

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1952)
Heft: 1187

Rubrik: Roundabout Switzerland

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 13.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

ROUNDABOUT **SWITZERLAND** by Derek Meakin

With its musical horn sending a joyful melody echoing from side to side of the valley of the Rabiosa, the distinctive yellow postbus pulled to a halt in the little mountain hamlet of Malix, where 15 British children were enjoying a six-months rest cure.

All of them, asthma sufferers from Manchester and Liverpool, were having a long holiday in the pure Alpine air, 4,000 feet above the sea, as guests of the Swiss people. And they had been told that when they returned home all trace of their illness would be gone for ever.

To reach the large wooden chalet where the children were living I had to climb a long steep icy path leading from the hamlet's one street.

Long before I got there I could hear gay peals of laughter, and high above me I could see a group of merry youngsters gambolling in the first snow of the winter.

The man who came to greet me was called Arnold Lehner, a former teacher who had left his big-town school to take over the 36-bed Kinderheim. Now he likes nothing better than playing nursery rhymes on his tiny flute and teaching pale city children how to be happy.

He showed me round the neat all-electric chalet with its rows of brightly-polished showers and huge washing machines with fatherly pride. He pointed out the stack of sawn-off skis and said: "After being here two or three weeks most of the poor mites can go out skiing on their own and think they are in paradise."

Well, what accommodation does this "paradise" have to offer? I looked into one dormitory with the word "Sonneck" (sunny corner) carved on the door and saw trim wooden beds covered with billowy red-and-white *duvets*. It had been taken over by five of the English boys.

The "Röselgarten" (rose garden) bedroom was for a handful of pathetic German boys who had been sent there from a Displaced Persons camp in Stuttgart. They were refugees from Eastern Germany and spoke Russian as easily as their native tongue.

English girls were in the "Juhee" (hooray) and "Bergguckerli" (Belle Vue) rooms, while three English boys and one Swiss shared the bedroom called "Kleeblatt" (shamrock).

As the children ran to wash before lunch the enthusiastic Mr. Lehner took me round his well-equipped workshop used for on-the-spot repairs, and then through the brightly-decorated infants' room with its tiny tables and chairs, which had been hand-

made at the chalet, and dolls, fashioned out of old socks, lying in pretty wicker cradles.

But despite all the playthings the strict timetable of the Kinderheim insists that the children spend part of each day doing some serious studying. I poked my head through the schoolroom door just as the clock was striking noon to see a solitary pupil — a ten-year-old Swiss boy — pouring over his books. While the other children were revelling in snow fights he had been kept in because he had been slow in completing his lesson.

Teacher for the English children was 27-year-old Claire Müller. After breakfast every day she took them for two hours lessons and then packed them off outside to look after themselves. It was not until five o'clock that they were back in the classroom for another hour's studying, and then after supper they had games for an hour before going to bed.

I flicked through the pages of one of the school-books and then asked John Glascott, a 13-year-old from Kirkdale, Liverpool, whether he had learned anything in his first few weeks in Switzerland.

"Not much", he admitted, and then added excitedly: "But I can recognise the tracks of rabbits and foxes and bambis in the snow. And the squirrels

ALLTRANSPORT & STORAGE LTD.

Telegrams :
Alltrans, London

Telephone :
CENTral 5200 (20 Lines)

Head Office :

ALLTRANSPORT BUILDING
 Little Trinity Lane
 LONDON E.C. 4

Official Agents for British Railways (Ferry Boat Routes) and all their International Passenger Services.

Official Passenger Agents for all Principal Steamship Companies - Official Freight & Passenger Agents for all Air Lines.



Our Cartage and Receiving Depot in North London

are so tame they let me feed them with nuts instead of running away."

He also told me he could speak a few sentences of Swiss-German, and knew a little French. But his newly-acquired knowledge was not a product of the classroom. He had picked it up from his new French and Swiss friends, and was teaching them English in return. In such spontaneous and friendly way the children were easily demolishing the language barriers.

The children I met were not the first to go to Malix. The scheme was started two years ago when an initial group of 12 London schoolchildren were invited there by the "Schweizerisches Arbeiter Hilfswerk". Arrangements from the British end were made by the Swiss Economic Council, whose gifts since the end of the war have done so much to strengthen Anglo-Swiss relations.

The stay in Malix has really worked wonders for these children. It has brought them health, and many of them found their attacks ceased as soon as they arrived in the pure, dust-free mountain air. It has also wrought a complete change in their mental outlook on life, for the six months they spend amid such glorious mountain scenery makes a great impression on their young minds.

And the children who go to Malix really appreciate all that is done for them. I never heard of one who was really homesick. Their long holiday has created such a profound impression that it will remain a priceless memory for the rest of their lives.

Next — Carrot cake at 8,735 feet

Let **MAGGI**
make your
MEAT go
further!



Now-a-days you fairly skin the bones for every scrap of meat! Such scraps can be the making of delightful delicacies. Serve up left-overs of fish, flesh or fowl in Aspic—and you've made luxury out of scarcity! It's so quick, easy and inexpensive with Maggi's Aspic Jelly. It offers many ways of converting left-overs and odd scraps into nourishing Aspic dishes—as supplements to the main course. Price 2/- per 2 oz. tin.

MAGGI'S *Aspic Jelly*

THE NESTLÉ COMPANY LIMITED · HAYES · MIDDLESEX

CVS-47A



The responsibility of timing the Olympic Games is the biggest assignment that can be given to a precision watch. 53 nations, through their delegates, have entrusted to Omega the task of timing the Olympics at Helsinki.

OMEGA
OFFICIAL OLYMPIC TIMERS
IN
HELSINKI
IN 1952

20 YEARS OMEGA OLYMPIC TIMING

Write to The Omega Watch Company (England) Ltd., 26-30, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.1, for list of authorised jewellers whose guarantees alone are recognised.