

Switzerland in the winter

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SWITZERLAND IN THE WINTER.

"Swiss Winter" by F. S. SMYTHE.

Publishers: A. C. Black Ltd., Price 30/- nett.

It is fortunate that the call of the mountains, like the call of the sea and the wide open spaces, attracts so many gifted men who experience the urge and possess the ability to record their impressions for the instruction and the entertainment of the general public. A considerable number of publications dealing with Switzerland and her mountains have appeared lately and one would almost think that little is left to be said on the subject that has not been said before. But there is reason to be grateful to Mr. Frank S. Smythe for his latest contribution, his "Swiss Winter" for it is unique in its way and brings before the reader, in an attractive and artistic form, the eternal beauty and majesty of the Swiss mountains in an original and admirable manner.

Mr. Smythe is one of the most widely read authors on the subject. An experienced climber and an artist with pen and camera, he has devoted his talent to the production of a volume of exceptional attractiveness. It consists mainly of a collection of superb photographs in quarto size, printed in monotone and in colour, all taken by himself and portraying the Swiss mountain scene as it appears in the winter months. Each photo is accompanied by a short descriptive article, and a well-informed and well-written introduction precedes the pictorial section of the book.

This introduction displays a deep understanding

of the Swiss and their ways. The author recalls the pleasing fact that Switzerland is one of the few countries in Europe that has never been at war with Britain. He pays a tribute to the peaceful, stable and well-ordered atmosphere of the land and the generally happy conditions in which the people live. He traces the development of mountaineering and of the winter sports, describes at some length the origin of the Ski and its adoption by the Swiss, offers practical advice on its use and the most favourable times of the year for the enjoyment of the sport and concludes with technical information on photography, on the most suitable types of camera, lenses and films and how to obtain the best results.

The photographs — fifty-four of them — are magnificent. They convey the magic and glory of the Swiss winter landscape in the pellucid mountain air, with the white peaks and mountain slopes, the frozen streams, the cloud formations, the Snow-covered chalets, churches and village streets and the curious, startling effect of the wind on exposed snow-fields. Most of the photographs are taken from an unconventional angle, with striking results. Of particular beauty are the coloured plates. Some of them, as for instance, those of the Matterhorn for which a telescopic lens was used, are a sheer delight and the author, as a photographer, may well be proud of them.

A beautiful production, a joy to the eye and to the mind!

J.J.F.S.

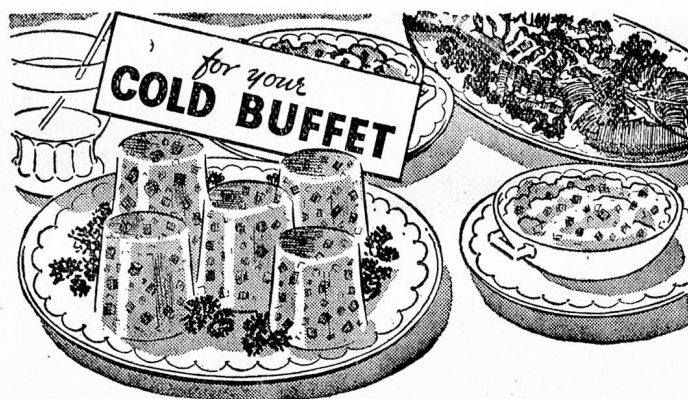
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