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"But this spring bonfire is an old custom still existing in other parts of Switzerland, isn't it?"

"Yes. But Zurich is the only city that still celebrates this festival. Otherwise it is observed only in the more rural communities. The organized pageant parades here have been in existence for over one hundred years."

"Well spoken," I said. "You're a one-man information bureau."

"It looks as if the bureau is going to have to move up to the University," Jan said. "I told Prof. that I'd be there, test tubes and all, at two, and I'm already late."

So we paid our bill and drifted down to the crowded street. The Limmat was green as it flowed lazily through the city, and here and there swans, necks arched gracefully, were drifting with the current. The lake was full of boats, and at the quai near Bellevue, a white steamer was all ready to start later on its trip to Rapperswil, the quaint old town at the other end of the lake.

The Bahnhofstrasse was lined with people waiting to see the procession, and balconies and windows of buildings were filled with spectators. I decided to go and look at the parade from the Baur au Lac hotel. The procession was going to swing off the Bahnhofstrasse and turn down the Alpenquai, directly in front of the hotel's lovely garden. It was so crowded everywhere that it seemed as if every person in Zurich was taking the afternoon off to celebrate. That is, everyone but Jan and the professor.

From the distance came the martial sound of band music. People craned to catch a first glimpse of the parade, and conversation buzzed as the wagging tongues of proud parents proclaimed that little Frieda was one of the flower girls on this or that float, and Hans was a drummer boy in one of the Guilds bands. They were all talking at once.

Then the procession started passing by: one float after another, band after band, the shoemaker, barber, carpenter and baker Guilds. And on a float all by himself, like a huge snow man, stood condemned "Boegg," pipe in his mouth, broom in hand. There were floats depicting scenes in the Tessin, with girls dressed in gay costumes and baskets full of flowers on their backs; floats with chalets and cottages surrounded with hyacinths and budding saplings. One of the youths belonging to the bakers' Guild threw freshly baked rolls into the crowd, and the barbers strutted by in high hats and flowing tail-coats. One of them had an immense pair of wooden scissors, and one time he reached into the crowd and picked off the hat of a startled, Brissago-smoking countryman. There was dancing and music and laughter.

Toward six o'clock the crowd started surging to Bellevue-platz. Roman holiday! Old Boegg, on top of a huge pyre, had the centre of the field all to himself. Then bells pealed loud and gay all through the city, and the sonorous chimes echoed in the surrounding hills. The bonfire was lit, and the horsemen started galloping around the leaping flames. You're gone now, Boegg! Can't get away! Flames licked higher and higher. Pop! Off went one of Boegg's arms. His pipe dropped in his mouth, and the broom fell from his hand. Off with his head, off with his head! There he goes! Boegg exploded and blew himself to tatters. So long, old boy, you won't be back for a long time! The crowd cheered and the children jumped up and down, laughing and yelling. Shadows fell long over the field, and as if in mocking salute, the glowing red orb of the sun flung last beams across the lake, then dipped out of sight beyond the green rolling hills.

THE END.

SOME OF THE FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN SWITZERLAND.

April: Camellia and Mimosa Festival at Locarno.

April 3rd-13th: Swiss Industries Fair at Basle.

April 3rd-May 30th: Rembrandt Exhibition in the Art Museum at Berne.

April 9th: Battle of Näfels celebration at Näfels Glarus.

April 11th: Football Match, Hungary vs. Switzerland, at Basle.

April 19th: Spring Festival, Sechseläuten, at Zurich. Concert by the Kolisch Quartet at Vevey.

April 22nd: Peoples' Symphony Concert at the Bernese Orchestra Association at Berne.

April 22nd, 23rd, 25th, 29th and May 2nd: Performances of the drama, "Nicholas von der Flie" by Miss Anna Meyer, at Fribourg.

April 24th: Gala Concert by the Berne Liederkranz at Berne.

April 25th: Memorial service in honour of the 450th Anniversary of the death of the Blessed Nicholas von der Flie, and big general assembly in the afternoon, at Fribourg.

April 25th or May 2nd: Open-air Parliaments (Landsgemeinde) at Stans, Sarnen, Appenzell, Hundwil and Glarus.

May 2nd: Football Match, Germany vs. Switzerland, at Zurich.

May 2nd, 6th and 9th: Horse races at Zurich.

May 2nd-17th: Exhibition "Weekend, Tourism, Sports and Fashions." Aquatic Games, at Zurich.

May 9th-June 6th: Exhibition by Contemporary Artists in Kunsthalle at Berne.

May 16th: Football Match, Ireland vs. Switzerland, at Berne.

May 22nd-30th: Wine Fair of Canton Vaud at Vevey.

May 23rd: Fribourg Cantonal Singing Festival at Romont.

May 27th: Solemn Corpus Christi Procession through the Streets of Fribourg.

June 1st-October 1st: Cathedral Organ Recitals on Thursdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m., and on Sundays and Feast Days at 4 p.m. Throughout the year Organ Recitals on Sundays and Feast Days, at Fribourg.

June 19th-20th: International Rowing Regatta at Lucerne.

June 25th-July 11th: National Trade Show and "Rheinwoche" at Schaffhausen.

June 26th-27th: Flower Festival at Geneva.

June 29th-July 4th: International Congress for Seed Control at Zurich.

July 4th: American Independence Day Celebrations will be observed at the leading resorts.

July 6th-October 12th: Vacation Courses for Modern French at the University of Geneva.

July 9th-12th: Congress of International Skating Association at St. Moritz.

July 10th-11th: Annual Summer Ski Races on Jungfraujoch.

July 11th, 18th and 25th: Open-air William Tell Performances at Interlaken.

Middle of July: Summer Ski Races on Piz Corvatsch, St. Moritz.

July 17th-September 11th inclusive, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from 9 to 11 p.m.: Open-air production of religious play at Einsiedeln.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

THE SWISS ORCHESTRA has vacancies for string and wind instrumentalists. Apply any Thursday evening, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

LADY accustomed Foreign Travel, would chaperone young people to Lucerne, or other parts of Switzerland, or escort party privately in return for expenses. Write E.B., c/o Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, April 10th — Swiss Club Birmingham — Swiss Rally and Annual Dinner and Ball, at the Midland Hotel, Birmingham. (Reception 6.15 p.m., Dinner 6.45 p.m.).

Wednesday, April 14th at 8 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting, followed by a lantern lecture and film on "Exploring in the unknown arctic," by Edward Shackleton, Esq., B.A., F.R.G.S., at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.

Friday, April 16th — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting, preceded by supper at 6.30. The President of the London Group will give an address on "The Swiss Abroad, particularly in England," at the Foyer Suisse, 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.2.

Friday, April 16th, at 8 p.m. — Schweizerbund (Swiss Club) — Annual Dinner and Ball — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. (Extension till 2 a.m.).

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Dimanche 11 Avril. 11h. — M. le Pasteur F. Christol — par échange.

11h. — Ecole du Dimanche.

6h.30. — Culte et Prédication.

7h.30. — Réunion de prières.

Mardi 13 Avril 3h — Au Foyer — Réunion de Couture des Dames.

BAPTEME.

Vivienne Katrika Louise Blaser — fille de Frédéric et de Gilberte Denise née James, de Langnau (Berne) née le 14/1/1937 — le 4/4/37.

SERVICES FUNEBRES.

Frédéric Rodolphe Gerber, de Schangnau (Berne) né le 27/7/1873 décédé le 28/3/37 — dans sa 64e année — le 2/4/37.

Bertha Zurcher née Doppler, de Trüb (Berne) née le 7/4/1861, et Neuweiler (Alsace), décédée le 31/3/37, dans sa 76e année — le 5/4/37.

M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme reçoit à l'église, 70, Endell Street, W.C.2, le mercredi de 11h. à 12h.30 et sur rendez-vous à son domicile, 102, Hornsey Lane, Highgate, N.6. S'adresser à lui (téléphone: ARCHway 1798) pour tous renseignements concernant les instructions religieuses, les mariages et autres actes.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 11. April 1937.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst und Chorgesang.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

Dienstag, den 6. April 1937.

Nachm. 3 Uhr, Nähverein im "Foyer Suisse."

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmandenstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Telephon: Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche.

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