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SWISS FILMS AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL.

21st November, 1936.

The first film was about something of interest to everybody — Winter Sports in Switzerland. The scene was St. Moritz, but I thought the film would have been greatly improved if it had shown us a little of the actual town and some of the lovely views one can see from St. Moritz. The subject was an easy one to catch the interest of the audience, and there is no doubt that it did, but what disappointed me a great deal was the shortness of the film. We were just given glimpses of all the sports, and the short time devoted to any one sport was only enough to whet our interest and by no means satisfied us. I liked the jumping particularly. It provided a good opportunity for some clever photography, but unfortunately only one or two pictures of it were shown and then the film suddenly switched over to tobogganing. Here again the scenes shown were very good but far too short. Then we were shown some ice-hockey, and as this is a sport which is nowadays of universal interest, it would have added to the general enjoyment if there had been a good deal more of it. After all, this film showed ice-hockey as it should be played — out in the open, with snow and ice everywhere, and crisp air just right for so fast a game. After seeing this film, I could not help thinking how the English public would like to see similar ones at their local cinemas. I am sure it would arouse their interest and enthusiasm, especially as they are so keen on sport.

The next film on Bern had some good scenes and interesting passages, but as I do not understand German I could not interpret the various paragraphs preceding the pictures. I found the match-making scenes very interesting, although it struck me that the manufacture of these seemed to be done on a very small scale unless the film showed only a small part of the actual plant. An item that surprised me was the hand-worked looms for weaving cloth. I had no idea that weaving in the home was still carried on in Switzerland, and I cannot think it is a paying occupation with other countries supplying cloth so cheaply.

Another film I enjoyed very much was the one showing three climbers out on the mountains. I had not realised before what really hard work mountaineering is, and to see the guide hacking at the ice, having to make a foothold for every step of the way, made me think that the patience and skill necessary for climbing the Alps must be born in your Swiss guides. This film was also notable for the lovely Alpine flowers it showed.

Throughout the afternoon I wished there had been a commentator to explain everything in detail. This was most lacking when we were shown the marvellous railways that have now been built. I am sure there must be hundreds of interesting facts about these railways and their construction that would be most helpful to know. The tunnels and bridges must have cost thousands of pounds to construct, and the whole railway is such a feat of modern engineering that even a few of the details would be most educational.

I am afraid the last film showing the "Switzerland's" trip to Africa did not appeal to me as much as the earlier films. I found it rather aimless, and the various scenes did not seem to be connected at all.

The main impression left with me as a result of the afternoon's films was that Switzerland itself provides much scope for interesting films that everyone would like to see, and I personally only wish it were possible to see similar ones more frequently. Not only would they prove a further attraction for tourists, but they would also give a lot of pleasure to those people unable to visit Switzerland.

Miss M. V. Howard.

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