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# The Swiss Observer

POUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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## FEDERAL.

### SWISS PRESIDENT AS ARBITRATOR.

M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation has been asked by the Government of Sweden and Turkey to act as arbitrator, concerning some outstanding disputes between the two countries. M. Motta has accepted to act in this capacity.

### GORDON-BENNETT BALLOON RACE.

The following Swiss balloons will take part in the Gordon-Bennett balloon race on the 25th of this month at Basle :

"Basel" piloted by Lieutenant-Colonel L. Schmid and Dr. E. Dietrich (Bâle).

"Victor de Beauclair" piloted by captain Huber (Zug) and Lieutenant Lochinger (Zug).

"Zurich" piloted by Lieutenant-Colonel Walo Gerber (Zurich) and Dr. Tilgenkamp (Zurich).

### 100 ALPINE DEATHS THIS YEAR.

Five fatal accidents have occurred in the Alps during the past two days.

On the Belledone range, Dauphiné, three young men from Lyons fell, and two were killed. A German industrialist, Herr Bolle, fell 100 feet on the Kleiner Wehlturn, and was killed. A Swiss climber was killed after a fall of 300 feet on the Elbenalp, and a Swiss girl who was gathering flowers in the Rosegg Valley fell and died from her injuries. An accident befell a Geneva party on the Gran Paradiso, and M. de Mirbach was killed.

This brings to 100 the number of persons killed in the Alps since the beginning of the year.

### SWISS BANKING FIGURES.

A quarterly statement of the position as at the end of June last, of eight of the principal commercial banks in Switzerland has just been issued. The total assets of the eight institutions are 6,747,516,000 francs. Of this amount 3,054,688,000 francs is represented by savings and fixed deposits and current accounts. Cash is held to the extent of 1,076,518,000 francs, while 2,480,359,000 francs is absorbed by advances on current accounts. It is proposed to issue similar statements every three months in future.

### SWISS POSTAL ELECTRICS.

One of the largest fleets of electric vehicles on the Continent is that operated by the Swiss Post and Telegraph authorities in Zurich, where a large new General Post Office known as the Sihlpost has recently been erected.

The fleet at present consists of thirty-four vehicles, constructed by the Elektrische Fahrzeuge Gesellschaft, of Oerlikon. Seven of the vehicles are four-wheel 2-ton vans, fitted with 250 amp-hour batteries, enabling a distance of from 30 to 37½ miles to be run on one charge; ten are 3-tonners, eight of these having 500 amp-hour batteries giving from 50 to 60 miles on one charge and two 350 amp-hour batteries; three are four-wheel tractors capable of hauling trailers with 5-8 ton loads, while the remainder are three-wheel 6-cwt. vans adapted to run about 37½ miles on a single charge of the 200 amp-hour batteries with which they are fitted.

The batteries used on the vehicles are mainly of the Swiss-made lead type — although one of the 3-tonners is provided with a 350 amp-hour Exide battery made by the Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd. — and a feature of the installation is that provision has been made for recharging to be automatically performed, it only being necessary for the driver on bringing his vehicle to connect the charging plug to the battery. The electricity supply in Zurich being alternating, a special a.c. to d.c. convertor room has been equipped by the Brown-Boveri Co., of Baden.

Fleet extensions are contemplated as the battery-charging equipment installed is provided with a total of 62 control boards and charging plugs.

### GOLF AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP.

Although the Lucerne meeting, held recently on the mountain course of the "Dietschiberg," was more of local interest (the Swiss Amateur Championships will be held this year at Lausanne), the popularity of the sporting course, which is one of the best in Switzerland, produced a large entry.

The greens and fairways were in excellent condition and some keen competition resulted in the various rounds played throughout the week.

Qualifying for the finals, after well-fought matches against C. Rontgen and V. Oswald, H. Schweizer completed the morning round three holes down to his opponent, Dr. Ryner.

Play in the afternoon resulted in an exciting finish. Squaring the match on the thirty-fourth and leading at the next, to lose the advantage on the home green by a misjudged putt, Schweizer, on the thirty-seventh, with the best drive of the day, edged the green (254 yards), and although here again a missed putt jeopardised his chances, won the match with a bogey four.

The father of last year's Swiss Amateur Champion, Schweizer's victory lends added credence to the adage that golfing prowess runs in families.

### 600TH CENTENARY OF THE CANTON OF LUCERNE.

The official representatives of the Government to the 600th centenary celebrations of the canton of Lucerne, which will take place on September 11th at Lucerne, will be: M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Federal Councillors Schultess and Musy.

### STATE HELP FOR SWISS FARMERS.

The Federal Council propose a yearly credit amounting to 3 million francs for the next 3 years, in order to help the Swiss farmers, who have been severely hit by the crisis. This proposal will be put before the chambers at the next session.

### NEW SWISS MINISTER IN MADRID.

Dr. Karl Egger, at present Swiss Minister in Buenos-Aires, has been appointed Minister at Madrid, in succession to Monsieur de Stoutz, who is going to Berne as chief of the Federal Political Dept.

### DEFILEE OF THE 6TH DIVISION.

The Defilee of the 6th division will take place on the 8th inst., on the Breitfeld near St. Gallen; in the presence of Federal Councillor Minger, chief of the Federal Military Dept., and the foreign military missions.

### LOCAL.

#### BERNE.

The Federal Council has accepted the resignation of M. G. Gafner, Manager of the National Bank in Berne. M. Gafner, on retiring from his post, which he has held for many years, has received the thanks of the Swiss Government for the services he has rendered.

#### LUCERNE.

The "Glider" competition which started on the Rigi-Kulm on Thursday of last week, was marred by a fatal accident.

M. Reutemann from Zurich, one of the pilots, who started on the Rigi-Kulm met with death.

### SWISS LEGATION, LONDON

32, QUEEN ANNE STREET, W.1.

The Swiss Legation have the honour to announce that on and after the 19th of August, 1932, the address of the Chancery of the Legation will be:

### 18, MONTAGU PLACE, BRYANSTON SQUARE, LONDON, W.1.

Telephone: PADDINGTON 0701.

one of the wings of his machine broke away, and the machine crashed from a considerable height, the pilot was killed instantaneously.

#### URI.

M. Josef Dobler, the well-known composer and conductor of several male choirs, has died at Altdorf at the age of 57. M. Dobler was also a teacher at the academy of music in Zurich.

#### BASLE.

Dr. Franz Welti, the communist Member of Parliament has tendered his resignation on account of ill health. Dr. Welti has been a member of Parliament since 1925; he is, however, still representing his party in the cantonal parliament.

\* \* \*

A large fire completely destroyed various store houses belonging to the following firms: Braun-Büning, Schiffahrts A.G. Roba, Stromeyer, etc., at the Dreispitzgelände. The damage is considered to be a few millions francs.

#### BASLE-COUNTY.

M. Emil Rudin, (liberal) a former Landrat has been elected a member of the States Council.

#### FRIBOURG.

A barn belonging to the Fribourg Penitentiary was struck by lightning and burst into flames, and in the general confusion three prisoners escaped.

#### GENEVA.

The heat-wave which has continued in Switzerland since the beginning of the month was broken at 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon by one of the most violent storms in living memory.

The storm burst with cyclonic force, and in a few minutes the rain had reached such a density that day was turned into a semblance of night.

For 40 minutes the thunder never ceased its terrifying din, being augmented by the salvos of the anti-hail high explosives rockets fired from the vineyards along the lakeside in a desperate effort to save the wine crop.

In some areas, however, between Montreux and Lausanne, the greater part of the crop was wiped out.

Meteorological experts state that the severity of the storm was due to the fact that three storm converged over Lake Geneva together and were merged into one.

#### AARAU.

From Suhr comes the news of a terrible murder. The 72 years old farmer Peter and his wife were found dead in a wood adjoining their home. One of the farmhands was arrested, and after having been questioned by the police, confessed to the murder, robbery being the object of this terrible deed.

#### NEUCHATEL.

Federal Councillor Schultess opened on the 27th of last month, the Exhibition of Watch Manufacturers at La Chaux-de-Fonds. M. Schultess, in his opening speech paid a high tribute to the tenacity and efficiency of the watch Industry, which in spite of the critical times, has refused to take a gloomy view of the situation. He pointed out that there are sure signs of a revival of this world famous industry, and by a healthy collaboration between employers and employees the hard tried trade will yet be able to master the difficulties under which they have smarted so long.

#### ST. GALLEN.

Lieutenant-Colonel Allenspach has died at Gossau at the age of 49.

### NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

#### A Possible League Secretary.

Christian World 11th August.

Now that the Secretaryship of the International Labour Office at Geneva has been conceded to an Englishman it is improbable that Sir Eric Drummond will be followed by another Englishman as Secretary of the League of Nations. And I am told that at Geneva — Calvin's city — it is thought necessary that the Secretary of the League should be a Roman Catholic. That being so, M. Giuseppe Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, is being confidently mentioned for Sir Eric Drummond's post. M. Motta is sixty. The woman

correspondent who keeps me *au fait* with the personalities at Geneva describes M. Motta as an Italian-Swiss from the Tessin. He is, she writes, polished, neat, dapper in appearance. His closely-cropped, silver-grey hair, round head, cheery, pink and white complexion, sharp, aquiline nose and little, live-black eyes, united with the solid, upright bearing of the man, all proclaim, in loud tones, that "righteousness becometh a nation." Last December he celebrated a triple jubilee: his sixtieth birthday; twenty years a member of the Federal Council; and, for the fourth time, President of the Confederation. Such an anniversary of so popular a man was not allowed to pass unnoticed; and there were national celebrations at Berne. He has delivered 131 important speeches during his twenty years as a Federal Councillor in the Swiss Parliament House; he has given thirty-three orations on the occasion of the Grand National Fête Day in August; he has made twenty-nine notable speeches at various ceremonies throughout Switzerland of a public and national character; and last but not least, twenty-six great speeches have been delivered from the tribune of the League of Nations in the twelve Assemblies — all of which he has attended. He is a great patriot, a great European, and withal a great Christian, never hiding the latter fact. He was the first delegate to use the Divine Name and appeal to religious principles, in a peroration ending in fine speech he delivered in September, 1921. Since then others have done so; but he has been fearlessly bold to bring in the highest motives whenever necessary.

Not only our compatriotes from the beautiful Ticino, but all of us, I feel sure, would be proud and delighted to see the Secretaryship of the League of Nations in such capable, experienced hands, and the very fact that Mr. Motta has never been afraid of professing his deep Christian faith would render his choice to such an important post all the more desirable.

By the way, the efforts to bring the Christian Churches into more closer relationship are continuing and in this connection the following article from the British Weekly, 11th August 1932 will be of interest to many of our readers:

#### Lambeth and Scotland: Dr. Adolf Keller's article:

*Die Christliche Welt* of next Saturday will contain a careful study by Dr. Adolf Keller of the situation within the Church of Scotland in reference to the approach from Lambeth. Dr. Keller has himself come into close contact with the leading men of all the Evangelical Churches, in Great Britain, the Continent and America. Even when he seems to be only reporting the proceedings at the General Assembly or quoting from newspaper correspondence, there are sentences here and there in which he draws on his immense range of personal knowledge. The Church of Scotland could wish for no more competent interpreter of the decision which was taken in Edinburgh last May. Dr. Keller attaches great importance to the visit made by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the General Assembly. "Archbishop Lang," he says, "is like the late Archbishop Davidson, of Scottish birth, and is one of those innumerable (zahllosen) Scotsmen who have attained to leading positions in England. It is a significant fact, surely, that the Patriarch of the West, who receives so many visits from foreign Churches and himself makes hardly any, should have travelled to Scotland in order to give this invitation to a Church whose spiritual status has not yet been fully accepted by Anglicans and with which there exists as yet no inter-communion."

The Archbishop's appearance in the Assembly Hall seems to Dr. Keller "a recognition of the strongest and most influential Church in Britain, which holds, it may be, the key position in the Protestant world."

#### Power Through Unity.

He reminds the Christian public of Germany that Scotland's reunited Church knows nothing of the divisions which at this moment are rending the Anglican Establishment. It has an advantage over English Nonconformity, which in its relations with the State Church cannot claim to possess, either through the Federal Council or the National Free Church Council, sufficiently strong element of unity. "The Church of Scotland has a warm Evangelical life, as is proved by its keen activity in the mission field... This is the one church in Great Britain which has a living and official relationship to Continental Protestantism, not only of the Reformed, but also of the Lutheran Churches. A Scotsman, Dr. Mackinnon, has lately written an admirable "Life of Luther," who to the Anglican is for the most part either unknown, or as completely forgotten as is the historic connection with Geneva. Old Reformation memories are deeply rooted in the Scottish Church and people, while at the same time the theologians are in complete touch with the newer learning; everything is studied with critical watchfulness. The dialectical theology,

for example, has been examined without prejudice. The present Moderator, Dr. Mackintosh, was one of the earliest to make his brother ministers acquainted with it, and a Scotsman, Thomson, is now translating Barth's 'Dogmatik.'

Dr. Keller comments on the warm friendliness of the Archbishop's reception, but feels there was a certain reserve even in the affectionate greeting of his fellow-countrymen. He contrasts the scene with that when Archbishop Soederblom stood before the general Assembly in 1929. There was no reserve in his welcome because "his message was 'justification by Faith,' a message which every son of the Reformation feels to be the soul of his soul." In Archbishop Lang's address there lay, although unspoken, the principles of the Lambeth Quadrilateral, which includes acceptance of the historical Episcopate.

In closing, the Swiss Professor, himself the far-wandering Ulysses of the Reformed Churches, quotes from "Watchman's" columns the warning that we must "wait and see" how far it will be possible for representatives of the two national communions to reach agreement in "unreserved" discussions.

It has long been recognised that Switzerland, inspite of its small size, inspite of the smallness of the number of its inhabitants, yet leads in many ways. A great number of international offices are situated within its confines, a still growing number of international movements, or efforts to create such movements have their nucleus organisation in our country and speeches or articles calling for international co-operation, for international brotherhood reach the World from Switzerland weekly, if not almost daily. What could be more appropriate than Lord Baden-Powell's

#### Warning Against Dangers of Patriotism.

"The Bulletin & Scots Pictorial, 13th Aug. In opening the new Girl Guides' International Chalet at Adelboden, in Switzerland, Lord Baden-Powell, the Chief Scout and founder of the Girl Guides, said:—

"We are here to open this beautiful home which has been provided, thanks to the generosity and forethought of Mrs. James Storrow, for the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of all nations.

"It will, in effect, be a school of universal good will and understanding among the future women of the world.

"Everywhere to-day men are striving through leagues and legislation to restore harmony and happiness to a world torn and worn out by war. But leagues and legislation are of little avail unless there is behind them the spirit of toleration and amity on the part of the peoples themselves.

#### Apostles of Good Will.

"The opening of this chalet means therefore the opening of a school of good will among the future women of all nations. The leaders will gather here, in this beautiful and inspiring centre, as Guides from all nations to meet for recreation and to learn Guiding: but they will go forth from here as apostles to all nations to spread the ideal and the practice of selfless good will and comradeship for others, regardless of any differences of country, creed, or class.

"This new spirit is one which is vitally needed in the world to-day. Patriotism for one's country is a noble aspiration, but there is often the danger of its becoming selfishly narrow in its outlook. The need then is for a wider outlook and of friendly understanding towards others.

"This spirit is essential if we are to have peace and happiness in the world. This spirit, too, has a higher attribute — it is the spirit which is essential for bringing about God's reign upon earth — the reign of peace and good will among men.

"Therefore from my heart I wish success to the chalet."

Such a call, from a man who has amply proved his patriotism, but who, nevertheless, or just because he is a good patriot, is also a good internationalist, is worth listening to, I think. Writing about PATRIOTISM, the deep love every sane human being feels for his or her native land, not the blatant commercialised, or shall we say "nowadays" patriotism one meets so often nowadays, I liked to read the following and especially the concluding paragraph:

#### THE FIRST OF AUGUST.

Children's Newspaper 13th Aug.

It is a privilege to be in Switzerland on the first of August, because then the people celebrate what we may call their Confederation Day.

Visitors are good-humouredly tolerated; but it is something in which they can take no part. The first of August touches every Swiss in his most intimate relationships; it is too deep for words: it is not for parade.

The Confederation transcends race, language, and religion: it has been a growth, but is sturdier because of it. It began in the union of three valleys in 1291, and Geneva did not join until 1815.

#### A National Holiday.

The first of August is a national holiday, but it is only in the darkness of the evening that one can see the flickering of the village bonfires, "each answering each that all is well"; the countless paper lanterns carried by everyone on the mountain paths: the gathering of the villagers round the bonfire as they sing their national hymns and songs which they know without having learned, just as they know how to speak.

Finally, a few words of deep feeling from some village leader on the sacred liberty won for them by the blood of their fathers; and all is over until another year.

In all this there is no making of programmes, there are no committees, but every town, every valley, every village, every highest-lying mountain cluster of tiny chalets, takes its fitting part, and every heart in Switzerland knows that it forms a living part of a true community — the Swiss Confederation.

To conclude this week's gleanings, I could hardly find anything better than the following report from the LEEDS MERCURY of August 5th, of a yet further International effort and at the same time a

#### REPLY TO AN S.O.S.

Three Leeds students, answering an emergency call from a Swiss village, are working side by side with Swiss, Germans, French, and Norwegians. They are wielding pick and shovel, pushing wheelbarrows, clearing orchards of stones and fallen trunks, mending walls, and moving the debris of a storm that occurred late last month.

The village is Safienplatz. The Service Civil Volontaire International, a Swiss organisation, that bands together peace-lovers of all nations to work together, without profit, for the common good, heard of the disaster in the village, and sent out a call for its members in all lands to offer their aid.

Leeds, which has the strongest English branch of the S.C.V.I., called in England the International Civilian Service, at once sent out a group of its members, under Mr. S. N. Pyecroft, the local secretary.

#### Three Months' Work.

Three undergraduates, Mr. G. Shaw, Mr. Kieser, and Mr. Burnett, accompany him, and others are expected to follow before the end of the vacation. They will work voluntarily under the direction of M. Schenker, a Swiss engineer who was in charge of the construction of a section of the famous Bagdad Railway.

No work will be done which normally could have been done by paid Swiss labour or by the unemployed, for had not volunteers offered themselves the villagers would have been too poor to engage labour.

The work at Safienplatz will continue until the middle of October. All volunteers work for a minimum period of three weeks, and before the end of the period a score of nations will have shared the work.

Americans, Danes, Dutch, Belgians, Austrians, students from the Central European countries, Indians, Chinese, and Japanese, all are members of the Service Civil Volontaire International.

#### New Friendships.

It seems impossible to believe that in their common work they will not make friends with each other, and so lay the foundations of lasting friendships. That is the ideal of the organisation.

The work is a means of proving that the young men of to-day are more eager to work in constructive, peaceful enterprises than in the destructive work of war. It was indeed, war-patriotism and its high ideals that moved M. Pierre Ceresole, the founder of the S.C.V.I., to form his organisation.

During the war he saw great heroism and high endeavour on both sides; when peace came he was determined to direct that idealism into peaceful channels.

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Girls

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Languages. House-keeping. Secretarial Work. Sports.

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The S.C.V.I., as last year, has a Continental detachment of its peaceful army already at work in Brynmawr, one of the distressed mining towns of Wales. Another group are working at Rhos, near Wrexham, where men and women students of Leeds University are assisting in the building of a recreation ground out of a piece of waste land.

*The Women's Tasks.*

The women are up as early as 5.30 to prepare breakfast for the volunteer navvies, who include young men from Lithuania, Bulgaria, Spain, and Latvia, as well as from Germany, France, and America.

The women darn and mend, wash and cook, and in the evening there are rambles and sing-songs, socials with the townspeople, and endless talks.

Perhaps it is in these many-nation discussions of young people that the peace of tomorrow is being built up.

Surely, all these efforts on an international basis must in time bear fruit. Surely all these people, working together, playing together, aiming at a common object, must themselves first learn to appreciate each other, irrespective of nationality, and their example and their accumulated experiences must descend from them, quite naturally, to others. By and by, there will be a larger, a fast growing multitude of people in all lands who have learnt the lesson of true internationalism, which, at the same time is true Christianity or rather true brotherhood of mankind and their teachings in turn must affect those that come after them. The number of such people, I say, is growing. It must grow steadily until we get nearer to the goal, until those who know that in order to be a good patriot, one must of necessity be a good internationalist first, are superior in numbers to the old narrow-minded local parochialists.

We SWISS in general and We SWISS ABROAD in particular have a lofty mission, the mission to preach international understanding! Never forget that, Reader!

**NEWS FROM THE COLONY.**

**SWISS "LAENDLER" ABEND**

**AT THE UNION HELVETIA.**

We are informed that Stocker Sepp's Erste Unterwaldner Bauern Kapelle of Zurich, will give two concerts at the above address, namely on next Monday and Tuesday evening. (September 12th and 13th from 8.30 p.m.)

To many, this famous Kapelle is undoubtedly known, having heard them on gramophone records, (Columbia and His Master's Voice) or in Switzerland, where they are very popular. Their stay in London is a very short one, but they will, if arrangements can be completed in time, visit the Headquarters of the B.B.C. in order to broadcast some of their famous songs and yodels. This, however, should not deter any member of the Colony from paying a visit, either on Monday or Tuesday, at 1, Gerard Place, W.1., to see and hear our compatriots, and we feel sure that they will spend an enjoyable evening.

After the concerts an informal dance will be held, as matter of fact, it is intended to give the whole the character of a "Burechilbi," and those who are the lucky owners of a Swiss national costume, are requested to don it for this occasion.

We should specially recommend these two evenings to all those, who, for some reason or another could not visit our country this year, they will hear familiar songs and tunes, and in thoughts at least, they will be back home again. We are convinced that the Union Helvetia has left nothing undone in order to make these two concerts a great success, and we hope that our readers will give them their support, we have no doubt that they will spend happy and enjoyable hours.

**PERSONAL.**

We are greatly delighted to inform our readers that our friend and collaborator, ck, has been blessed with the arrival of a little ck'let, on Saturday last, otherwise that Mme. ck had a daughter, and we are glad to hear, that both are doing well. We extend to M. and Mme. ck our heartiest congratulations on this happy event.

\* \* \*

The wedding of Mlle. Doris Barbezat, daughter of M. and Mme. Ch. A. Barbezat, The White House, Devonshire Avenue, Sutton, Surrey, is taking place to-day (Saturday) at Christ Church, Sutton, at 2.30 p.m.

We understand, that M. Barbezat, the father of M. Ch. A. Barbezat, and grand-father of the bride, has arrived by the Imperial Airways from Switzerland, accompanied by his daughter, in order to be present at this happy event. We are extending to the newly to be married couple, our best wishes for a happy and bright future.

**CK's CORNER.**

Every time that something is brought into being which changes or modifies the habits or tenor of our lives, somebody will be found to rise up in pious enthusiasm to explain at much length with arguments more or less convincing, more or less fallacious, that as a result, the world in general and the country to which they happen to belong, in particular, is fast falling into decay or relapsing into a state of barbarity and wickedness.

So it was when the locomotive was invented, so it was in the early days of the automobile, and so now the outcry is raised with regard to the Cinema.

We are told that our morals are being debased, that our respect for law and order is being broken, that the seven deadly sins are being flaunted and condoned, and finally, with the introduction of the sound film, that our language is being perverted.

This last point, of course, is chiefly applicable to anglosaxon countries and is attributed to the effect of the American language, but the other evil results mentioned heretofore are common to all peoples of the world.

Is the picture really as black as some would paint it? Undoubtedly there are some nasty films, but the reality is nothing when compared to the possibilities. So are there nasty pictures, nasty books and even nasty people. However, one is not obliged to frequent them and in this corner I want to point out the possibilities on the credit side.

In my opinion, the great value of the cinema is that it can bring before the eyes of people unable to travel, events which are taking place in other parts of the world. "News pictures" to-day are generally to be found in most programmes.

Up to the present the language difficulty has been the great stumbling block, but the possibilities for education with regard to languages are immense. All nations are not so favoured in this respect as the Swiss, who generally possess two or more languages and lack of this gift is especially marked in this country on account of its geographical position.

The difficulty has been partially got over, either by showing descriptive captions at intervals or by the introduction of interludes in which certain characters are made to explain the story in the language of the country in which the film is being shown.

This latter method was successfully used with great artfulness in "Le Million."

For obvious reasons, the foreign product which predominates in this country comes from America.

Columns have been written on the bad effects of the "English" in these films, but nevertheless the language used is "American" and not "English" and is as much a part of the story as "French" or "German" in a French or German film.

Within the last few months a larger number of foreign films, other than American, have been shown here and the vogue started or, at any rate, received a definite impulse from "Le Million," which was one of the best of its category made up to the present time. It was remarkable for the quality of its comedy and for the delicacy with which the sentimental parts were treated. As an instance of what I mean, at the end of the story, when the two principal characters are left alone, the final scene is taken with these two standing at the back of the scene instead of the usual close up and long embrace of the American film.

It is to be hoped that as many foreign films as possible will be shown in the future. One or two theatres make a special feature of such productions and among them may be mentioned the "Academy" a Cinema theatre in Oxford Street opposite Waring and Gillow. This theatre has shown several German and Russian films and I strongly recommend readers to watch the programme.

Westfront 1918, Mädchen in Uniform, and Kameradschaft in German, and Russian films such as Earth, Blue Express, Turk-Sib, and stories dealing with the new conditions in the country have been shown. The Russian films are interesting not only from the point of psychology, but on account of their technique which differs from that employed elsewhere. This was well brought out by comparing "Shanghai Express" with "Blue Express." Both had practically the same theme, but in the one there was a strong love interest with Marlene Dietrich, whilst the other kept strictly to describing events which were supposed to have taken place during the Chinese revolution. Generally speaking, each country would appear to have a special technique which is characteristic.

The Academy also makes a feature of old films, but I shall have more to say about this later.

Other theatres, from time to time, have shown foreign films such as "The Doomed Battalion" at the Empire, "M" at the Cambridge, "Sous les toits de Paris" and "Le plaisir d'aimer" at the Rialto, etc., but I think there is something

to be said in favour of the plan of devoting the programme to this category.

Apart from the educational value of a film containing national characteristics, scenery, habits, acting the help afforded in becoming familiar with another language is great.

The action helps the audience to understand the words and gradual progress is made. It might be of greater advantage, if further assistance was given either by means of a printed explanation with translation or by the extension of some other explanatory method, or by the use of captions.

Everyone who has been on the Continent must have seen films which would be worth showing here, and I remember seeing one last year at Interlaken "Zwei Herzen in drei viertel Takt" which I am sure would be a great success here.

As I have said, some theatres have shown old films and it is extremely interesting to note the advances made in technique, and it would be curious to compare such productions as Zigomar or the Clutching Hand which appeared just before the War, and were the forerunners of the modern "Gangster" film with the latest effort such as "Scarface."

I venture to think that the next great advance will be in the direction of giving perspective to the picture.

At the present time, everything is seen on one plane and the result of this is specially marked when attempts are made to reproduce objects moving rapidly towards or away from the spectator, such as swings or roundabouts.

Distortion is also very marked when one is sitting near the screen and at the side.

Progress in this direction will probably be found in some technique which will produce a stereoscopic effect in the pictures. This would have the advantage of increasing the cost of many "fake" effects and might even render some impossible, but it would be of great value in travel or scenery films such as that showing views of Switzerland which was recently shown in London.

Do not let us therefore be too critical of the modern drama films. In the course of time, they will find their level. Let us rather reflect on the great educational value to the people of pictures such as travel films or of those nature films, for example the evolution of the butterfly, which explain the processes of nature which to many would otherwise remain a closed book.

**HEIMATBILDER.**

**Auf dem Zürichsee.**

Zwei schöne Erlebnisse, die mir in jüngster Zeit unser See schenken, stehen mir vor Augen: die Nachtfahrt vom ersten August und eine Längsfahrt von Zürich bis Rapperswil und zurück.

Der erste August: Ein Tag wie im April. Man weiß nicht, was noch kommen wird, Wolken und Winde kämpfen einen hinterlistigen Kampf. Aber gegen Abend wird der blaue Himmel Meister. Der See leuchtet auf, die Ufer lachen sonntäglich. Nein, es ist kein Tag wie alle andern. Wir feiern Geburtstag im Schweizerland. Ein Fünklein Freude blitzt in unsre trübe Zeit. Bewegte Vergangenheit ragt in bewegte Gegenwart. Aber Halt! Wir wollen nicht philosophieren. Freuen wollen wir uns am leuchtenden Hente, und weil wir in einem so wohgeordneten Staatswesen zu Hause sind, Sein Ausseres verrät schon, wie gut gefügt die Mauern und Balken noch stehen.

Wir fahren den Ufern entlang. Ein warmes Lüftchen weht. Die Dämmerung sinkt herab. Die Glocken fangen an zu läuten. Manche Augustfeier habe ich in den Bündner —, Walliser — und Berner Bergen mitgemacht. Aber diesen Abend, den ich sozusagen daheim am angestammten See verbringe, zählt zu den unvergesslichsten.

Feuerwerk flammt auf, Kirchen tauchen aus dem Dunkel, bunte Fontänen sprühen empor. Jedes Dorf feiert auf seine Weise. Turner bauen Pyramiden. Scharen wimmeln am See. Der See selber ist ein venezianisches Traumland geworden. Musik gaukelt über die Wasser zu uns. Musik haben wir selber an Bord. Dazwischen fliegen die Gedanken jubelnd im Kreis: An diesem Abend hat sich unser Glaube neu gestärkt an alle guten Kräfte, die noch wirksam treiben und wirksam bleiben werden in unserm schönen Vaterland.

Und die andere Fahrt, am einem Werktag von Stadt zu Stadt. Die sommerliche Zeit ist angebrochen. In den Bädern seufzt und abwimmelt's von Volk. Die Bätsche und Bänne prangen. Die wohlgepflegten Weinberge verheissen einen guten Herbst. Uner schöpflich sind die Ufer.

Wenn man auf Deck hinholt, erwirkt man meist einheimische Laute. Die Fremden sind heuer nicht zahlreich. Leider! Um so mehr erfreuen sich die Schweizer und besonders auch die Zürcher unter ihnen unentwegt am zauberhaften Wechsel aller Bilder und an der immer noch nicht genug gewürdigten und bekannten Tatsache: Unser See zählt zu den Juwelen unter den landschaftlichen Schätzen, die dieses und jenseits der Grenzen zu finden sind.

Ernst Eschmann.