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*Swiss Were "Serene".*

These early English tourists, like the millions more who were to follow them later, revelled in showing the foreigners they were English and proud of it. The Swiss, they observed, used to watch their proceedings, as they dallied around, with an air of calm serenity.

And they touched on a prophetic note that was soon to become only too true when they remarked: "We were probably looked upon as the advance guard of a troop of English tourists who would, bye and bye, swarm down upon them from Europe and America."

Yet, although the Swiss tourist industry, destined to become the most highly-powerful in the world, was at that stage only in its infancy, they found that the Swiss were far from insular.

On their way down from the excursion to the Rigi they saw something that "well tickled the fancy of those who noticed it". It was an immense sign outside a picturesque and otherwise unspoilt mountain chalet proclaiming in English to all and sundry that "GRUB IS BALM".

The tour was a huge success and was a topic of conversation for years. So successful was it, in fact, that people began to call the Manchester Touring Club the "Matrimonial Bureau".

The writer of the tour's log observed: "The title was fully justified. Can it be denied that opportunities for arriving at a closer intimacy with others of the party did not occur daily? And were not many of the 'unattached' ones on the lookout for whatever contingencies might occur? And as a result was not the Tour a success in many other ways? Oh yes."

**EDITOR'S POST-BAG.**

63, Cornwall Road,  
Cheam, Surrey.  
14th, July 1951.

To the Editor,  
Swiss Observer,  
London, E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

**Death Traps in Switzerland.**

Mr. Berenger has all my sympathy but I cannot understand why he did not adopt the obvious course of bringing an action for damages against the Hotel Proprietor whom he accuses of negligence. (*We understand that a claim has been made and duly met.* Ed.)

His sweeping statements and his references to "Death traps", "deplorable state of affairs", "unsatisfactory situation" and to the "good many English visitors who had suffered similar accidents" would make it appear that the Swiss Hotels are most dangerous places to visit. I wonder what the Swiss Hotels Association have to say if Mr. Berenger's letter is brought to their notice.

Highly polished floors can, of course, be a source of danger anywhere. I myself, last winter, slipped on a by no means flimsy rug in a bedroom and suffered from bruising and shock. When later I thought the accident over I came to the conclusion that I alone was to blame, I should have been more careful.

Anyway, I wish Mr. Berenger a speedy and complete recovery.

Yours faithfully,

J. SCHAD.

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