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NEWS FROM PRESTATYN.

On Saturday, 11th January, 1947, I went to Liverpool to attend a film show arranged by our distinguished country-woman Mme G. O. Davidson, as President of the Société littéraire française de Liverpool, at the David Lewis Theatre. Mme Davidson introduced the show in a short address in which she also expressed her thanks for the loan of the films to the Swiss Legation in London and to the French Tourist Office.

The four Swiss films were fairly short and consisted of a film showing Ski troops on manœuvres in the Alps and the way they deal with casualties bringing them safely and rapidly down to the dressing station lower down. The next film was an exhibition of Avalanche rescue troops consisting not only of men but also of highly intelligent dogs, the discipline of which rivals those of the soldiers. A man was buried in the apron of a fallen avalanche and dogs were turned out singly to search for him. Nothing at the surface of the fallen mass gave any indication where the victim was, but the keen scent of these dogs spotted where the man lay and the dog and his keeper dug him out.

The next film was an invitation to spend holidays in Switzerland and showed the delight of bathing, boating, rock-climbing, skiing and gliding. The latter was especially graceful and perhaps some of the younger members of the audience will try it.

The fourth film showed the severity but also the beauty of the winter in one of the side valleys of the Valais and how it affects the life of the people living there and the value of the film was enhanced by the distinction of the commentary by Zermatten.

The last film was a French one, a tour through the maritime Alps in which the valley of the Durance was a prominent feature, but so was the limestone scenery of which there was a great deal often of an almost fantastic kind and one felt inclined to ask the film to stop to get a closer view of these complications, but it kept on moving and one could only get a rapid impression.

Mme Davidson had arranged a tea chiefly for the Swiss and their friends. It was hoped to meet at Troxler's Swiss Café, in Bold Street, but Mr. Troxler died almost suddenly a few weeks ago and the tea was arranged at the Café Royal, Hannover Street. By the passing of Mr. Troxler our Swiss Colony loses a valuable friend who rendered many kindly services and whom it was a pleasure to see. After tea Vice-Consul R. Scheerer dwelt on the cordial relationship existing between France and Switzerland and expressed to Mme Davidson the thanks of the Swiss Colony for providing this chance to meet, specially precious to him as being the first opportunity of attending a representative gathering. The pleasing news came out that the Chancellor, Mr. L. J. Faivre, had obtained the rank of Vice-Consul. We congratulate him and give him our best wishes.

The Swiss Club Liverpool consists of an old guard of men whose number is thinning. As no new male members are likely to come to this area there is a desire that the ladies kept together by the efforts of Mesdames Macquarie and Davidson should join us. A small stream of new arrivals has been allowed to come. But perhaps the whole basis of membership wants broadening. So far it is only talk, who will come forward to organize and to guide?

The Swiss Colony at Prestatyn has practically ceased to exist. The war is over and duty has called some nearer to their work and some have died. The interest of the population in Switzerland is, however, alive. We have in this neighbourhood a Field Club of nearly 300 members, many of whom have been to Switzerland, several this year. A symposium on these holidays was arranged recently. Two ladies spoke on Botany in the Alps. One man gave a resumé of his tour through the Bernese Oberland and the writer explained the structure of Lake Lucerne, all illustrated by lantern slides out of the loan collection of this Swiss Federal Railway's Office, London. A highly successful function appreciated by a large audience. The lady botanists were delighted with the coloured slides of Alpine flowers and slides of scenery illustrating the haunts of plants. The men were equally pleased to show slides to give point to their remarks and all were grateful to the S.F.R. for the loan of these excellent slides.

Perhaps the authorities think that films make a more popular appeal than slides, if so, I hope I have shown that the slide, as a stationary picture, has its uses with some of our best friends and is not to be neglected. It would have been a great advantage if I could have shown a topographical slide of Lake Lucerne.

E.M.



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