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alleged privilege granted centuries ago by the Bishop of Chur, the lakeside residents are allowed to shoot the birds on a day fixed by the local authorities. Early on the morning of the appointed day more than 100 boats each manned by two or three sportsmen assemble off the village of Ermatingen. When a shot has been fired by the police, the whole fleet rows hard towards the island of Reichenau, and the shooting begins and lasts for about half an hour, during which time thousands of birds are killed. The reason given for the shooting is that the duck destroy the fish.

On the appointed day last year when the boats started on their traditional hunt, two aircraft took off in the mist from the island and circled among the duck, causing them to fly away and to escape the shooting. The two airmen, whose intention, it is believed, was to save as many birds as possible, were prosecuted, and as it was impossible to charge them with saving the lives of the birds they were charged with having flown over groups of people at a height below 100ft. The two airmen intend to appeal.

* * *

The Swiss Universities Central Office (27, Scheuchzerstrasse, Zürich), which acts as a liaison office between foreign and Swiss universities for the exchange of teachers and professors, reports that during the 1947-48 school year 39 Swiss candidates obtained posts in English schools and six English teachers were working in Swiss schools. In most cases these students or graduates work as assistant teachers in classes where they give conversation lessons in their

native language for about 12 hours a week. The Universities Central Office also undertakes to supply foreign students and teachers with information on Swiss university and scientific life, and advises Swiss students on the possibilities of studying abroad.

A HAPPY HOME-COMING.

Nothing is more inspiring and pleasant than to see a happy crowd of children; their smiles act as a tonic in a world where there is so little now of gaiety.

This opportunity was given to me, when a batch of youngsters numbering 25 arrived at Victoria Station on Thursday, 11th November. They were Birmingham children, who had returned after a five months health cure at Davos, where they had stayed at the alpine home of our countryman, Mr. Christian Kunzle. Five months ago, they left this country suffering with bronchial troubles, their faces were pale and pinched, and no hearty laughter could be heard.

One could hardly realise, that those children who arrived a fortnight ago, were the same. Hardly had the train stopped when they jumped from the carriages with clear eyes and rosy cheeks, and what a cheer they gave their benefactor who was on the platform to receive them, it must have been a proud moment for Mr. Kunzle.

Laden with chocolates, sweets, toys and souvenirs, they excitedly related some of their experiences and when I asked one of the tiny tots how he liked Switzerland, he said, "you ought to go one day there to see it, it is a lovely country full of kind people" and when I told him that it was my country, he replied, "Why do you stop here?" Returning the compliment I said "because your country is a grand country too." "Thank you Sir," he said, with a twinkle in his eye.

This party was also met by Mr. George Tomlinson, Minister of Education, who recently visited the home at Davos and by Alderman Percy Shurmer, M.P. for Sparkbrook.

It is a great undertaking; I understand that another party is shortly going out to the sunny slopes of this famous alpine resort to gain health and strength.

On leaving Victoria Station to return home, I could still hear the happy laughter of the children whose health has been restored and who, I feel sure, will always keep a warm corner in their little hearts for our country.

ST.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique (LONDON GROUP)

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