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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

#### GERMAN NEWSPAPER BANS.

The German papers prohibited in Switzerland for a fortnight by the Swiss Federal Government as a reprisal for the prohibition in Germany of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" (Zürich), the "Nationalzeitung" (Basle), and the "Bund" (Berne), are the "Völkischer Beobachter," the "Angriff," and the "Berliner Börsen Zeitung." The German Government has now forbidden the three papers mentioned for six months.

In these circumstances the Swiss Federal Government will probably take further measures against the German press. The "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" recently remarked that it was strange that the Swiss Federal Government, which has given itself power to suspend Swiss papers making rude remarks about Herr Hitler or Signor Mussolini, should continue to tolerate the "Reichsdeutsche" (the Swiss organ of the Nazis), which constantly publishes virulent attacks on the French and other foreign Governments.

#### THE SWISS MOTOR-CYCLING GRAND PRIX.

British riders filled the first three places in the Swiss Grand Prix race for 350.c.c. machines, which was run on the 7th of July over a course of 828.5 kilometres (about 204.11 miles).

J. H. Simpson (Norton), following his victory in the same class in the European Grand Prix, won at an average speed of 128.571 k.p.h. (about eighty miles an hour). He covered the forty-five laps in 2hr. 33min. 20.45sec. He was followed by G. E. Nott (Husqvarna), who returned a time of 2hr. 34min. 15.25sec., and W. F. Rusk (Norton) was third in 2hr. 36min. 35sec. There were nineteen starters.

#### FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT FOR TIR FEDERAL.

The French Ambassador at Berne has presented to the Federal Council a large vase of Sèvre porcelain, as a present from the French Government to the Tir Féderal at Fribourg.

#### MONUMENT FOR PROFESSOR FOREL.

A committee has been appointed to collect subscriptions for a monument to be erected in honour of Professor, Dr. A. Forel, the celebrated Swiss scientist of International répute.

#### LEGACIES.

Mme. Berta Tschudi-Lohbauer, who recently died at Ennetbühl, has left an amount of 30,000 frs. to the "Arbeiterunterstützungs Kasse" of the card-box works Tschudi and Co., in Ennetbühl. Mlle. Berta Meili who died last mai has left the sum of 20,000 frs. to the "Alterssylsfonds" of Richterswil.

#### LOCAL.

##### BERNE.

Lieutenant Jacob Steiner, was found guilty by a Court Martial, which was held at the barracks in Thun, for having given information to a foreign power (Italy) of various plans concerning military plans. He has been condemned to 12 years imprisonment, expulsion from the army and to the costs of the case. Furthermore, he has to repay to the Confederation the money which he has received for his misdemeanour.

##### LUCERNE.

The XXth International Concours Hippique will be held at Lucerne from July 7th to 15th, 1934. Invitations to foreign officers to participate in this brilliant event have, as in previous years, been officially forwarded to 26 foreign governments. The Concours Hippique is considered to be an outstanding event of the Lucerne season and a liberal number of valuable cash prizes lend added interest.

### URI.

On July 15th, Altdorf, the quaint little capital of the canton of Uri, resumes its historic William Tell performances. In the gallant archer's home town there is a modern playhouse for this purpose. About 200 native actors are participating and the presentations, which will be given every Sunday, until and including September 9th, begin at 1.45 p.m.

### ZUG.

M. Hildebrand, States Councillor, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary, was the victim of a motor bicycle accident. M. Hildebrand, who attended a commission meeting at Berne, was leaving the Federal Palais in Berne, when he was run over by a motor bicycle, he was taken to the hospital for attendance, but was later on able to return to his hotel.

### BASEL.

Dr. Paul Meyer-Lieb, who was a teacher at the "Knabensekundarschule" zur Mücke for 43 years, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary.

\* \* \*

M. A. Schetty-Strübin, Manager of the "Färbererei Schetty" at Basle, has died as a result of a collision of his car with a lorry near Klein-hüningen. M. Schetty had been a member of the Grand Council since 1923.

### FRIBOURG.

The "Académie française" has bestowed the Juteau Price on Msgr. Marius Besson, Bishop of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg, for his book "Après Quatre Cent Ans."

\* \* \*

M. Victor Chassot, member of the Grand Council, fell off a tree, when gathering cherries, and was killed instantaneously, he was 63 years of age.

### NEUCHATEL.

The States Council has appointed M. Edmond Guyot as manager of the observatory at Neuchâtel in succession to M. Louis Arndt, who recently retired from his post.

\* \* \*

The death is reported from La Chaux-de-Fonds of Pasteur Paul Pettavel at the age of 74. Pasteur Pettavel was for 30 years Editor of the "La Feuille du Dimanche."

### GRISONI.

Dr. F. Pieth, teacher of History at the "Kantonschule" in Chur has retired. He was a member of the teaching staff since 1898.

\* \* \*

M. Gottlieb Suter, Director of the 3rd Customs District in Chur has retired from his post.

### VALAIS.

Dr. Stolckalper, a member of the catholic-conservative faction of the Grand Council, has been excluded from the party, owing to his repeated attacks on the conservative members of the cantonal government.

### VAUD.

Mme. J. Giroud-Jaccard at Verrières has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary.

## SOME OF THE FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN SWITZERLAND.

July 14 and 15      XVIth International Summer Ski Races on Jungfraujoch.  
July 15      Summer Ski Races on Piz Corvatsch, St. Moritz.  
Swimming Festival in the Lake of Staz at St. Moritz.  
July 15-21      VIIIth Summer Course in Psychology at Lucerne.  
July 15, 22 and 29      William Tell Performances at Altdorf.  
July 16-August 9      Vacation Course for Modern French at the University of Neuchâtel.  
July 16-August 25      Vacation Course for Modern French at the University of Lausanne.  
July 20-August 5      Federal Shooting Festival at Fribourg.  
July 21 and 22      Motor Salon at Interlaken.

### July 22

Aquatic Sports at the Interlaken Open-air Swimming Baths.

### July 23-28

Vacation Course of the Institute of the Sciences of Education at Geneva.

### July 24-28

4th International Congress of Radiology (1st part) at Zurich.

### July 28

Grand Venetian Night Festival at Lucerne.

### July 28-31

4th International Congress of Radiology (2nd part) at St. Moritz.

### July 29

Swiss Rowing Championships at Lucerne (Rotsee).

Golf Competition at Lausanne-Ouchy.

Wrestling and Alpine Fête on the Great Scheidegg above Grindelwald.

### July 29-September

Course of the Geneva School of International Studies (Prof. A. Zimmern).

### July 30-August 4

Course of the International Bureau of Education at Geneva.

### July 30-August 5

Suveretta Tennis Tournament (Grisons Championship) at St. Moritz.

### August

International Tennis Tournament at Geneva. Cantonal Gymnastic Championship of French speaking Switzerland at Geneva.

### August 1

Swiss Independence Day celebrations everywhere.

### August 1-15

Course for beginners as well as advanced students and professors in Dalcroze Eurythmics at Geneva.

### August 4

Aquatic Events at Lausanne-Ouchy Bathing Beach.

### August 5

Bicycle Tour around the Lake of Geneva, starting from Geneva. Open-air Divine Service in the Gastern Valley, Kandersteg.

Pilgrimage to the Chapel "Maria zum Schnee" on the Schwarzsee above Zermatt. International Mountain Races on the Klausen Pass, Contest at Lausanne-Ouchy.

### August 5, 12, 19 and 26

Open-air William Tell Performances at Interlaken. William Tell Performances at Altdorf.

### August 6 and following days

Kulm Tennis Tournament (Engadine Championship) at St. Moritz.

### August 7 and 9

Symphony Concerts, Arturo Toscanini, Conducting, at St. Moritz.

### August 8 and following days

Engadine Championship for Men on the Engadine Golf Links at Samaden-St. Moritz.

### August 9

Fireworks de luxe at Interlaken.

### August 9-13

Regatta-Week, European Rowing Championships, at Lucerne (Rotsee).

### August 8-18

International School of Geneva on the League of Nations (Prof. Th. Ruyssen).

### August 10

Lucerne Amateur Golf Championship at Lucerne.

### August 11

Ladies' Cup on the Engadine Golf Links at Samaden-St. Moritz.

### August 11 and 12

Federal Wrestling and Alpine Fête in the Wankdorf Stadium, Berne.

### August 12

Venetian Night Festival de luxe at Geneva.

### August 12-17

International Music Contest at Geneva.

### August 13-17

Course of the Geneva Institute of International Relations at Geneva.

### August 13-19

Palace Tennis Tournament (St. Moritz Championship) at St. Moritz.

International Tennis Tournament at Grindelwald.

August 13-September 5  
Vacation Course for Modern French at the University of Neuchâtel.

Middle of August  
Automobile Show and driving skill test at St. Moritz.

August (2nd Part)  
International Riding Tournament and Swimming Festival at St. Moritz.

Archery Contest at St. Moritz.

August 18  
Golf Competition, "Morgan Cup," at Lucerne.

International Sailing Regatta at Lausanne-Ouchy.

Golf Competition at Lausanne-Ouchy.

August 20-25  
International Carlton Tennis Tournament at St. Moritz.

August 20 and following days  
International Tennis Tournament for the Championship of Interlaken in open Men's and Ladies' Singles at Interlaken.

### HEALTH SPRINGS BUBBLE IN SWITZERLAND.

To any one in quest of health Switzerland will prove the solution of the most difficult problems. Not only has this country beautiful become world renowned for her miracle-working alpine climate, but in its great wealth of mineral springs it possesses priceless assets which, strange as it may seem in this enlightened era of ours, are only superficially known in foreign lands. Yet knowledge and use of healing waters in Switzerland date back to the very beginning of civilization.

The springs of St. Moritz in the Upper Engadine, according to Dr. med. H. Keller, furnish indisputable proof of great antiquity, for when their pipes were replaced in 1853, there were found at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet under the surface of the earth the well-preserved hollowed-out trunks of three mighty larches which had obviously been employed for the springs. In these tree-trunks a number of bronze objects, swords, knives, needles, etc., were discovered, which scientists estimated to be about 3,000 years old. Similar prehistorical finds were made in Baden (Argovie), Löeche-les-Bains (Valais) and Yverdon (Vaud).

The period of the Roman occupation, beginning in the year 58 B.C., represents the second stage in the development of watering places in Switzerland. Spas flourished to a high degree, not only for the use of such medicinal springs as were already known, but also through the discovery of others and particularly through the progress made in technical equipment and bath fittings. The thermal baths at Baden are an outstanding example of this. The bath hospital and the numerous surgical instruments discovered there show how well the Romans understood how to utilize natural healing methods as available through baths and even to combine them with surgery.

After invasions from the North put an end to Roman influences, appreciation of mineral springs suffered a temporary setback, but already during the reign of Charlemagne taking the baths came more and more in vogue. In the monastery of St. Gall there is still preserved the plan of a building of the year 820 in which a bathing establishment is designed. In the later Middle Ages and particularly at the time of the Renaissance, baths taken by people in normal health were considered as one of the chief "amenities of life."

Watering places now increased rapidly and in addition to the before mentioned spas of prehistoric foundation, there are historical records of the establishment of the following: Ragaz-Pfaffers (1038 and 1384), Tarasp, Lower Engadine (15th century), Val Sinestra, Lower Engadine (15th century), Bex, Vaud (salt spring mentioned in 1554 and sulphur springs in 1717), Gurnigel near Berne (1561). The springs of Passugg near Chur had already been known in 1562 and were rediscovered in 1863. The mineral spring of Rheinfelden, called Kapuzinerquelle, was in use as early as 1664, and the exploitation of the Rheinfelden salt mines and the opening of the brine baths dates from 1846.

There are 100 spas in the alpine regions, 26 in the Jura and 30 in the Swiss high plateau. Springs with over 20 degrees centigrade are called thermal waters, and those with less than 20 degrees cold springs. They contain the soluble substances of the percolated rocky strata. The greater the quantity of such substances and the longer the water has been in contact with them, the richer is the water in mineral constituents. These elements are chiefly calcium, potassium, sodium, lithium, magnesium, iron, silicon, aluminium, sulphur, phosphorus, borax, chloride, bromide, iodine, fluoride, carbonic acids, sulphuretted hydrogen and nitrogen. The bases and the acids can be disassociated from one another or compounded with salts. The most important of these are common or kitchen salt, carbonate of soda, magnesium and iron, sulphate

of soda, sulphate of sodium, gypsum and sulphate of magnesium, iodine salts and arsenic compounds. The importance of borax and lithium has not yet been sufficiently investigated.

When the mineral waters come into contact with organic substances on the surface of the earth and slowly spread, they deposit a part of their salts; in this way mud and peat are formed, which are both used for baths and local applications.

The majority of the springs are radio-active, having emanations either in the water itself, in their sediments or in their gases. Radio-active springs contain but little mineral substance, and are connected with the deepest strata of the earth. Mineral waters are classified in ten kinds, according to their degree of mineralization, predominant element and temperature. They are:

1. *Feebly Mineralized* or simple cold waters, containing less than 0.5 gr. of solid constituents to one litre, and less than 1.0 gr. of carbonic acid. Switzerland has 40 such springs, of which the most important are Aigle, Disentis, Knutwil, Romanel and Weissbad.

2. *Akrate-Thermal* or simple thermal waters, "Wildbäder." They contain to the litre less than 0.5 gr. of solid constituents, and their temperature is above 20 degrees centigrade. Ragaz-Pfaffers features such a spring which compares with Badenweil, Gastein, Wildbad and a number of other spas in foreign countries.

3. *Earthy Waters*, containing over 0.5 gr. of solid constituents to the litre. They are divided into carbonate and gypsum waters, according to the predominance of carbonic and sulphuric earth. Some of the most important watering places with these features are: Henniez-les-Bains, Montreux, Meltingen, Sissach, Rheinfelden, Kapuziner and Magdener springs, Yverdon, Tenigerbad, Andeer, Grimmelalp, Löeche-les-Bains and Vals-Platz. The springs in the two last resorts are thermal. This category of spas compares with such foreign watering places as Thonon, Vittel, Wildungen, etc.

4. *Alkaline Waters*, containing to the litre more than 0.5 gr. of solid constituents. The predominant salt is carbonate of sodium. Several of these springs contain iron, bromide, iodine, borax and lithium. There are 9 springs in all, of which the most important are Tarasp-Schuls-Vulpera, Passugg and Oberberg. Neuenahr, Vichy, Ems, Franzensbad, Karlshad, Marienbad, etc., are rivals of similar properties in foreign countries.

5. *Sulphur Waters*, containing sulphate of sodium, sulphate of calcium and sulphuretted hydrogen. Some are cold and others warm, and often contain chloride and sulphate. There are 68 such springs, 24 of which are warm. Among the most important of them are Baden, Schinznach, Lavey-les-Bains, Yverdon, Alvaneu, Bex-les-Bains, Gurnigel, Lenk, Lostorf, Heustrich and Schwefelberg Bad.

6. *Common Salt or Brine Baths*, containing over 1 gr. of common salt to the litre. Bromide, iodine and carbonic acid are often found in these springs. Switzerland has such saturated waters at Bex-les-Bains, Rheinfelden, Rheinfelden-Rybryg and Schweizerhall, which are used for extracting salt as well as for brine baths. They compare, for instance, with Baden-Baden, Biarritz, Homburg, Ischl, Kissingen, Nauheim, Wiesbaden in foreign lands.

7. *Iodine Waters*, containing at least 0.001 gr. of iodine salt to the litre. The iodine is mostly found compounded with chloride of sodium in common salt, alkaline and earthy waters. The most important of these springs are at Tarasp-Schuls-Vulpera, Rheinfelden, Passugg, Bex-les-Bains and Schinznach.

8. *Chalybeate or Iron Waters*, containing 0.01 gr. and more of ferruginous salts, in which the iron is the main curative agent. In Swiss springs the iron is found in the form of bicarbonate. They are classed as alkaline, earthy, muriatic, saline and carbonic waters, according to their predominating element. Iron waters are very numerous in Switzerland, especially in the alpine regions, and particularly in the Grisons. The most important among these spas are St. Moritz, Tarasp-Schuls-Vulpera, Passugg, Fideris, Lenk, Morgins, Acuarossa, and Franzensbad is one of the foreign rivals.

9. *Arsenical Waters*, containing at least 0.0002 gr. of arsenic. In Switzerland arsenic is found with the carbonates and sulphates of alkalis, alkaline earth and iron. Val Sinestra and Acuarossa feature such springs.

10. *Spring Containing Epsom Salts* are found in the little spa of Birmenstorf near Brugg.

11. *Peat and Moor Baths*. They are classified according to their mineral and vegetable substances. In some localities the mud of the mineral waters is used for the packings. This is the case at St. Moritz, Schinznach, Andeer and Acuarossa. Sand baths with alluvial sand from the Rhone are methodically employed at Lavey-les-Bains, Elster, Franzensbad and Marienbad number among non-Swiss rivals.

The manifold healing agents which bounteous Nature has so lavishly placed at mankind's disposal in Switzerland are combined with the forces and laws of physics, hygiene and dietetics. Mineral springs, pure air, and sunshine form a matchless combination, and all the leading resorts feature the latest and best installations for any special treatments which the attending physicians may deem necessary for a patient.

Transportation and hotel rates have been reduced so drastically in Switzerland that a sojourn at one of the before mentioned spas is now within easy reach of any purse, and it is bound to prove a high-interest-bearing investment for health.

### A SWISS MURDER.

"Via Mala" by JOHN KNIRTEL (Hutchinson, 8s 6d. We have recently considered books by clever German authors, and one by a Norwegian. This week we have what is a complete novelty to me, a story at full length and in full value by a Swiss, John Knittel.

It is not merely by a Swiss author, but it deals intimately with Swiss life, and enables us to realise how that life seems to natives of a confederacy which has been camouflaged for most of us by the chromolithographic eulogies of the tourist agencies.

"Via Mala" exposes some of the drawbacks which fill in the picture for those who live in Switzerland all the year round. It is the valley of the Yzolla, dark and narrow and damp, where "the air smelled of wood and the acids of clammy mushrooms."

Here dwelt the Lauretz family, whose lives were darker and narrower and damper than this valley. The father, who boasted in his cups that he was descended from a soldier of Napoleon, was a brutal and drunken saw miller, and his wife and children all bore permanent marks of his violence. The father was thoroughly bad. The children, though rough as their environment, had redeeming traits of human kindness.

One of them, Sylvie, whose enduring evidence of her father's cruelty was a crippled arm, was more fortunate than the others. She was engaged to "do for" an old and famous painter, who occupied a neighbouring chalet for the purpose of making studies of the mountain scenery, and who gave her a fatherly affection, and opened her mind to a number of things finer than the philosophy of the *Via Mala* dreamed of.

Sylvie, as the author develops her, is a charming character, and it appears quite natural that when the old painter died he bequeathed to her a sum of money and the chalet and its contents.

It was while she was in Zurich on the business of this legacy that the miseries of the Lauretz family came to a head, and there is a powerfully written chapter in which the limit of endurance is reached, and the other children, and the mother, plan and carry out the murder of the father.

It is a ghastly business, clumsily put through, but, from any moral point of view, as justifiable a homicide as could be imagined.

But here began the troubles which ever pursue the amateurs of crime, the unexplained absence of the father, the dawning suspicions and innuendoes of the neighbours, the fear of discovery and punishment. And, to complete the entanglement, in Zurich Sylvie had met and fallen deeply in love with Andi von Reichenau, a clever young man of the governing class, who was also the examining magistrate for the district in which the *Via Mala* lies.

Their love prospers, but Sylvie, who has discovered the secret of her father's disappearance, tries to avoid marriage. The insistence of her lover carries her away, and for a time they are idyllically happy.

Then, by one of life's little ironies, it becomes her husband's official duty to reopen the question of the disappearance of Lauretz, and he discovers to his horror that he is the son-in-law and brother-in-law of murderers whom it is his official duty to denounce.

He has the means of closing the inquiry without any disclosure, but he is a man of honour. Here is a fine case of conscience. What did he do about it, and how did it react upon his deep affection for Sylvie? It would be unfair to the reader to give away the secret.

Wilson Pope.

(Star.)

### PERSONAL.

We regret to hear that Mr. G. T. Grotz, of Ightham (Kent), has met with a motor accident, when his car collided with a taxi which was travelling on the wrong side. Mr. Grotz received some internal injuries from which we trust he will make a speedy and complete recovery.