

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: - (1932)
Heft: 565

Artikel: Feuerzeichen
Autor: Nussbaum, Rudolf
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-694509>

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: 13.12.2025

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

The doctors were hopeful, even confident, that satisfactory results would be achieved, but time alone could show whether such confidence was justified.

And now, within less than three months, Professor Parsons is able to report that he is delighted with the condition of the children:—

"Their chest conditions have completely cleared up; all have put on weight and have the appearance of robust health and are extremely happy."

Of the thirty children who went over to Davos in June, nine are now recommended for discharge — which means that years of ill-health have been banished by a few weeks in the wonderful Alpine climate.

Children's Help.

The particular interest felt by our readers is due to the fact that five of the first party of children are patients adopted by the NigNog Ring. This number will probably be brought up to ten when the second party goes over on 25 August.

Not only the NigNogs but their parents and adult friends are delighted to know that an experiment in which they have played so big a part has achieved such magnificent success.

There is one other memorable phrase in Professor Parsons' reports:—

"The behaviour of the children is commented on as something of which the British nation might be proud."

These little people, invalids though they may be, are ambassadors: their very presence in Switzerland cements the friendship between two nations.

They are bringing away the health they so badly need: they are leaving behind friendliness and goodwill. A fair exchange.

The above article ends with the words "A fair exchange." That is precisely the larger idea which is in Christian Kunzle's mind. These parties of ailing children, and adults, might be extended. More and more sick people might be made to benefit by them. The whole idea lends itself to a scheme of gigantic international proportions, a sort of exchange of prisoners, as was done during the war through the good offices of the *Red Cross*. But, this time, not of prisoners of war, but of those imprisoned by ill-health.

The interchange, between the various nations, of their "health-prisoners" for which, naturally, not only Davos, but all health resorts in all countries would be utilised — funnily enough, but as everyone knows, even Davos people benefit by a change of air and climatical conditions — could only be done on an international basis, but who is there to doubt that, in the long run, it would not only benefit the individuals in question, but would be economical from a strictly business point of view?

However, we will not go further into this problem to-day. My purpose to-day is to offer to Mr. Kunzle our heartfelt congratulations on a success achieved. A success in which Kunzle himself never doubted for a moment, but which, nevertheless is worthy of recording, because, it opens a glorious vista.

Alpine Flowers Tour.

It will come as a pleasant surprise to many of our readers to learn that, there is in this country, a Society whose members are interested especially in *Alpine Flowers*, and that the membership of this enthusiastic family numbers not less than 7,000! I am sure that most of the admirers of alpine flowers will wish, sooner rather than later, to go and see the natural home of their pets and, according to the *Yorkshire Post* of August 9th, this is rendered more easy:

Amateur gardeners could hardly find a pleasanter object for a foreign tour than the pursuit of Alpine flowers. A special tour to the Bernese Oberland was successfully carried out in June, and this week another party started for the Rhaetian Alps. The leader will be Dr. Hugh Rogers-Smith, who also led the party in June. He is honorary secretary of the Alpine Garden Society, which now has over 7,000 members and has held four flower shows of its own this year.

The fortnight's tour, which is not confined to members, will include visits to the Heental, the natural park at Ofenberg, the Sextal and the Cavlocia See. The Heental, at a height of 7,000 feet, is perhaps the richest in Alpine flora of all the Swiss valleys. It is particularly famous for its primulas, which develop a marked degree of natural hybridisation, and for its cushion-plants. The party will be on the look-out for notable finds of the June trip, such as *Ranunculus parnassifolius*, *Viola cinesia*, *Anemone narcissiflora*, and *Cypripedium calceolus*; while the humbler but better known *edelweiss* is also in flower now.

It came as a slight shock to me to have our *edelweiss* called the humbler flower! But then, and of course, we reckon the beauty of the *Edelweiss* to consist, to a large extent, in the perils

associated with the search for it, high up, near some snowy, icy peak.

Apart from the usual holiday articles, Switzerland is well represented in the British Press just now. We have daily paragraphs about Prof. Piccard and his forthcoming ascent into the Stratosphere and good luck to him! and we have, or had lately, a number of articles dealing with the recent Alpine Motor Trials, in which English Cars have done exceedingly well. Writes the *Glasgow Herald*, 9th inst.

A Pot-Pourri of Ideas.

The Alpine trial, as I write this, has progressed as far as St. Moritz. So far Britain, to use a much hackneyed phrase, has swept the board. The Stelvio pass, which is on the route to St. Moritz, proved an exclusive British triumph. This pass, which is the highest road in Europe (it is no less than 9,000 feet high, and is looked on with awe by motorists) had no deterrent effect on the British contingent. In fact, not content with "managing up" this Alpine terror, Donald Healey roared up the 16 odd miles with its 44 hair-pins in the astounding time of 23 mins. 43 secs. Phew! What Going! Needless to say he broke the record for the Stelvio climb, which was previously held by a Bugatti. And this with a car with about 40,000 miles of competition work to its credit! In all the other classes, British cars proved supreme in this test. W. Cooper (Lagonda), A. Gripper (Fraser-Nash), and Jack Hobbs (Riley) were the successful drivers. Jack Hobbs in his Riley also broke the class record for the climb.

Up to the present the Talbots are being almost taken for granted as the team prize-winners in their class, and in the under 1,100 c.c. class the Rileys are holding the same position. Out of the 99 starters 59 have so far lost no marks, and of this number no less than 35 are British cars. The nine Rileys entered have so far not a stain on their character. On the first day, Mr. Hardgreaves in his Alvis had trouble with his petrol flow and, had for a distance to lie on the running board and pour petrol into his carburettor, while his passenger drove. The same day Mrs. Gripper had to "pack-up" as her Wolsely was giving trouble. As a contrast Miss Margaret Allan, the young Scots' woman who won the ladies' prize in the Scottish Rally, has earned the praise of all the trial competitors with her nothing less than astonishing display at the wheel of her Wolsely.

Then we have Mr. E. RYCHNER from Berne. Now our Bernese friends, as we all know, are very astute and not at all *Sloaz*. They believe in keeping one eye wide open, so as not to miss the main chance, and they have, I think, all duly learnt and inwardly digested the old saying "pas d'argent, pas de Suisse." Hence, our Mr. E. Rychner. He thought that the Birmingham Daily Mail was rather simple. Perhaps even benevolent. Perhaps inspired by lofty ideals, eager, nay keen and avid to help to right the ills of this sorry World. Said Mr. E. Rychner to himself "well, here is my chance, that paper, surely, will succumb to my suggestions and, as the English are known to be great for all sorts of competitions and easy-money-for-nothing-games — vide crossword, football, horse-racing and other contests open in nearly all the British Papers — they will, surely, also start a competition in which I, Mr. E. Rychner, am bound to win first prize." No sooner said or thought, than done, and forthwith he writes in to our esteemed contemporary at Birmingham and tells them all about it. But, alas! In spite of its perverted inclination towards favouring Tariff Reform — they did, at least until they actually got it, but it is a moot question, whether they still do now that they have had it for some time! — Birmingham has some sense and some wit, and Mr. E. Rychner's idea has been riddled with ridicule, to judge from the following article from the Birmingham Daily Mail, of August 8th:

Hurrah!

There is good news from Switzerland — the best of news, in fact. No, it is not from Geneva, but from Berne. A Mr. E. Rychner writes to assure us that —

The problem of the unemployed is solved. Solved for the whole world. You will probably receive this information sceptically. However, it is a fact.

So the present bad and discreditable economical situation could be remedied, for the two problems closely connected.

It is possible that in from one to two or three years all the unemployed in the world, those who want work, can again take their places in the economical world. The plan can be carried out at once; it has positive results directly on a large scale, therefore soon visible. It is thorough, with consequences which will last for a generation.

The solution is not easy to find. It has, as far as I know, till to-day been proposed by nobody in the whole world.

Will you please consider my to-day's communication absolutely seriously. The solution mentioned is new and unknown, because it was not indicated either by the press or in Geneva. All over the world the greatest specialists and chief leaders in political economy and Socialism are seeking, without having arrived at the solution. This is practical, not theoretical. It is the result of great experience, from knowledge of the chief causes.

You will agree with me that in the present situation of the world one must not only discuss, but also act, if a practical way can be indicated out of the present crisis.

The press has the possibility of doing very much in associating the authorities, the political economy societies for working together and drawing their attention to perhaps the only way leading out of the present misery.

Unfortunately there is a "catch" in it — there always is. Mr. Rychner adds —

I wish to ask the press to take up the matter as it deserves and, together with the chiefs of the Government, the political economy societies, etc., to offer a prize for a suitable solution. Good work deserves an equivalent reward. At the present time millions are lost for the people and the State because nobody knows what should be done.

If we wait until there is a competition the crisis will go on indefinitely, since there are sure to be millions of competitors, each with an infallible scheme. Could not some benevolent millionaire make Mr. Rychner a suitable offer for his secret, or, seeing the importance of the matter, should not the Swiss Government take appropriate steps to force him to disclose for the good of humanity?

I am afraid, Mr. E. Rychner must try again. Meanwhile he would perhaps like to let us into the secret, seeing that we too are frightfully anxious to rid the World of some of its worst ills.

FEUERZEICHEN.

Der Höhenfeuer Altarkerken
Sind rings entflammt, Ihr Glutenschein
Schenkt den vom Geist berührten Herzen
Des Glaubens reinen Becher ein.
Wenn sich die Firne rosig färben,
Hoch über dunkler Täler Not,
Erschliesst sich bei des Tages Sterben
Der Feuerblume strahlend Rot.
Aus tiefer Wurzeln Schlaf erwacht,
Erblüht sie zu des Bundes Preise
Einmal nur in des Jahres Kreise
Wie eine Königin der Nacht.

Rudolf Nussbaum.

SOME STATISTICS!

The League of Nations Year Book just published states that there are 2,012,000,800 human beings now living in the world. During the year under review the population has increased by about 20 million. Europe, for the first time, passes the half-billion mark, showing a total of 506 million or eight million more than in the preceding year.

On the other hand, figures which have recently appeared in the daily press, seem to show that the birth rate is dropping generally. This is especially the case in the U.S.A. where the decrease in some of the big cities is striking (Boston 22%, Detroit 17%, etc.). The loss of population in Germany is stated to be 10%.

ANGLO-SWISS TREATY.

Ratifications have been exchanged of the agreement between Britain and Switzerland for reciprocal exemption from taxation on profits or gains arising through an agency. The avoidance of double taxation is thus facilitated. The agreement dates back to the assessment year commencing 6th April, 1930.

In a White Paper issued by H.M. Stationery Office details are given of the existing taxes in Switzerland from which exemption is given by the agreement.

Any property which is owned and employed in Switzerland by a person resident in the United Kingdom for the purpose of making profits or gains is exempted from all direct taxes on property or capital, whether imposed by the Confederation, the Cantons or the Communes.

The profits or gains in question are any profits or gains arising, whether directly or indirectly, through an agency in Switzerland to a person who is resident. An exception is made if the profits arise from the sale of goods from a stock in Switzerland; or accrue directly or indirectly through any branch or management in Switzerland or through an agency in Switzerland where the agent has and habitually exercises a general authority to negotiate and conclude contracts.

The agreement may be denounced at any time upon six months' notice being given by one contracting party to the other.