.

A very gallant party of Englishmen have laid down their lives in yet another effort of mankind to wrest some of Nature's secrets from her jealously guarded bosom. We can but mourn their untimely loss; we can but silently wonder; we can but offer our mute sympathy, our heartfelt condolence to their bereaved families.

Even Time, the great healer, will hardly ever be able to efface from our minds the anguished shudder that ran through us when the dread news came through. Truly, the R.101 was not so much an English adventure as a human effort and as such really affecting all mankind, and the whole human family feels bereaved by the terrible loss of these gallant men.

Ours is not to reason why. Ours is but to praise the Almighty that He in His wisdom has imbued the human race with the sacred fire of searching and probing into Nature's secrets and that He has, in all times since the beginning of man's reign on earth, lit that fire again and again and so enabled mankind to proceed from step to step, always upwards!

And among those who have actively fought that battle against the elements, the heroes of R.101 will ever be remembered and in giving their lives for a cause which, whatever one may think, must always be a great endeavour and a noble effort, they have carried that sacred duty of search a step further, and the knowledge and certainty that their beloved ones have died in active service for mankind as a whole, must be some consolation to the dear ones they have left behind.

We Swiss who, among our native mountains, are ever beset by Nature's dangers and who know what fighting the elements can mean, we salute these gallant heroes, we shall cherish their memories and we feel, as human beings, proud of their valour.

The Matterhorn takes its Revenge.

Sphere, 27th September:

Among those who live in the high valleys of the Alps there is a saying that the Old Man of the Mountain always wins in the end—that the White Death awaits those who become irreverent or grow *blasé* over his tolerance. Guides who have grizzled among the peaks and defiles of the Bernese Oberland, the Valaisan Alps, and the Mont Blanc and Jungfrau ranges seldom, when sober, speak disparagingly of the mountains—they have seen them triumph far too often.

The recent tragic (mountaineers find it heroic) end of the career of Hermann Perren of Zermatt, ace of contemporary guides, just as he was about to end his mountaineering days, is a typical example of the Odysseys which are yearly recorded, yet seldom sung on the printed page, among the mountain folk.

Perren was born in the mountains, he lived his life in the mountains, and died in the mountains. At the age of sixty he had conquered the famous Matterhorn, king of Swiss peaks, 143 times. His goal was 150 ascensions, after which he had promised his family and friends that he would retire from the sport—and business. He knew every cranny and crag of the rugged and forbidding peak against which he had so many times matched his instinct and intelligence amid adverse conditions.

But, like Alexander Burgener, around whom they still weave legends in the Oberlands, although two decades have passed since the Bergli hurled an avalanche down upon the intrepid guide and his companions, enveloping them in the white death that is so omnipresent, Hermann Perren could not fight the unknown. He may have passed over the same spot a score of times in the days gone by, yet when a treacherous *pont de neige* opened at his feet he dragged his companion, to whom he was

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28th
for the
ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL,
at the
May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.

roped, with him to keep his rendez-vous with Old Man Mountain. They recovered the bodies from the 150-ft. crevasse some time later, frozen rigid in their icy tomb—and Perren is now enshrined with Burgener and others who have gone before him in the Alpine hall of fame.

To the little village of Zermatt, which nestles several thousand feet above sea level under the shadow of the Cervin (as Matterhorn is also called), the tragic accident brought consternation. Perren, its most celebrated native son, was exceedingly popular, a member of the village council, proprietor of a picturesque wayside hostel, and an authority on everything pertaining to mountaineering. Among Valaisan guides he was known far and wide by the sobriquet Wolf of the Glaciers, and as a worthy successor of Burgener of Eisten.

Matterhorn is known the world over as a sporting mountain. Every climber of any imagination or experience has matched his prowess against the giant of the Swiss-Italian Alps. Deceptive in its simplicity, the peak, which rises a sheer 15,000 ft. into the skies, has lured many to its summit. Yet, with the vagaries of its winds, the sudden storms and fogs which envelop it, the treacherous rock formations, precipices, chasms, and abysses, Matterhorn has hurled back most of those who have challenged it—many bruised and battered, and not a few dead from their wounds.

To Perren, Burgener, and other veteran guides who knew it, Matterhorn held no terrors; only an immense respect. They had subdued it too many times. Perren, particularly, regarded it as "his mountain." He was its child, born within its shadow. Matterhorn had punished him many times, yet, considering all, it had treated him tenderly. No other human being had been allowed to stand on its jagged summit so many times. No other guide had ever earned such a fortune, showing the curious Matterhorn's secrets. Back in 1902, when he was still a youth, old Matterhorn taught Perren his first serious lesson. He was attempting one of the earliest ascents on skis. A snow-covered crevasse opened under his feet and dragged Perren and his charge into its depths. When the rescue party descended with the aid of ropes they found Perren, badly injured, by the side of his dead companion. To his dying day he carried the scars of that experience.

It was exactly twenty-eight years to a day when Matterhorn made the same move against its most favoured guide . . . this time Perren and his companion were taken from the glacier —dead.

While it was the treacherous snow-bridged crevasse that proved Perren's Nemesis, Matterhorn has many other weapons to use against those who challenge it. Springtime avalanches are much feared by climbers and villagers alike. Matterhorn's tricky slopes, where edelweiss lures the venturesome, have crumpled under many an outstretched hand. The fleecy clouds which seem to caress its summit have enveloped many in blinding mantles, leading their footsteps to the edge of precipices—and death.

Perren knew all these whims and vagaries of his mountain. He could match his wits against them and win. He had a sixth sense which warned of dangers both from the elements and the fickle terrain. His record of twelve ascensions of Matterhorn in a single month, four times by the dangerous Arête de Diable—the Devil's Fishback—in one week, is recorded in letters of gold in the annals of Alpisme. It is equalled only by his historic ascension of the Zorn via the traverse of the Taeschhorn and the Arête de Diable, all accomplished in a single day with the noted British Alpinist, Morrison-Bell.

The event which Perren loved to recall more than his mountaineering exploits, however, was his pilgrimage to Rome with a group of Valaisan guides to pay homage to another mountaineer once known as Mgr. Achille Ratti, but now gracing the Papal throne as Pius XI. In their picturesque Valaisan garb the group were presented to his Holiness, hobnail boots, piolets, coiled ropes across their shoulders and the other accoutrements of their profession. The Pope gave the pilgrims his blessing, and to Perren, who at the time had passed his hundredth ascension of Matterhorn, he expressed his greatest admiration and extended congratulations.

Like the great Perren, the mountaineers of Valais are a strange lot. Back in the days of Cæsar they were one of the few fighting races which never bowed to the Roman conqueror. From their mountain fastnesses they shouted defiance at the legions encamped in the Rhone Valley below, sallying forth now and then to harass the invaders with guerilla warfare. Finally they drove the Romans from the country. Their bellicose spirit survived even the invasions of Napoleon's forces, and the little Corsican received one of his most decisive drubbings in the Valais near the present-day Martigny at the hands of the Herens.

To-day they are made of the same rough fabric—courage, endurance, and *sangfroid*—and, despite their deeply religious spirit, a stoicism and fatalism which accepts without murmur the vicissitudes of nature. They do not fear the white death, those guides who gather around carafes of wine at the rustic tables of Perren's pub. Their one desire is to die in the brilliant sunlight above the clouds, or with their backs glued against the rocks.

They say that Perren carried with him as he ascended the Matterhorn on the fatal day a vision of impending disaster. His friends recall that the anniversary of his first terrible accident never passed without apprehension on his part, and a sigh of relief when it was over. It is certain that he never forgot the hours spent at the side of his dead companion far down in the frigid depths of the glacier. But, be that as it may, Perren was often heard to express a desire to die on his mountain. The phantom of the white death would have lured him on like the Lorelei's song rather than have deterred him. He knew it was useless to avoid it. Perhaps it was pre-ordained . . . they believe in the supernatural among the mountains.

To-day, Perren's son, still in his twenties, is marching in his father's footsteps. Already he has seventy-eight victories over the Matterhorn to his credit. In the forty years more that he has to go to reach his father's age, who knows what mark he may set? Matterhorn is tender to those who fear it most. Young Perren, while he does not fear the mountain, respects it and reverences it. He holds no grudge against it for exacting the supreme penalty from his father. The mountain folk believe that the spirit of the old guide roams the cols and peaks of the range and that it will watch over the welfare of Perren's son.

A Mountain Tragedy of 200 years ago.

Daily Express, 24th September:

A gang of workmen who are excavating for a new road on the Saleve Mountain overlooking Geneva discovered yesterday at the depth of a few feet the skeleton of a woman with a steel dagger firmly wedged between the ribs.

Scattered beside the body were a number of Swiss gold coins bearing the date 1710, and also some valuable pearls, which, it is thought, once formed the dead woman's necklace.

The opinion was expressed at the inquest to-day that the woman died at about the date marked on the coins. The verdict solemnly added that there was nothing to show whether it was murder or suicide that was committed on the mountainside a couple of centuries ago.

Besides, what good would any other verdict have been?

Swiss to make Talkies.

"Cinema," 24th September:

For some considerable time there has been talk in Switzerland of the possibility of production in the country. Shortage of capital, artists, and studios has hitherto prevented the realisation of such a scheme.

It is now proposed to build a studio with all that is necessary for sound and talkie production.

It is hoped to commence operations with a fully equipped studio in Zurich in January next.

At the commencement the work will be distinguished by its national character, and films will be produced primarily for the Swiss market. When experience has been gained, it is hoped to undertake work of international importance.

Talking of "talkies" reminds me how Americanisms are getting into the English language. Not only does Kyburg himself, when he wishes to be a wee bit "doggie" answer "yep" or shorten any comment he wishes to make to a terse "is that so?" in the best talkie style he can imitate (rather a bad imitation sometimes), but the other day when motoring east of Chelmsford and finding a 'bus and a lorry involved in an accident, Kyburg was asked by the 'bus driver to be good enough and give the next policeman he should meet "the low-down." Kyburg was not then aware what this funny expression really meant, but gathered that the presence of a policeman was desired to take particulars of the damage done. Anyhow, since then, at a talkie performance, the mystery was cleared up and even Kyburg now knows what "giving the low-down" means. And so we progress!

Switzerland's Comfortable Sixpenny Hotels.

Liverpool Echo, 20th September:

Switzerland can not only boast of offering the best hotel service in Europe, but can also claim to provide accommodation at least as cheap as any other country can offer. These cheap hotels or hostels are erected and maintained by the Swiss Youth Movement, the full name and address of which is as follows:—Bund Schweizerischer Jugendherbergen Geschäftstelle Zurich Seilergraben 1, Switzerland. This society is conducted on similar lines to the youth societies in Holland, Germany, and Austria, and is linked up with them in so far as the membership is international.

If you have already joined the German Youth Movement your card admits you to the Swiss hostels. Regarding conditions of membership for foreigners, the following letter secured from the society covers the point: "You are allowed to visit our hostels and lodgings if you are not more than 25 years old, or if you are travelling with a group of boys and serve them as their chief. In order to use our hostels you and your companions have to book one of our cards of identity. We would be pleased to make them out for you. You only have to give us the name, address, birth date, and profession of every person participating in the party."

The Year Book of the society, "Jugendherbergs Verzeichnis," gives full particulars of all the hostels. For example, under the heading of "Basel" it states: "Town Youth Hostel in Gotthelfplatz. Two large sleeping with palliasses for 60 to 80 persons. Cooking room, large common room. Admission up to 9 p.m."

With the book there is a good map of Switzerland, on which each hostel is plainly marked by a green dot. Each dot is numbered and corresponds with the number in the book. On the map you see that the hostel at Basle is numbered 18, and when you turn to this in the guide book you immediately find the information required.

In all there are about 170 hostels scattered throughout Switzerland. There is a mountain hut on Pilatus, overlooking Lucerne, situated at a height of 1,127 metres (approximately 3,300ft.). High up in the mountains above Berne there is a hostel at Bundalp in Kienthal at a height of 5,400ft. At such a hut as this one could make many excursions to the heights. The best plan for such a holiday, if you are not fully conversant with Switzerland and the hostels, is to write to the offices of the Youth Movement and ask for their year book and map. Send 1s. 6d. for this under an international money order. At the same time you could send a further 5s. for membership. Having received the map you could then plan out your route and take down particulars of the hostels you intend visiting. When your itinerary is complete send it to the Youth Movement offices and ask them to check it up and make improvements for you.

It would help considerably if you wrote to the Swiss Federal Railway's office in London for descriptive literature of the district you intend to visit. With the guide book you will also receive a list of organised walking tours. This list will help you very much in a choice of route. Of course, you could apply for permission to join one of these tours, but many trampers will wish to explore for themselves and pioneer their own routes. One or two examples are given from this list:—

1. Brugg — Ritkreuz — Amstag — Maderanertal — Brunigpass — Disentis — Flims — Segnespass-Elm-Schwanden — Glarus — Brugg. Time for tour, 7 days; cost, 20 francs (about 16s. in English money).

2. Schiers — Davos — Sertigpass — Sulsanna-National Park — Val Trupschum — Val Cluozza — Il Fuorn — Val del Botsch — Val Minger — Tarasp — Linardhütte — Piz Linard — Klosters — Schiers. Time, 10 days; cost, 26 francs.

3. Solothurn — Weissen — Grenchenberg — Taubenlochschlucht — Rochenette — Twann — Petersinsel — Neuveville — Cressier — Neuenburg — Boudry — Môtier — Mont Chasseron — Yverdon — Payerne — Murten — Bern. Time, 9 days; cost, 24 francs.

The society, in its present form, has been in existence for five years, but in that short time has grown and extended rapidly. At the end of 1925 there were 35 hostels in being with 2,193 attenders, and a total of 3,819 nights' lodgings provided. This grew in 1928 to 144 hostels and over 30,000 nights' lodgings. But how small this is compared with Germany will be realised when it is stated that the German society in 1928 provided over 300,000 nights' lodgings.

Ask for
Apollinaris
NATURAL MINERAL WATER
and refuse substitutes
The Apollinaris Co. Ltd., London, W.1.

Switzerland is another of the countries of Europe to cater for youth. Germany set the example, to be followed by Austria and Czecho-Slovakia and then Switzerland, after whom followed Holland, and now Britain comes into the field. Already there are hostels in existence in different parts of Britain, but it will be a long time before the British Youth Hostels Association can advertise hostels at 6d. per night.

I trust that someone will be good enough to start a similar movement to provide us middle-aged chappies, etc. with similarly priced and at the same time comfortable hotels. Or are our "middle-aged" ideas of comfort perhaps not the same?

At School in Switzerland.

Queen, 24th September:

Switzerland is a country without natural resources of any importance, and it keeps its place on the world market merely by producing first-rate goods. Skilled labour of the very highest standing can only be performed by workmen of the very best schooling. On education, therefore, depends that public wealth and national prosperity of Switzerland.

Due to long traditions in this special field, the Swiss have acquired a remarkable talent for imparting knowledge, their pedagogic qualities being highly appreciated even abroad.

Perhaps no other country—certainly no country of the same size—may boast of such a wealth of famous names in the sphere of education, names such as Pestalozzi, Père Girard and Fellenberg.

One of the best-known living Swiss authorities on education of girls is Professor W. P. Buser, Chairman of the Swiss Association of Principals of Private Schools.

Professor Buser has entirely dispensed with erudition derived from books, and superannuated methods, in which the memory plays the principal part. He tries to awaken and develop the faculty of thinking, the spirit of observation, initiative and joy in work by abolishing the old class organisation of 30-40 pupils and substituting in its place small, moveable classes of six to eight girls, each girl following in each subject the course suiting her faculties best.

Thus the same pupil may be in French twelve, in English five, in history seven, in geometry four, etc., the classes of such a school of 80 pupils amounting to about 150.

This system takes into consideration the distinctive qualities and the preparatory instruction of every child. Pupils from abroad are not handicapped in their studies by a change of school, as they are able to take up their lessons in each subject exactly where they previously had stopped.

Utmost individualisation is possible without the disadvantage of the unsocial private tuition.

The main principle of Professor Buser's method is the development of personality. The members of the school are to be of different nationalities, of different religions, and are to learn to know and respect each other.

Characters, whose dispositions are unequal, exercise a salutary reciprocal influence. Thus school becomes a pleasant centre where girls acquire the ways and customs of society.

Professor Buser has not been satisfied to put forward these theories of education, but he has realised all his maxims to the very last and most successfully in his boarding schools for girls at Teufen, near St. Gall, and at Chexbres, near Lausanne, both places having been chosen for their climatic situation.

Teufen lies in the midst of beautiful, sunny highland scenery, at a height of about 2,700 feet, being sheltered from the north winds and enjoying the full advantage of sunshine.

On a sunny slope, 960 feet above the Lake of Geneva, is Chexbres, with all the advantages of a sub-alpine climate, and offering an unparalleled panorama. Light, air and sun, lake and mountains—these are its attractions.

These two colleges are ruled according to the same principles, the only difference being that the common language at Teufen is German, and at Chexbres, French.

In both schools there is a considerable number of English girls. This is not astonishing, if we take into consideration that girls pick up languages easily and without much exertion, the diversity of nationalities making the acquisition of languages more in the nature of a pleasure than a task.

Professor Buser lived for some time in England, and English educational principles have influenced his theories to a great extent.

Difficile à caser

Un gros monsieur venait de monter en tramway. Comme il cherchait à se caser et semblait fort en peine d'y parvenir, un voyageur lui dit aimablement.

"Vous n'avez pas de quoi vous asseoir?"

"Si, j'ai bien de quoi, mais je ne sais où le mettre."

SWITZERLAND'S NEW HOSPITAL.

I was fortunate this summer in passing through Basle to be able to see over Switzerland's newest hospital—the St. Clara Spital. Basle is known to most of us simply as a junction where we change our steam train which has brought us through France or Germany to one of the clean and powerful electric vehicles which take us on to the mountains and the lakes. But Basle is an interesting town where French, German and Swiss live side by side—a busy town, with fine buildings, a beautiful countryside, and, it must be owned, a most remarkable hospital.

Those who have had to cross Basle from the German station to the Swiss know to their cost how far the two lie apart, and the hospital stands even farther out than the German station. This is happy indeed for its patients, for the fresh air comes straight into the wards from the fields and meadows, and the distant hills can be seen from their balconies. The hospital was built two years ago when the old building was vacated, and, most fortunately, the site was one previously occupied by a wealthy owner who had laid out his grounds with fine trees and pleasant flower beds. The house which he occupied is still standing, and is used as a home for the staff, who are religious sisters of the Order of the Holy Cross of Ingenbohl (Brunnen). It is a fairly recent Order, but has spread rapidly over Europe, and there are also convents in North and South America. The home is separated from the new building by a wide, shady lawn. Swiss, French and German patients are admitted and are taken in three classes. The first class pays from eighteen to twenty francs a week, which in English money is from 15s. to 18s., the second class from ten to fifteen, and the third class whatever it can afford, as in England.

There are two great features of the hospital which every English visitor must at once notice: the first is the excellent provision made for the private patient of the professional classes, as in many other Continental hospitals, which is of a far superior kind to any provided in England, and the second, the insistence made upon quiet and restful surroundings. In many ways the English hospital is second to none, her nurses cannot be surpassed by those of any other country, but we might indeed learn much in these two respects from our friends on the Continent. The first-class rooms are beautiful, perfect in appointment, restful in colouring, and completely sound-proof. They are large rooms, the walls of a sunshine colour, with blue couches, high white enamelled bedsteads with blue eiderdowns, white bedtables and yellow silk screens. In winter they are centrally heated. Attached to each room is a private bathroom and lavatory of a most luxurious nature, white tiled, with a white porcelain bath of the most moderate pattern, built low and set in the tiles. In addition each patient has a tiled balcony as large as his room, facing south, covered for rain, and with striped sunblinds for very hot weather, for Basle has more than its share of sunshine. These balconies all overlook the garden, only the administrative quarters being in the front of the hospital, and there was a lovely view over the lawns with their chestnuts in full flower.

The second-class rooms are not quite so large or so luxurious, and two rooms share a bathroom; in the third-class three or four patients share a ward and a balcony, but never more than five. Every ward has double doors, which open on to wide corridors with thick rubber flooring. The colour scheme of these corridors is most lovely. In the centre the walls are of apricot and cream; in the side corridors, for the hospital is in three blocks, of spring green and cream. The lighting is by means of subdued conical-shaped clusters of lamps, with a special light to each ward, which hangs in the centre of the corridor. When the patient wants his nurse, he presses the button at his bedside or over his bath, and the globe outside his door shows a red light. This is done to obviate noise and the ringing of bells. The patients are well provided with sitting rooms for each class, in which are easy chairs and large bookcases. Visitors are allowed three times a week in the second and third classes and twice a day in the first class, from 10 to 11 and 1 to 5.

The children have their own little ward with six cots, the white walls being decorated with bambinos in blue and gilt. They were busy at tea on the afternoon of my visit, and one of the lay nurses who assist the nuns was cutting up fruit and cake.

Basle has, of course, its own fever and maternity hospitals, but every other kind of case is taken at the St. Clara Spital. There are several large theatres; one main one, with a second attached for emergency work, special casualty theatres, eye theatres, and so on. The apparatus is all most modern and costly, from the beautiful new microscope to the mirrored lamps over the operation tables; from the very paint on the walls to the X-ray apparatus. Downstairs in the basement is the most complete bath department I have ever seen. On each side of the corridor are white doors which lead into white tiled bathrooms. There are all kinds of electrical baths for the feet and the hands; Fango baths with the latest Pilz treatment for diseases of the skin; steam baths, sitz baths, Turkish baths, "Hohersonne" and "Bergsluft" baths, giving the ultra-violet light and mountain air treatment to the citizens which the peasants enjoy for nothing on the mountain side. A new apparatus for use in cases of obstinate indigestion had just been installed. The patient holds the two ends of a tube in his mouth while the apparatus draws a chart of his digestive processes. A series of comfortable rest rooms with sofas and magazines ensure against the patient going home overtired and too hot after his treatments. The sisters are extremely interested in these treatments, and they struck me as being very well up in the mysteries of their many new apparatuses.

Before leaving I was shown the new chapel, where several of the patients' friends who had come for visiting day were spending a quiet few minutes before going home. The vault of the roof has been turned into a sky of pale blue with golden stars and moons and suns, and boughs of scented mimosa made the air fragrant.

Downstairs in the kitchen, which is not quite large enough for the many people it serves, we found everyone very busy clearing up. Many modern labour-saving machines are in use—coffee grinders, vegetable peelers, and so on. The food is sent up in dishes filled with hot water, one for each patient. The store cupboard was a marvellous place, for in its cool, dark interior we found literally thousands of bottles of preserved fruit and vegetables. Not only are plums, gooseberries, and such fruits preserved, but also sliced apples and pears, pulped tomatoes, and carrots. These fruits are served once each day to the patients, in addition to fresh vegetables and the usual salad.

I was not surprised, and neither I think will our readers be, to learn that there is never a vacant bed at the St. Clara Spital!

The Nursing Mirror.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

We are informed that a course of three lectures on "Popular German Poetry" will be given at University College, London (Gower Street, W.C.1.), by Professor Dr. Friedrich von der Leyen (Professor of German Philology in the University of Cologne), at 5.30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, October 27th, 28th and 30th, 1930.

SYLLABUS.

Lecture I.—Introduction: What is popular poetry? The relations of popular German poetry with German literature, especially with the Romantic movement. Old and new Germanic and German incantations—History of the Riddle in Germany—Origins of German fairy tales.

Lecture II.—German fairy and funny tales (Märchen und Schwänke)—The "Volksbuch" (especially Tristan, Faust, Eulenspiegel)—German folk tales ("Volkssagen")—German mediæval legends.

Lecture III.—From Eastern and Christmas plays of the X and XI centuries to Oberammergau—Old and new folk songs in Germany (das deutsche Volkslied).

SOPHIE WYSS.

We reproduce above a recent photograph of Sophie Wyss, the well-known Swiss soprano, of whom, alas, we hear far too little on the concert platform. She will be broadcasting from London Regional on Sunday afternoon next.

Miss Wyss will sing songs of Campra, Weckerlin, Duparc, and our own Pierre Maurice. We hope that our readers will tune in their sets in time so as not to miss a great treat.