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concert hall and numerous cinemas complete the list. A place to which the local student population converge is the Amerika-Haus, which purveys American-English culture in the shape of a vast library, lectures, theatre performances and films, giving free admittance. Of more modest proportions is the British counterpart, "Die Brücke" (the bridge) where admittance is charged: 10 Pfg. for the day, 50 Pfg. for a month, and DM.1.— for a quarter; it is also less favourably situated than Amerika-Haus, which stands on its own at the Ballindamm end of the Lombardbrücke. But for people not so fastidious about culture when on pleasure bent there is the Reeperbahn, the "naughty avenue" in the St. Pauli quarter. There out of the ashes of their pre-war predecessors have risen numerous dance and beer-halls where patrons are entertained nightly with cabaret and other floor shows into the small hours of the morning.

Another attraction is the ambitiously laid out Carl Hagenbeck Zoo, named after the original proprietor and circus king, in the S.E. outskirts of the city. Here too war damage has still to be made good; we found it well stocked but not as compact as its Regent's Park rival. The lions' den is somewhat realistically subterranean, but, oh the odour! A notable feature is the life-size cement-built prehistoric animals placed in realistic postures in and around a pond and among the trees. We admired the clever use of trees for lining paths and creating effect.

To turn to a more serious subject, religion also has made great strides in recovering from the crippling blows dealt it by Nazi ideology before, and by bombs during the war. The St. Michaelskirche has just been re-opened for worship although cracks are still visible in the brickwork. It is the Hamburgers' main sanctuary, known affectionately as "Grosser Mi"; just as St. Paul's in London it now stands isolated on a hill-top in the old town in the midst of bomb-created open spaces, its surging (copper) Archangel above the portal proclaiming peace to mankind, its colonnaded belfry once again open to the public for a bird's eye view of the town. Another proof of militant religion we had when we found that a bible had been placed on the table in our hotel room.

So once again Hamburg's 1,604,600 inhabitants

are challenging the world in their industrious efforts at building for themselves a fine city. Nowhere is a narrow street to be found, but several of its wide avenues still await the road mender's attention. Traffic moves swiftly here, much too swiftly, and moreover, the fast-moving cyclists on the special track alongside the sidewalks (from which it is hardly distinguishable) are a constant menace to the unwary pedestrian. The German being an impatient driver the crossing of streets, especially when one is accustomed to London's snail-like traffic, becomes a veritable nightmare, while the few point-duty policemen seem only too readily inclined to side with the motorist against the hapless pedestrian. During Safety Week we were severely taken to task for walking across the empty street, in between the studded lines, against the hand-operated light-signals.

During our stay we were fortunate in contacting Mr. Spargnapani, who is Chancellor of the Swiss Consulate. From him we learned that there are two Swiss Societies in Hamburg which are the embodiment of the Swiss spirit on German soil: they invariably join forces to organise any patriotic function such as the 1st August, but for the rest of the year they keep very much apart and boast of their robust independence. The colony numbers around 1,500. There is also a well-stocked Swiss bookshop displaying German-Swiss publications on innumerable subjects. The distribution centre of food parcels from home for the Swiss in the Hamburg region immediately after the War was also here.

J. E.

ESCALADE 1950.

Genevoises et Genevois sont invités à prendre part au dîner de l'Escalade qui aura lieu le 13 Décembre au Majorca Spanish Restaurant, 66, Brewer Street, W.1, à 6h.30 pour 7 heures.

Prix du dîner: sh. 12/6, boissons en plus.

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