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**HELVETICA LODGE.****Ladies' Festival,**at the Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, W.1, on  
Friday, April 24th.

Perhaps no Foreign Colony in this great Metropolis is as versatile as the Swiss Colony; it represents almost every activity in the different walks of life.

It is therefore hardly surprising that there also exists a Masonic Lodge, the Helvetica Lodge, which is the Swiss Lodge under the English Constitution.

Although not being a member of the Fraternity, I have had the good luck to receive an invitation to attend their Ladies' Festival on at least three occasions; this is a function to which I always look forward with great pleasure, as the hospitality of Freemasons has become almost proverbial.

This year the invitation was doubly welcome, because the Festival was presided over, by a very old and good friend of mine, Mr. Ernest Werner, who holds the high office of Master of the Lodge. —

Shortly before 7 o'clock a reception was held by the President and his charming wife, — the latter carried a beautiful bouquet of wine coloured carnations, which was previously presented to her by one of the officers of the lodge. — It was a charming picture, and one lady of my acquaintance whispered to me that they looked almost like bride and bridegroom. (What would the twins say?) —

After the reception the company sat down to dinner, at tables which were prettily decorated with red carnation and yellow daffodils.

A Ladies orchestra played some rather alluring music during the dinner, perhaps just a little too forcibly for my liking, but then one must not forget that we are living in an age of noise and hustle.

The dinner was nearly as attractive as the Ladies who sat round the tables; there was a delicious hors d'oeuvre followed by a fine *consommé*, the *Sole champêtre* was, as marked on the menu, really *suprême*.

A *tournedos sauté au mèdoc* nearly melted in one's mouth, and a *neige au kummel* allowed the revellers some breathing space. Before the second part of the menu was served, which was as excellent as the first part, the toasts to the King and to the President of the Swiss Confederation and the Federal Council, were proposed by the President, and honoured with great enthusiasm.

These toasts were followed by a great many more, amongst them, perhaps the most important one on this occasion, namely the one to the Ladies. It fell to the lot of my good friend Mr. A. C. Stahelin, to eulogize the fair sex. It has been my privilege to have heard him propose this toast at many functions in the Colony, and it seems to me that he must now hold the monopoly for this particular toast. Needless to say, that he has acquired in this special branch great efficiency, and if he could have seen the shining eyes and the blushes of the Ladies who sat in my vicinity, he would have been well satisfied with his oration which was, as it always is, excellent. He also spoke a few words, to the guests present who belong to the craft, and a very few to those guests who do not belong to it, thus making me feel a terrible "outsider," and I had to fortify myself with a substantial gulp from my glass in order to soothe my shattered nerves.

It goes without saying that compliments so lavishly bestowed on the Ladies, should find a befitting acknowledgement. Mrs. J. J. Pfaendler, was delegated by her "sisters" to say "thank you very much," and she did it, as the Americans would say, "right well."

She really went out of her way, to say what a splendid set of men the masons were; and when she described the kindness, the goodness and the consideration which these wives received from their respective husbands, I nearly shed tears and felt still more of an outsider. I noticed that her husband gave her more than one grateful glance, and some of the shirt fronts of my table neighbours swelled with manly pride.

M. E. J. Colberg, a P.M. of the America Lodge in London, voiced the thanks of the guests, some of his jokes caused great hilarity and not a few blushes.

I quite forgot that all these toasts were heralded in with a little hammer; having, on previous occasions, devoted a special paragraph to this special instrument, I will not enlarge further on it. It is certainly a most useful "gadget" to keep the company awake, and even the village blacksmith could not have done it more efficiently than the three gentlemen who lustily swung the aforesaid hammer.

I was just going to reflect on the subject, "Do non-masons treat their womanfolk properly," when a mighty knock, brought me back to my senses, the deliverer of this blow, which nearly made the glasses jump, was another good friend of mine, Mr. W. Notari, who as,

precedessor to the President gave the toast to the "Worshipful Master."

Mr. Notari has the reputation in the colony of being a fine orator, which he certainly is, as an example of his great wit, I might mention, that some years ago, at a Swiss function over which he presided, he called me a "joyful monk," a name which has since stuck to me. I had some strong misgivings, whether I would ever be allowed to enter into holy matrimony, because I understand that monks usually do not do to these things, still I did it, and he will have to find a new name for me.

Of course, he did not get quite so familiar with his successor, but he gave a glowing account of the Master, of his qualities and of his work, and the esteem in which he is held in the fraternity. I could substantiate every word he said about the Master, I still remember what kindness he showed to me some years ago, whilst walking with me to the Church, where I was to be married, and where he was to act as my "best man." He told me, on nearing the place of what some people foolishly call the "doom," that if I wished to do a "bunk," there was still time to do so. I did not do so, however, with the result that my partner in life was sitting next to me on Friday last.

These are things one remembers a whole life time and are a proof that the Master of the Helvetica Lodge has a great heart and an equally great understanding for his fellow creatures.

It must have been a great moment for his wife, to hear such testimonies of affection, and as a mere man, I can only hope that "she took it in," she, of course, should know best.

Amongst great applause M. Werner then rose to address the company. He modestly declined to accept the compliments which were bestowed on him, leaving it to his good Lady to judge whether they were merited, a very wise and noble thing to do. He continued his speech by saying:

"It has become a custom, to my mind, one that could usefully be dispensed with, to try and explain why Masonic Lodges are in the habit of holding Ladies nights.

The usual explanation is that we Masons arrange Ladies' Nights as a sort of recompense for the many long winter evenings during which our Ladies are deprived of our precious company; in other words that we make an annual peace offering.

I believe that even my highly esteemed predecessor stuck to this popular explanation.

Being a bachelor he naturally got away with it. But what chance do married men stand to get away with such an excuse? Who are we to presume that it means hardship to our wives to be deprived of our company?

Now whatever explanation we may try to offer, the Ladies, or at least 90 per cent of them, will probably think that we have an ulterior motif, in other words a selfish interest.

So we married men might just as well tell the truth. And telling the truth in this case means admitting, without blushing, that we have a selfish motive, that we arrange Ladies' Nights as much for our own benefit as that of the Ladies because we enjoy them. In fact it is the only opportunity, in the course of our masonic activities, when we can arrange to have the Ladies present. We are therefore very grateful that they have come in such large numbers to adorn our to-night's gathering."

Before he concluded his oration he thanked Messrs. Stahelin and Ch. Chapuis for the trouble they had taken in arranging this Festival. A large number of telegrams were then read out, and a letter from Mr. Gerig, a great friend of the Master and a former Master of the Helvetica Lodge.

This speech was the last one mentioned on the Menu, but there followed another touching ceremony, when Mr. R. Marchand, presented to Mrs. Werner a fine present on behalf of the members of the Lodge. It really shows that masons are indeed a large hearted community.

Mrs. Werner, the honoured recipient of this attention, thanked the members for their generosity in a little speech which was both short and sweet; and so that the other Ladies should not feel pangs of jealousy they too where presented with a very nice gift.

There used to be a slogan current some years ago saying: "It pays to advertise," I feel inclined to alter it as follows: It pays to be a mason-ette."

This concluded the official part, and I wish to mention how much I enjoyed the speech-making, the speeches were witty and short, two features which makes listening to after dinner orations a real pleasure.

A cabaret was provided for by the Silver Wings Cabaret, which contained a few young Ladies who were not exactly over-dressed, but why should a nice pair of legs not be shown, especially when it carries an equally pleasant

"upper story," they danced and sang, whilst a number of young men tried to make love to them. Not being versed enough in "cabaret" acts I somehow failed to see why later on these same young Ladies dressed in leopard skins should be kept in order by a man handling a whip in a most threatening manner, but I was informed that this act was supposed to feature the Ladies as wild beasts (as if they could ever be thus) and the man was the tamer.

One outstanding feature of the dancing in which the company indulged after this, was a Polonaise headed by Mr. Ch. Chapuis, and which ended by the lady partner kissing her companion, I was lucky enough to "keep company" in this with the Master's wife and if she can cook as well as she kisses then my friend has nothing to grumble at.

Revising the evening on my arrival at home, I was just going to remove the furniture from my drawing room to re-perform some of the dancing stunts of the Silver Wings cabaret, but my good lady positively refused to be hurled through the ether at 50 miles per hour, with the result that I went to bed to dream instead of the wonderful evening spent with the Swiss Masons.

ST.

**EVENING PROGRAMS OF THE SWISS BROADCASTING STATIONS.**

MAY 3RD — MAY 9TH.

**BEROMUNSTER.** (Principal items).SUNDAY, May 3rd.  
(Greenwich Time).

7 p.m. Sportresultate v. Sonntag.

7.30 p.m. Dialektspiel v. Basel.

9.10 p.m. Buntes Programm v. Basel.

MONDAY, May 4th.

8 p.m. Alt Italienische Klaviermusik.

9.10 p.m. Für die Schweizer im Ausland.

TUESDAY, May 5th.

8 p.m. Konzert Radio Orchester.

8.30 p.m. Schweiz. Landesverteidigung Vortr. Oberst-Div. H. Frey.

9.40 p.m. Mailieder, Quartett Radio-Bern.

9.55 p.m. Alttengische Musik.

WEDNESDAY, May 6th.

8.20 p.m. Orchesterkonzert (Basel).

9.15 p.m. Fortsetzung Orchesterkonzert.

10.5 p.m. Wochenrückblick f.d. Schweizer im Ausland, Dr. H. Büchi.

THURSDAY, May 7th.

8.10 p.m. Vortr. über C. F. Meyer.

9.10 p.m. Konzert Radio-Orchester Zürich.

FRIDAY, May 8th.

7.30 p.m. Uebertragung aus Wien: Genoveva.

SATURDAY, May 9th.

7 p.m. Geläute der Zürcher Kirchen.

7.20 p.m. Die Zukunft der Freiheit, Vortr. H. Steinhausen.

10.45 p.m. Die Woche im Bundeshaus.

**SOTTONS.**

SUNDAY, May 3rd.

(Greenwich Time).

7.45 p.m. Nouvelles sportives.

8 p.m. Concert par l'Orchestre Radio Suisse Romande.

8.30 p.m. Mignon, Opéra d'Ambros Thomas (Relais du Théâtre municipal).

MONDAY, May 4th.

8.25 p.m. Les chefs-d'œuvre de la littérature: Ainsi parla Zarathoustra, de Nietzsche

9.10 p.m. Emission pour les Suisses à l'Etranger

TUESDAY, May 5th.

8.30 p.m. Une grande personnalité du monde moderne: Freud.

9.20 p.m. (Relais de la Salle du Conservatoire): Concert au bénéfice de l'Union pour l'Art social.

WEDNESDAY, May 6th.

8.20 p.m. (Basle) Concert de la Philharmonique de Berlin, sous la direction du Dr. Furtwängler.

THURSDAY, May 7th.

8 p.m. Concert par l'Estudiantina lausannoise "Choralia".

8.30 p.m. La Vie de Bohème de Puccini, (Relais du Théâtre Municipal.)

FRIDAY, May 8th.

8.30 p.m. "Le Caveau genevois" causerie par M. P. Chaponière.

SATURDAY, May 9th.

8.15 p.m. Festival Dvorak, orchestre Radio Suisse Romande.

SUNDAY, May 10th.

(Greenwich Time).

8 p.m. UNA VELA SUL LAGO, commedia musicale in due tempi. Parole di E. Ludwig, musica di Vincenzo Saputo.

10 p.m. Lo Sport della Domenica.

MONDAY, May 11th.

9.10 p.m. EMISSIONE NAZIONALE PER GLI SVIZZERI ALL'ESTERO.

TUESDAY, May 12th.

8 p.m. SERATA POPOLARE.

9 p.m. Canta la Corale Santa Cecilia di Lugano.

9.50 p.m. Concerto Bandistico.

WEDNESDAY, May 13th.

(Greenwich Time).

7 p.m. CONCERTO DI CHAMBER MUSIC.

FRIDAY, May 15th.

8 p.m. CONCERTO DI CHAMBER MUSIC.

SATURDAY, May 16th.

9 p.m. CONCERTO DI CHAMBER MUSIC.

SUNDAY, May 17th.

(Greenwich Time).

8 p.m. CONCERTO DI CHAMBER MUSIC.

MONDAY, May 18th.

9 p.m. CONCERTO DI CHAMBER MUSIC.

TUESDAY, May 19th.

8 p.m. CONCERTO DI CHAMBER MUSIC.

FRIDAY, May 22nd.

8 p.m. CONCERTO DI CHAMBER MUSIC.

SATURDAY, May 23rd.

9 p.m. CONCERTO DI CHAMBER MUSIC.

SUNDAY, May 24th.

WEDNESDAY, May 6th.  
 8.30 p.m. LA MIA PROFESSIONE : lo  
 Scrittore parla Francesco Chiesa.  
 8.45 p.m. CONCERTO DELLA RADIO-  
 ORCHESTRA.  
 THURSDAY, May 7th.  
 8 p.m. Trasmissione dalla Svizzera interna.  
 FRIDAY, May 8th.  
 8.15 p.m. La Piccola Fonte: drama in 4 atti, di  
 Roberto Bracco.  
 SATURDAY, May 9th.  
 9 p.m. CONCERTO DEL CORO VIRILE DI  
 LUGANO.

#### ANSPRACHE DES HERRN BUNDES-PRAESIDENTEN DR. A. MEYER AM OFFIZIELLEN TAG DER SCHWEIZER MUSTERMESSE.

Es ist ein festliches Ereignis, dem wir beiwohnen, die Feier des 20-jährigen Bestehens der Basler Mustermesse. Der Zeitraum von zwei Jahrzehnten für eine öffentliche Institution ist zwar etwas kurz. Diesmal umfasst er aber einen Teil des furchtbaren Krieges der Weltgeschichte und ein halbes Dutzend Jahre der entsetzlichsten Wirtschaftskrise der neuen Zeit. Mitten im Krieg entstanden, hat die Mustermesse auch in der nachfolgenden Krisenzeit wirtschaftliche Verhältnisse vorgefunden, zu deren Heilung und Bekämpfung sie gegründet worden war. Es muss ein guter Keim in dem Unternehmen stecken, dass es solche Zeiten überdauert und ihnen nicht nur standgehalten, sondern sich glänzend entwickelt und an Ausdehnung, wie Bedeutung gewonnen hat. So ist es denn ein verdienter Dank, den wir heute den leitenden Männern inner- und aussenhalb der Behörden darbringen. In erster Linie nenne ich den Präsidenten, Herrn Müry-Dietschy, und den Direktor, Herrn Nationalrat Meile, der ebenfalls seit zwei Jahrzehnten seine energische Tatkraft und sein Organisationstalent an die Unternehmung gewendet hat.

Es ist ein Ruhm für Basel, dass die Mustermesse hier angeregt und ins Werk gesetzt worden ist. Es ist aber kein Zufall, dass es gerade Basel ist, dem das Verdienst zukommt. Au dem Strome gelegen, der nicht nur einen Verkehrsweg erster Ordnung darstellt, sondern dem in der Vergangenheit wie heute eine gewaltige weltpolitische Bedeutung zukommt, hat Basel seit Jahrhunderten eine internationale Verkehrsvermittlung ausgetüft. Diese ehrenvolle Rolle hat auf die baslerischen Eidgenossen etwas vom Geiste der Seefahrernationen vererbt, die wie die alte Hansa ihr weltstürmendes Bekenntnis in die Worte fassten: "Navigare necesse est, vivere non est necesse!" Aus diesem Geiste heraus hat ja wohl auch Basel in neuester Zeit unter gewaltiger Kraftanstrengung den Rheinhafen ausgebaut, um durch ihn eine Verbindung mit dem Meere zu haben, eingedenk des Ausspruches eines berühmten Wirtschaftspolitikers: "Wer nicht teil hat am Meer, ist ausgeschlossen von den guten Dingen dieser Welt." Dieser weltweite Geist hat es vielleicht mit sich gebracht, dass das Wesen des Baslers den andern Eidgenossen manchmal etwas hoch und gelegentlich auch abgeschlossen erscheint. Wir wissen aber, wie sehr gerade an Basel das schöne Schiller-Wort sich erwähnt hat, das dem Kaufmann gewidmet ist: "Güter zu suchen geht er, doch an sein Schiff knüpft das Gute sich an." Denn der Rhein war von jener auch eine Strasse der Kultur, und keine Stadt hat ihre Lage an diesem Kulturstieg mit höherer Würde vertreten als Basel, die berühmte Stadt des Humanismus, der Wissenschaft und der Kunst.

Unter baslerischer Führung hat die Mustermesse sich in den Dienst der schweizerischen Volkswirtschaft gestellt. Ihr Gedanke war, Angebot und Nachfrage von Waren besser zusammenzuführen. Dadurch sollte ein besserer Ausgleich der beiden grossen Marktgruppen geschaffen werden. Damit will man die Anpassung der Produktion an den Markthebedarf fördern, die Nachfrage durch die Produktion wecken. Das Ziel ist wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Förderung des Gefühls der Solidarität aller innerhalb der nationalen Wirtschaft. Wenn durch diese Mittel die Mustermesse vorab der Festigung schweizerischen Volkswirtschaft dienen will, so ist der Weg dazu keineswegs derjenige der ist der Weg dazu keineswegs derjenige der nationalistischen Absperrung. Im Gegenteil, die Mustermesse führt zu besserem Kontakt mit dem Ausland und fördert damit den Anschluss an die Weltwirtschaft. Diese Wirkung ist hocherfreulich, und wir können dem Unternehmen nur von Herzen allen Erfolg wünschen.

Wenn ich von Anpassung der Produktion an den Bedarf und von der Weckung neuen Bedarfs durch die Produktion spreche, so liegt darin, dass die Produktion sich anpassungsfähig, beweglich und fortschrittlich zeige. Dieser Fortschritt wird nur mit einer fortschrittlichen Technik erreichbar sein. Aber gerade diese Idee mag heute bei manchen Unbehagen erwecken. Wird doch der Technik vorgeworfen, dass sie durch das Uebermass der Produktion die Wirtschaft zugrunde gerichtet und die Arbeitslosigkeit herbeigeführt habe. Danach läge das Heil der Wirtschaft im Verzicht auf den technischen

Fortschritt. Diese Betrachtungsweise wird den Tatsachen kaum gerecht. Hat doch ein Jahrhundert lang die Entwicklung der Technik, insbesondere die Industrialisierung, den Verkehr der Völker miteinander fruchtbringender gestaltet. Auch heute wird man sagen können, dass die schon vorhandenen Bedürfnisse der Welt — von neuen nicht zu reden — so gross sind, dass deren Befriedigung auch unter Zuhilfenahme aller technischen Mittel sämtliche Hände beschäftigen könnte. Was diesem Ziel entgegensteht, ist das Chaos der nationalistischen Absperrung, ist das Fehlen einer vernünftigen Arbeitsteilung der Welt. Das Mittel zur Besserung wird eine Ordnung anstelle des Chaos' ein, nicht eine "Planwirtschaft," die gleichbedeutend ist mit Autarkie, sondern ein Verkehr der Staaten auf Grundsäulen neuen Vertrauens.

*Vertrauen in die Ehrlichkeit von Regierungen und Völkern, Herstellung von Treu und Glauben im Verkehr, geordnetes Geldwesen, langfristige Handelsverträge, das werden die Mittel sein zur Schaffung fruchtbarer wirtschaftlicher Auswirkungen, zur Erstrebung einer internationalen Solidarität.*

Sind wir auf dem Wege dazu? Im Moment ist es schwer, diesen Optimismus aufzubringen. Und doch haben sich zumal in den letzten Monaten einzelne Lichtblicke gezeigt, die auf eine Erholung der Weltwirtschaft und auf eine Neuordnung von Handelsbeziehungen hindeuten. Wenn es, wie man hoffen muss, Anfänge der Besserung sind, dann ist der Augenblick für die Schweiz da, mit verdoppelter Anstrengung alles zu tun, um den Anschluss an die Weltwirtschaft zu finden. Der Staat vermag direkt wenig dazu beizutragen. Wenn ihm gelingen ist, den wirtschaftlichen und personellen Apparat im Lande über die Zeit des schärfsten Anpralls durchzuhalten, kann er froh sein. Auch weiterhin wird er in mancher Richtung durch die Förderung der Produktion, durch die Herstellung der Stabilität mittels internationaler Vertragsverhältnisse, mittels der Wahrung gesunder Verhältnisse auf dem Kapitalmarkt und im Geldwesen wertvolle Hilfsdienste leisten. Aber Kraft und Initiative, um das Wirtschaftsleben zu heben, müssen von der Wirtschaft selbst ausgehen. Neben den materiellen Bedingungen müssen auch die geistigen und moralischen vorhanden sein.

Jeder fruchtbare Gedanke, wie derjenige der Mustermesse, liegt in der Richtung schöpferischen Aufbaus, dient der Vermehrung unserer wirtschaftlichen Kräfte und weckt Energie und Selbstvertrauen. Freilich ist es wahr: Wir verfügen nicht über wirtschaftliche Machtmittel wie die Grossstaaten. Wichtige Rohstoffe und Hilfsmaterialien besitzen wir nicht. Auch haben wir trotz Rheinhafen nicht die volle Gunst der Meereslage. Was bei uns bisher geschaffen wurde und was in Zukunft unser Wohlstand erhöhen kann, sind die Menschen. Ihr Geist und ihre verständnisvolle Arbeit müssen die Schweiz wieder hochbringen. Dazu sollen in unserem Staatswesen alle Mittel helfen, nicht zuletzt die politischen Bedingungen.

*Wir werden den wirtschaftlichen Kampf mit dem Ausland nur durch geistige Regsamkeit und selbständiges Denken bestehen.*

Denn wir werden auch in Zukunft unter viel schwieriger gewordenen Voraussetzungen als bisher nur mit Qualitätsarbeit auf allen Gebieten noch siegen können. Zu Qualitätsarbeit braucht es schöpferischen Willen. Dieser gedeiht am besten in der Freiheit. Unsere Staatsform, die die freiheitliche Demokratie, sollte geeignet sein, ihre Bürger nicht nur zu politischer Selbständigkeit zu erziehen, sondern gerade dadurch auch ihre moralische und geistige Kraft für besondere Leistungen im Wirtschaftsleben zu stärken. Auf diesem Glauben beruht die Zukunft unseres kleinen Staates in einer Welt, die den Kleinen so wenig günstig als nur möglich ist. Einer aus der Reihe der geistigen Koryphäen Basels, Jakob Burckhardt, hat das schöne Wort gesprochen: "Der Kleinstaat ist vorhanden, damit ein Fleck auf der Welt sei, wo die grösstmögliche Quote der Staatsangehörigen Bürger im vollen Sinne des Wortes sind." Und weiter: "Der Kleinstaat hat überhaupt nichts als die wirkliche tatsächliche Freiheit, wodurch er die gewaltigen Vorteile des Grossstaates, selbst dessen Macht, ideal völlig aufwiegt."

So wollen wir den Glauben an unsere Bestimmung nicht verlieren. Unsere freiheitliche, föderative Demokratie als die Grundlage für unsere staatliche Existenz zu erhalten, sei unsere oberste Pflicht. Dafür wird unser Volk noch in instande sein, Opfer zu bringen. Auch die Last einer stärkeren militärischen Wehr darf uns dazu nicht zu schwer sein. Der Opferwillen wird dem Aufbau des Ganzen dienen, wenn alle im Volke, die es mit dem Vaterlande gut meinen, sich im Bewusstsein ihrer Verantwortung zur Zusammenarbeit bereit finden. Die Zeit ist derart schwer und ernst, dass sie mahnt, die Gefahren der öffentlichen Gesinnung zu bekämpfen.

Die Verschiedenheiten der Welt- und Lebensauffassung unter den Volksgenossen lassen sich nicht gleichschalten. Jeder möge die seinen bewahren, alle aber sollen zusammenarbeiten, um dem Vaterlande zu dienen.

#### 450 MILES ABOVE THE CLOUDS.

Heston's extended experiments to perfect the Lorenz ultra-short-wave beam for blind approach were only what was to be expected. Every airport at which this system has been installed has provided a problem of its own, and Heston's too narrow path of continuous signal was only a matter of adjustment.

At Zürich, one of the first airports after Berlin to be equipped with the nine-metre apparatus, curious deformations of the beam were expected because of the surrounding mountains. The operators also found that the high-frequency resistance of the ground varied according to the depth at which moisture collected beneath the grass surface. When, after dry weather, the moisture level sank from about 80 cm. to 160 cm., the beam spread longitudinally so that aeroplanes touched down 100 metres farther back. This reduced the vertical clearance over a hangar on the approach side, and a safe minimum had to be fixed. Eventually pilots were always sure of their height at the aerodrome boundary to within 3 metres.

The approach is down a parabolic line of equal signal strength and the power of the nine-metre beam transmitter had to be adjusted because if the parabola was too small the glide-path became too steep. The maximum range of the beam at Zürich is about 45 miles and the most humid atmosphere does not reduce it below 10 miles, which is enough. Generally speaking the nine-metre wave is not very susceptible to weather. Their runway on the beacon line (151° Magnetic) is about 1,400 metres.

Imperial Airways pilots will be flying D.H. 86 as daily to Zürich from April 18 in conjunction with the Swissair service and will be able to watch the Swissair company's navigation methods on this route. The London — Basle section (about 450 miles) is practically the longest non-stop air service in Europe.

Herr Walter Mittelholzer, General Manager of Swissair, has trained his pilots to use only the precise radio-navigation methods which are becoming recognised as the only safe technique for European air transport in the future. He now has nine fully-trained blind-flying, blind-approach pilots (including himself) and three younger pilots in training.

This kind of navigation is little concerned with weather along the route (except the upper winds) and the machines can fly high enough on a 450-mile trip to get the best out of their motors and to ensure passengers a smooth journey.

When upper-wind reports are lacking because of cloud Swissair usually get the report of the Duxford Met. Flight, R.A.F.

For best results an automatic pilot is necessary and is the obvious complement to the ultra-short-wave system of blind approach. During the journey the machine flies itself and the pilot and W/T operator concentrate on the simple geometry of navigation. During the approach the attitude of the machine is no bother to the pilot, for it is left to the automatic pilot until the last half-minute before landing; he can therefore give his whole attention to the visual and aural signals and keep his aeroplane exactly on the parabolic path of constant signal strength.

All the Swissair machines have the Sperry artificial horizon and directional gyro and, by moving a small lever, these can be made to control the Sperry automatic pilot as soon as the aeroplane is steady on its course. Not only does the automatic pilot fly the machine straight and level; it can be put into a turn, climb or descent of any desired degree by turning a little knob which precesses one or other gyro.

On a long flight like Basle — London the climb to 16,000 ft. or 12,000 ft. must be gradual, say 2 metres per sec. (roughly 400 ft. per minute), and as soon as the pilot has steadied on to a course of 275° Magnetic and changed the pitch of his airscrews he hands over to the Sperry and sets it for that rate of climb.

At Montbeliard, having rounded the prohibited area of the Vosges, he turns a knob which causes the Sperry to alter course to 321° M. for Croydon, 411 miles away. Those courses naturally include no correction for drift; this will have been allowed for in advance, and checked by subsequent bearings.

If met. reports show an icing layer the climb is steepened if need be to about 5 or 6 metres per second (about 1,100 ft. per minute), so reducing the air speed and rate of ice-formation, and the time taken to get through the icing layer. In six minutes the machine can climb 2,000 metres, through a temperature lapse of, say, 12° Centigrade.

If the layer is known to be of the kind which forms ice too rapidly the aeroplane has met its match. But that is less likely to happen with a machine which climbs well. Big spinners with oil-soaked leather skins are fitted over the Hamilton pitch controllers and thick oil is put inside which works out along the air screws. The tail-