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snow, which dwindled to a sharp knife-edge, white and fine of grain. It seemed certain that if a human being set his foot on it he would crash through and go bounding down the cliffs."

Bennen was in front. He looked at it long, tried it gingerly with his toe.

"Then, to the astonishment of the others, he began to cross it, his toes turned outwards like those of a tight-rope walker. At last he reached the opposite rocks and turned round with a smile."

And that is only one of many incredible flirtings with death on the high hills which Mr. Muller recounts here.

He begins at the beginning, which, for Alpine climbers, was the latter end of the eighteenth century. He tells of the first ascent of Mont Blanc by Pacard and Balmat in 1786, when "the moment had come to climb the little mole-hill."

He tells the terrible tale of the first ascent of the Matterhorn in 1865, when the rope broke and three of Whymper's party were killed.

Most gruesome of all is his account of the disaster on Mont Blanc in 1820 when a trio of guides were lost in a crevasse.

Long after the accident the prediction was made that the bodies would be discovered lower down the glacier forty years after the tragedy! And so it happened....

The last survivor of the catastrophe, a tottering old man, was taken to see the body of one of his lost friends, "almost uninjured, looking as he had on that August day of 1820, still in the flush of youth."

Many of the classical ascents were snow-and-ice climbs. In the 1870's the era of rock-climbing began.

Soon "elderly members of the Alpine Club were horrified to see active youngsters inching their way up chimneys forty, sixty, a hundred feet high, where there were no holds in which even a finger tip could be inserted."

But the day was still remote when men would hang on a sheer face, like that fly on the window-pane—when men such as Geoffrey Young would tackle climbs such as the Grepon, "that tremendous uprush of smooth red slabs which hangs over the Mer de Glace" above Chamonix.

In a last chapter the author tries to answer the question, "Why Do They Do It?"

To the unaspiring people, to the folk with no head for heights, the man who sets out alone to scale those towering and indifferent rocks seems foolhardy in the extreme.

But, as Mr. Muller reminds us in this muscular, sure-footed book, the climbers themselves, braced and taut for the attack, can hardly be expected to look at it like that!

All the same, it is a great rule, when climbing the Alps, to be one of a party of three, so that in case of an accident, one can stop with the injured, and the third can go for help. Anyhow, that is what we were taught years ago by men who knew.

BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS.

By the courtesy of our influential financial contemporary *The Stock Exchange Gazette*, we have received a copy, attractively garbed in green and gold, of their Supplement of May 9th specially dealing with the important subject of the Bank for International Settlements, constituted as part of the "Young Plan." (The Stock Exchange Gazette, Bank of International Settlements, Basle [Switzerland] Number.) This issue gives in full, in English, French and German, the Trust Deed, Charter and Statutes of the B.I.S. These are prefaced by the lucid and illuminating address on the functions of the new Bank delivered before the Institute of Bankers in London by Sir Charles Addis, K.C.M.G., a Director of the Bank of England and also a Director of the Bank for International Settlements. There is also a prefatory article, which will doubtless be of special interest to our readers, from the pen of Henri Stucki (Manager, Swiss Bank Corporation, Basle). These two articles, taken together, convey a very clear and concise idea of the genesis of the new Bank, while they also describe and explain its scope and operation. It would have been an advantage, from the point of view of the English layman at least, had the gigantic sums mentioned in the two articles been expressed in terms of the same unit of currency.

The further articles, dealing with Basle Commerce and Industry, Finance and Transport are appropriate and informative. A.R.F.

LONDON SCHOOLCHILDREN'S TRIP TO SWITZERLAND.

Twenty-four boys and girls of Battersea Central School will not soon forget their pleasant tour of the Continent—ten memorable days in some of the most picturesque towns and cities in the world.

The experience was made possible by the generosity of Mr. Charles Gulliver, who is himself an old boy of the school.

We left Victoria on April 17, travelled via Folkestone and Boulogne to Paris. (The Channel was reasonably kind to us!)

On arrival in Paris we found a charabanc awaiting us at the station, and we enjoyed a sightseeing tour of the French capital, seeing the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe (with Unknown Warrior's Tomb), Louvre, Napoleon's Tomb and Notre Dame.

We had dinner at the Hotel St. Petersburg before catching the night "rapide" to Basle. Travelling all night by train was a novel and interesting experience for most of the young travellers. The distant snow-capped Vosges and Black Forest mountains excited attention in the early morning just before reaching Basle.

The journey from Basle to Lucerne gave a foretaste of the natural beauties of the country.

Having reached our destination we were accompanied to "headquarters," the Hotel des Balances (a 15th century building, with remarkable frescoes on the front elevation), formerly the Hotel de Ville, now a luxuriously appointed hotel. It is situated on the lake side, near the outflow of the lake into the River Reuss, here a raging torrent.

On arrival each boy and girl received a bag containing new Swiss money, especially secured from Berne, equivalent in value to £1—"with Mr. Charles Gulliver's compliments."

The hotel proprietor, a very influential man in Lucerne, had secured special facilities for excursions in and around Lucerne. Lake trips, funicular railways, mountain railways, charabanc outings, tram rides, were all provided at about one-third normal cost, and we were indebted to these undertakings for their assistance, particularly to Dr. Durrung, the director of the steamboat services.

Trips included visits to the Lion Monument, and the Glacier Garden, Tell's Chapel and Hohle Gasse, Küsnacht, Immensee (or Lake Zug), Kriens Sonnenburg.

We attended an English church service on Easter Sunday morning.

On Easter Monday we travelled by boat to Vitznau and then ascended the Rigi (5,900 ft.). Fortunately snow had fallen a few days earlier, and 6 to 8 feet were found at the summit. A snow battle was the natural result, and fortune provided a suitable opponent. Another London Central School—from Hackney—was met and a battle royal ensued. And all in blazing sunshine!

Lunch was then taken and the descent followed. The following day we made the journey to Fluehen—a beautiful three-hour trip to the extreme end of the lake, touching at Brunnen, Tellspalte, Rüthi, and following the famous Axenstrasse to Fluehen.

Here a special tram awaited us, and we were conducted by a member of the House of Representatives of the Uri Canton to Altdorf—its capital—the scene of the exploits of William Tell, whose monument appropriately fills the centre of the market square. We were especially favoured in being allowed to visit the Hôtel de Ville and see the Tribunal and Assembly Halls and to compare them with our Houses of Parliament. Banners carried at the battles of Sempach and Morgarten in the 14th century were seen here, and a Capuchin monasteries was also visited.

The following day a visit was paid by alpine cars to Einsiedeln, a very old village 3,000 ft. above sea level, now the most famous pilgrim resort in Switzerland. The Benedictine Abbey, founded in 948, was found most interesting. Vespers were heard in the Monastery. The young people were thrilled to see the procession of sixteen monks to and from the shrine of the Black Virgin, when the daily rite was performed.

A visit was paid later to one of the largest and best equipped farms in the district of Lucerne.

Perry making and bottling were seen and a quaint "tea" of perry, bread and cheese was provided by the kindness of the proprietor, Mr. Hengeler.

The wonderful Swiss cattle, some thoroughbred horses and some very young colts, were objects of great interest.

The newly installed system of pumping liquid manure to various parts of the farm land showed the high standard to which Swiss farmery has reached.

Several other lake and hill trips were enjoyed.

We also saw a town school and a school of arts and crafts, and learned something of the Swiss educational system.

I should like to express thanks to all who have contributed to the success of the trip, partic-

ularly M. and Mme. Haecky, our hosts, for their great kindness, and, of course, to our benefactor, Mr. Charles Gulliver.

Films were taken on all trips and these will be shown to the rest of the school during next term.

Lucerne was found to be an ideal centre from all points of view, and full of historical and geographical interest.

A. LING, in the *South London Press*.

FERIEN.

Den lieben, langen Tag so nichts zu tun,
Als sich zu sonnen;
Und zu bedauern abends beim Ausruhn',
Dass er zeronen;
Des Morgens aufzustehen zu geruh'n
Zu neuen Wonen;
Lässt glauben fast, das Paradies sei nun
Zurückgewonnen. MURZ.

Doings in Our Colony.

THE WEDGWOOD EXHIBITION.

The Swiss Minister and Madame Paravicini attended the inauguration ceremony of the Wedgwood Bicentenary Exhibition and were the guests over the week-end of the Earl and Countess of Bradford at Shifnal. The house-party, which was graced by the presence of Princess Mary Countess of Harewood, drove in motor cars on Monday to Stoke-on-Trent where they were received by Lord Harrowby, Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire, and entertained to luncheon in the Town Hall by the Lord Mayor.

M. and Mme. Paravicini were keenly interested in the exhibition of modern Staffordshire pottery in the King's Hall and the historical exhibits in the Hanley Museum. They also witnessed the historical pageant at Hanley Park. The Minister returned to town on Tuesday morning.

FETE SUISSE.

Am 19. Juni wird in der Westminster Central Hall das diesjährige altekannte Fest stattfinden. Wir dürfen sicher hoffen, dass sich rechte viele unserer Landsleute einfinden und die Miete dieser grossen und schönen Halle rechtfertigen werden. Einige Solisten von Ruf konnten gewonnen werden Künstlerfamilie Dolmetsch, die sich hier in England rühmlich eingeführt hat, Fr. Violette Brauen und ein Geiger. Die volkstümliche Seite wird wie alle Jahre gepflegt und die 3 Sprachen werden zu ihrem Recht kommen, im Volkslied und in Deklamationen oder Ansprachen. Ein ausgezeichnetes Buffet wird das Begegnen nach allen Kräften fördern. Der Eintritt kostet 1/6. Der Reinertrag soll dem "Fonds Dimier" zugute kommen. Wie alle Leser wissen, ist dieser Fonds dazu bestimmt unseren Alten und Einsamen einmal einen schönen sorglosen Lebensabend zu bereiten. Diesem herrlichen Ziel müssen wir mit allen Kräften zusteuern. Das comité lädt herzlich ein und bittet um zahlreiche Teilnahme.

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE SOCIETE DE SECOURS MUTUELS DES SUISSES A LONDRES.

The presence of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, rendered great importance to the well attended dinner of the Society at its headquarters, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1., on Friday, May 16th.

After a well served dinner, the honorary chairman, M. Paravicini proposed the toast to the King, followed by "à La Suisse."

The president, Mr. C. Campart, thereupon expressed his gratitude and high appreciation of the honour our distinguished patron had conferred upon the Society by his personal attendance. Rendering a brief account of the activities of the Société de Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres, he paid a splendid tribute to the fact that the total membership of just over 100 includes 6 honorary members of over 50 years' standing, headed by Mr. Ulrich Ruckstuhl of Zurich with 64 years' membership to his credit (a well earned record). The unavoidable absence of the Président d'Honneur, Mr. Georges Forrer, as well as that of Mr. Georges Gerber now residing in the home country, who also sent a charming letter, and of 2 honorary members Messrs. Arthur Baume and Alfred Müller (Secretary) was much regretted. Great applause met the president's statement that, with 1930 the Society was commemorating its 227th anniversary, a record in the history of the Swiss Colony in London, of which the Société de Secours Mutuels could well afford to be proud. As a surprise to the gathering, a neatly finished case was exhibited containing a small collection of "marrons," dating back to the early days of the Society's existence. (These copper coins are specially minted for the Society and members who personally attend the monthly meetings to pay their subscriptions, are handed one of them, the equivalent value in kind of which can be obtained

