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AN APPRECIATION.

The following letter has been received by the Swiss Legation and forwarded to us for publication:

November 29th, 1949.

The Swiss Legation.
Montagu Place,
W.1.

“ Dear Sirs,

I have been meaning to write this letter for quite a long time, but I have been so busy, I have hardly had the time.

On September 18th last, my husband and I sailed from Dover, beginning a fortnight's honeymoon. We were going to tour the Swiss and Italian lakes by coach, by means of the Tourways (London) Travel Agency.

I intended this letter as a “ bouquet ” to your wonderful country. Belgium, France and Luxembourg, we travelled through them all, but never again shall I experience the wonderful thrill of entering the Swiss country. The contrast on either side of the borders was astounding.

We stayed at wonderful hotels. The Bellevue at Berne, Suisse and Majestic at Montreux and the Schlüssel at Andermatt.

I agree that a tourist's opinion of any place may not be correct. The first things that struck me were the cleanliness of *everywhere* and the tidiness. Wood-piles by chalets neatly chopped and laid. The clean streets. And the look on people's faces of content and the great friendliness with which they waved to our passing coach.

It may seem a funny little incident to relate, but one evening, at Brunnen, my husband and I went for a little walk before dinner. There were about three or four boys throwing sticks and stones into a horse chestnut tree to knock the spiky cases with their shiny “ conkers ” down. That, of course, is a familiar sight to us, but, on our return, past the same tree, we saw a very *unfamiliar* spectacle. One small boy, humming to himself, was left. And he was tidying up into a neat pile every single stick, stone shell and leaf, into little piles, out of harms way off the path. The tidiness is even bred into the little children.

Perhaps, one day, we will be able to return to Switzerland. *Perhaps* even to come to Winter Sports.

But we *had* to have our honeymoon in Switzerland. Yes, again we shall do the Gotthard pass and the Simplon and cross Devils Bridge and see the sunset on the lake over Vevey. Watch the boats pull away from the lakeside quays at night with their lights glistening on the water, and see the snow capped peaks, sometimes with a little “ cloud collar ” on, when one goes out on to the balcony of one's bedroom in the morning. Again we shall see the marvellous little church in Andermatt, have waiters and waitresses serve so pleasantly and helpfully. I came to Switzerland with little more knowledge of French than counting up to 30 and “ combien ” and *s'il vous plaît*.” But everyone could understand me. It has given me incentive to buy a French book.

I tried to get a book on Switzerland from our local library but the earliest, or latest, I should say, was dated 1927. I was very disappointed. Perhaps you may think it foolish of me to write in this way, but I

just had to write and express my admiration and appreciation to you. We returned with about 45 snaps taken over there. We keep on looking at them and hope to make an album one day of the snaps and post-cards we bought.

We play our “ chalet-musical box ” and remember. And we will remember. And *some* day, return again.

Yours very sincerely,

Sig. Mrs. J.M.D.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Xmas Dinner.

The traditional Xmas Dinner of the City Swiss Club took place on December 20th, 1949, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

Mr. P. A. Moehr, was in the Chair, and there were about eighty members present.

The President extended a hearty welcome to the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, and the members present, wishing them a happy Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

The Swiss Minister too, extended to the President and the members of the City Swiss Club the usual seasonable greetings.

The President and the Committee of the Club were congratulated and thanked for the efficient way in which they had carried out the Annual Banquet which took place on the 2nd of December at the Dorchester Hotel, and which proved to be a complete success.

Mr. Moehr, on behalf of the members, expressed thanks to Mr. Ronus, General Manager of the Dorchester Hotel, for the efficient way his Establishment always looked after the welfare of the Club; he also conveyed his special greetings to Mr. J. Schad, a faithful collaborator of the “ Swiss Observer.”



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For early reservations please get in touch with Mr. Pfister, Manager of the “ ALBEINA,” Klosters-Village, Grisons, Switzerland.

— EVERY COMFORT —