

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: 552

Artikel: A master of mountaineering
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-692651>

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A MASTER OF MOUNTAINEERING.

In the little cemetery of Fex, near Sils Maria, in the Engadine, lies one of the greatest Alpine guides of all time, Christian Klucker, "Mein Unfehlbarer," as he was affectionately known by one of his most famous employers and valued friends.

Many guides have become known not only by their deeds, but by the recording of those deeds by their employers, in contemporary Alpine literature. It has been given to few guides to reverse the order of things, and turn from ice-axe to pen to write of their experiences and of their employers; but Klucker was one, and his memoirs have now been translated from the German by Erwin and Pleasance von Gaisberg, and edited by Mr. H. E. G. Tyndale, who has contributed additional chapters.

As a record of mountaineering between 1874 and 1928, describing no fewer than forty-four ascents eighty-eight new routes, this book is of particular value, but as a human document, describing Klucker's private life and his relationship with some of the leading mountaineers of their generation, lies its greatest interest.

His private life was by no means an easy one. As the intelligent child of a peasant family, his education was neglected, and he was saddled with responsibilities which allowed no outlet for a devouring ambition to raise himself from the ruck of his class. This thwarting of an artistic and imaginative temperament saddened his life; had his ambitions been realised, Switzerland might have gained a useful servant and the Alps lost an incomparable guide.

Like other masters of mountaineering, Klucker had many sides to his character. On a mountain he could be contemptuous of weakness and inefficiency, icily calm or tempestuously dashing when occasion demanded, a tower of strength in storm or difficulty, possessing always that reserve of energy which raises the best guide so far above the best amateur; and in the valley a kindly and considerate father, a friend to all children, and a lover of animals.

As these pages show, to gain the friendship of such a man is a precious thing, and the casual tourist, who is "lugged" up the Matterhorn by a couple of sturdy peasants interested only in the depth of his pocket, cannot imagine how perfect a companionship can exist between a man of Klucker's stamp and his employers. Among those employers were Edward Whymper, Norman Neruda, Sir Edward Davidson, Paul Güssfeldt, Theodor Curtius, and Captain Farrar. With them Klucker climbed in Alpine districts extending from the Dauphiné to the Dolomites, and he accompanied Whymper to the Canadian Rockies.

Slovenliness, exaggeration or inaccuracy in the subsequent recording of climbs were only less abhorrent to Klucker than carelessness or the missing of opportunities in mountaineering, and some of his employers come in for sharp criticism. The proposal that one summit should be named after his companion, the Russian Rydzewski, met with obvious disapproval; he was annoyed at Neruda's inaccuracies of description, and at Whymper's missing of opportunities in the Rockies.

With Captain Farrar he enjoyed some of the happiest climbing of his life, for these two men made an ideal climbing combination, and their mutual esteem is evidenced in the "Unfehlbarer's" letters to his "Honoured Bergfreund."

Klucker's greatest climbs, such as the first ascent of the Pétrot Ridge of Mont Blanc, the descent of the terrible ice slopes of the Güssfeldt Sattel on the Scerscen, the traverse of the Cima del Largo, and many ascents calling for equal skill and strength proved him to be not only a superb cragsman, but an ice-man fitted to rank with Josef Pollinger and Franz Lochmatter. He made his last great climb at the age of seventy-four, the year previous to his death.

His memoirs are free from all literary affectation, and are written in a charming and direct style which has lost little of its essential simplicity in translation. His letters, published at the end of the volume, show that beneath a rugged and even uncompromising exterior was an ingrained sentiment, and yearning for love and affection in the loneliness of his declining years, which ended peacefully in the shadow of the peaks he loved so well.

"Adventures of an Alpine Guide." By Christian Klucker. With additional chapters by H. E. G. Tyndale. (Murray 40s. 6d. net.).

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SWITZERLAND'S ECONOMIC SITUATION (Continued).

This year, for the first time since the war, the Swiss index number of wholesale prices dropped below the pre-war level adopted for purposes of comparison. At the beginning of March the figure was 99.6 (January 1914 = 100). The general index number of the cost of living dropped one point during February and 0.3 per cent. during March, so that at the beginning of April it had fallen to 127.5, or 11.7 points lower than a year ago. Unemployment in Switzerland continues to grow; out of a total of 424,000 insured persons, there are now 44,600 persons wholly unemployed, and this number is below the real total since so many of the workless are not insured and are therefore not included in the returns.

An interesting feature of Swiss economy is the continued advance in the consumption of electricity, which last year amounted to a total of 3,780,000,000 kilowatt-hours, representing an increase of over 100,000,000 kilowatt-hours on the total for 1930. This figure does not include the production of the hydro-electric stations of the railways, which rose to 1,270,000,000 kilowatt-hours in 1931. At the present moment 85 per cent. of the total traffic on the railways is dealt with by electric power. Exports of electricity also show an appreciable increase. Another noteworthy feature is the rapid progress in the use of electricity for domestic purposes. Last year, 119,000 new electric heating plants were installed, thus beating all previous records and bringing the total of heating plants now in use in Switzerland to over 1,700,000.

Statist.

FOOTBALL.

May 15/16th, 1932.

FIRST LEAGUE.

Brühl1 Concordia2

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, May 18th, at 7.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting followed by a causerie by M. Röthlisberger, Esq. on "A Swiss Health Resort," at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, May 28th, at 2.30 p.m. — Swiss Sports — at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.

Wednesday, June 1st, at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Tuesday, June 7th at 7 o'clock — City Swiss Club — Dinner and Dance at Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon. (Dinner 7/6).

Wednesday, June 8th, at 7 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Committee Meeting, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Wednesday, June 15th, at 8.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Thursday, June 23rd, from 6 to 10.30 p.m. — Fête Suisse — at Central Hall, Westminster.

Sunday, July 3rd — Swiss Rally and outing to Whipsnade — arranged by the Swiss Club Birmingham, together with the Swiss Colony London.

for the Swiss Championship. Well, I congratulate Concordia on being the more consistent team; I am sure they will do well in the higher circle. Brühl will have to try, try again, but how could you fail this year?—

I wonder more and more who that patron saint of the Bâlois is. Nobody appears to know, yet Gallus seems perfectly powerless against him. F.C. Basel comes twice to St. Gall, beats the "Stodtler" 4:2 and knocks Brühl 4:1 out of the cup. Concordia does likewise to F.C. St. Gall and now defeats Brühl 2:1 in that last match. "Who, who, who, — who is your patron saint?"

A number of *Friendly Matches* were played, and we give the following results:—

Luzern	2	Phoenix Ludwigshafen	4
Cantonal	0	Borussia Halle	5
Grasshoppers	3	Zwailuwen	3
Zurich	0	Milan	4
Stadt Bern	1	Vienna	1

M.G.

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Dimanche 22 Mai, 11h. — M. M. Pradervand.

7h — M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

8h — Répétition du Choeur.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux instructions religieuses, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6. (Téléphone: Archway 1798). — Heure de réception à l'église: Mercredi de 10.30 — 12 h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

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

Sonntag, den 22. Mai 1932, Trinitatis.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

CONFIRMATION.

Am Pfingstsonntag wurden confirmiert:
Anna Marie Gysi von Buchs (Canton Aargau)
u. Helen Elisabeth Siegrist von Basel (Stadt).

TRAUUNG.

Am 14. Mai wurden getraut:
Hugo Schwander verw., von Heimiswyl (Bern) und Anna Maria Martha verw. Schwander, geb. Jüttner von Heimiswyl und Berlin.

Anfragen wegen Religions- bzw. Confirmandenunterricht und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde. C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Tel: Chiswick 4156).

Printed for the Proprietors, by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO., LTD., at 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.