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THANK YOU SWITZERLAND.

(A number of girls from the Whitby Road County Girls' School, Sheffield, recently travelled to Switzerland. The following report has been sent to us, which will, no doubt, interest our readers.)

For many weeks we Secondary Modern School girls, from Sheffield, planned and discussed with great excitement, what was to be our first holiday in Switzerland, but, in reality, everything far exceeded our expectations.

We arrived at Basle at 9 a.m. Friday, 7th April, after a long and tiring journey via Dover-Ostende, through Belgium, Luxembourg and France. The Guide was waiting for us with packed breakfasts. Imagine our delight on reaching the Hotel Alpenrose at Wilderswil, to find a view from our bedroom windows of the glorious Jungfrau, gleaming in the brilliant sunshine, instead of the customary chimneys of our City of Steel.

Many of us, as we travelled through the mountains, or on the lakes, kept a diary, in which we described in detail our experiences, to relate to our parents and school fellows on our return to Sheffield, but you in Switzerland, who live surrounded by beauty and grandeur, do not require to read these details of our exciting and happy visits to Grindelwald, Murren, Thun, Brienz, Interlaken, and the unforgettable trip to Jungfraujoch.

We do wish, however, that you could be with some of us round our firesides with the Swiss Chalet models on the mantelpieces, as we listen to the tinkly tunes played by our music boxes, and hear the tales of our wanderings; of the unfailing kindness and courtesy we met with, of the thrill of spending foreign money, of the pleasure in recognising in the chatter around us a new word learned, of the added joy on Easter morning of the gift of chocolate rabbit and eggs, which we each viewed with delight as we ate our delicious rolls, butter and cherry jam, of the gaiety of the skiers in their attractive costumes, and of the enjoyment of the last night dance in the hotel.

So soon, the former picture of Switzerland, learned in our Geography lessons faded. It was now so real we seemed to belong as friends. Distance ceased to exist and England and Switzerland appeared only as next door neighbours.

Though the rain and clouds blotted out the beauty of the Jungfrau from our view as our kind hostesses from the Wilderswil hotel waved goodbye to us, we each felt it didn't really matter as nothing would prevent us from coming back.

As one English visitor told us, when she enviously remarked on our good fortune in going up to Jungfraujoch, "You have seen what millionaires have travelled far to see." Could we pay you and your lovely country a greater compliment than to say "We shall save to come back again as soon as we are able, and others will come too because they also wish to experience the delight and beauty found in your enchanting country."

Whitby Road County Girls' School,
Sheffield, 9.



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