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HIGH-SPEED TRAINS IN SWITZERLAND.

(*"Modern Transport,"* 25.5.40.)

Considerable interest has been aroused in Switzerland due to the successful results of a test of a new high-speed electric train specially designed for inter-urban traffic. In the past two or three years, it may be recalled, the Swiss "Red Arrow" trains, made up of light steel coaches, have gained a remarkable amount of popularity with the travelling public. Hitherto, however, much fast interurban work of this kind has been performed by ordinary electric locomotives of the Ae 3/5 type, having three driving axles and a single-axle truck at each end. Between this and the passenger-carrying motor coach there has been no mean. Now a special light locomotive has made its appearance, this being designed for high speed rather than for heavy haulage, and, at the same time, sparing passengers the rough riding which, all too frequently, attends travel over motor bogies. Switzerland is not naturally a country for high speeds, but, with the introduction of the new type of unit, it will be possible to increase the normal passenger train maximum from 68 to 78 m.p.h. However, it is one thing to achieve very high speeds by running a locomotive or vehicle "all out" on a favourable stretch; more important is a capacity for speed reserve, perhaps on a sinuous and steeply graded route such as abounds in the Alps, for the making up of lost time wherever or howsoever delays may have occurred. Trials of the latest type of light high-speed train took place during April. The motor vehicle is of the double-bogie type, with four-axle drive, and, while it contains no passenger compartment, it deviates from regular locomotive practice far enough to contain a luggage compartment. The same plan was adopted, it may be remembered, for the postwar a.c. multiple-unit electric trains on the Brighton section of the Southern Railway. The experimental unit gave great satisfaction on its trials, and it is, therefore, believed that the future should hold some noteworthy timetable revisions.

LETTER BOX.

W. G. — As you are probably aware subscriptions to foreign publications can only be effected after certain formalities have been complied with. We suggest that you remit to us the English value of a year's subscription and we can probably arrange to send you a copy regularly from this office. In the meantime we have added to this week's S.O. the current copy for your information.

F. K. — We have noted the correct address but regret that the cheque referred to has not been received. If you will ask your bank for the return of it the mystery may be cleared up.

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

The work of the Swiss Benevolent Society has increased so much of late that the Secretary requires a young assistant; at first for a few hours a week only, but after a period of training the situation offered may lead to a responsible permanent position.

Apply to 34, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

NEW SWISS FAMILY NAMES.

The first few numbers of a new publication entitled "Swiss Family Names" (Schweiz. Familien-Namenbuch) contains a number of names which bear testimony to the upheaval in other parts of Europe. It also shows the munificence of some of our communes though in many instances financial considerations have played an important part in granting naturalisation papers. Here are a few examples among the first four letters of the alphabet: Aprahamian, Aschkenazy, Assourou, Bacharach, Balcar, Balkanoff, Balzan, Beklemicheff, Biffantz, Bonadimann, Borkowetz, Bradovka, Brakebusch, Branowitzer, Broznicewic, Brzestowicz, Czechowsky, Czerkus, Choitel, Cholewa, Csuka, Cronimund, Cslovjecsek, Didschun, Dijamatorich, Dilitz, D'Isep, Doctorian, Dolenzky, Dobrachowsky, Drenowatz, Dujany.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, June 4th, at 6.30 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting at Pagani's Restaurant. (See advert.)

Wednesday, June 5th, from 7.40 p.m. — S. M. S. Philatelic Group — at "Swiss House," 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Wednesday, June 12th, at 8 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting — followed by an address by Mr. Paul Grob, at "Swiss House," 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, June 21st, at 7.30 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting — to be followed by a talk on "Current Events," by G. J. Keller, Esq., at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Divine Services.

Dimanche 2 juin 1940: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

11h. Culte M. M. Pradervand.

11h. Ecole du dimanche.

6h. Culte au Foyer Suisse, 15 Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Vendredi 7 juin, dès 7h.30, séance de l'Edelweiss au Foyer Suisse. Films suisses, par M. Tall, de la Légation.

Pour tout ce qui concerne le ministère pastoral, prière de s'adresser à Monsieur le pasteur Marcel Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4. (Téléphone Mountview 5003). Heure de réception à l'église le mercredi de 11-12h.30.

Sonntag, den 2. Juni 1940: in der Schweizerkirche, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

11 Uhr. Gottesdienst.

6 Uhr. Gottesdienst in Französisch im Foyer Suisse.

Dienstag, den 4. Juni, 2 Uhr. Nähverein im Foyer Suisse.

Für Amtshandlungen und alle Anfragen wende man sich an Pfr. Stutz, 42 Haringey Park, N.8. (MOU. 8585).

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