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It is a rare delight for the traveller, who treads his ways in the hurly-burly of modern science, industry and commerce, to escape and have communion among the mountains with minds so utterly at one with Nature in all her moods. The lure of the Alps is so strong that it detaches the traveller from his world. Complete estrangement is the richest holiday, a rejuvenation in which the mind is refreshed and the body reinvigorated.

A Swiss Passion Play.

Switzerland has also produced stirring theatrical presentations. The Passion Play of Oberammergau, across the border in Bavaria, though more famous, is a not higher artistic production than that at Selzach, near Berne. This play is being presented this year in all the wonder of its natural setting among the mountains. It is a peasant Passion play in which all the inhabitants of Selzach play their part.

At Interlaken too, is being repeated Schiller's masterpiece William Tell. The original medieval castle is the centrepiece of the mise-en-scene. Behind, the Jungfrau group tower to the amphitheatre of the skies. Before the castle beside a lake, lies a greensward, and out from the forests which surround it the players defile, horsed and on foot, gaily caparisoned, with great crowds of peasants in historic costume accompanied by the pick of the Alpine herds swinging their melodious ancient bells. The spectators, under cover, feel part of the drama. They see in the play the same forms and characters as they meet in their relations with the people, the hardy originals of a peasant stock, yet among the most highly cultured people in Europe.

As a world traveller I am by Switzerland drawn back time after time. There is something curiously fascinating in a land and a people who, in the centre of a European turmoil, although possessed of electrified railways, the greatest power stations in the world and every modern comfort, yet retain a heroic and spiritual unity with the unmatched beauties of their countryside.

THE EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

To the Editor of the Swiss Observer,
Cher Compatriote,

J'ai lu avec intérêt le rapport de votre correspondant à la fête d'Aarau et regrette de n'y avoir pas trouvé de critiques qui seraient justifiées si nous voulons conserver notre enthousiasme pour nos fêtes nationales.

J'ai accompagné nos gymnastes de Londres à cette fête et j'ai passé de belles journées avec ces bons camarades.

Cependant l'impression que j'ai reçue de cette magnifique fête a été gâtée par le côté "business" de cette manifestation grandiose. Nos gymnastes ont été traités dans les cantines plus mal que les clients des anciens restaurants de Londres où les malheureux pouvaient avoir un lunch pour six pence.

C'était le menu des banquets d'Aarau cotés sur la carte de fête à frs. 2.50.

A ces jeunes gens dont la bourse n'est pas trop garnie, on ne servait pas de bière mais seulement des vins à Frs. 2.50 et 3.50 la bouteille et des Chateaux la Pompe variés à ????. Pas même de l'eau pure sur les tables — une exploitation qui n'aurait pas dû être permise par les comités d'organisation.

Je regrette de n'avoir lu aucune protestation à ce sujet dans nos journaux Suisses et vraiment je me demande si ces superbes fêtes deviennent un moyen de faire de l'argent pour les mercantis de tout genre qui pullulent dans tous les pays y compris notre Suisse dont nous sommes si fiers.

J'espère que je me trompe dans mon jugement, mais je suis sûr que beaucoup de vieux gymnastes qui ont assistés aux fêtes fédérales précédentes ont emporté de la fête d'Aarau un regret des temps passés lorsque ces fêtes étaient faites pour le plaisir et le couronnement du travail de notre belle et forte jeunesse et non, je le crains, pour des entreprises commerciales.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Rédacteur, l'assurance de mes meilleurs sentiments et regrets de signer.

Cassandra
malgré lui...

Mr. G. D. Cima writes:

DANGIO — BLENIO.

Nuovo Diplomato. Apprendiamo con piacere che il nostro giovane concittadino FRANCO BRUNO, figlio al Sigr. Gio Domenico Cima, proprietario del SWISS CAFE a HASTINGS, già allievo del Collegio "Francesco Soave, ha nei passati giorni in FRIBORGO felicemente e brillantemente superato i non facili esami finali conseguendo, con rara distinzione il Diploma di Eletto-Meccanico.

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MARIAGE.

Robert Schneider, d'Affoltern (Zurich) et Betty Margret Ward, de Bath (Somerset) le 3 Août 1932.

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St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 7. August 1932.
Gottesdienst um 11 Uhr morgens. Predigt: Stadtmissionar B. Segall.
Herr Pfr. C. T. Hahn wird seine Tätigkeit im Laufe der nächsten Woche bestimmt wieder aufnehmen können.
Die Abendgottesdienste fallen bis Ende August aus.

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