

**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:** 1182

**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>**

# ROUNDAABOUT SWITZERLAND

by Derek Meakin

Zurich may be a good centre for excursions, but it is not a holiday town. On my latest visit I stayed a day and was glad to get away.

To reach the station I have to take an early-morning walk along the Limmatquai and stop for a moment by the Wasserkirche, one of Zurich's many churches, outside which a larger-than-life statue of Zwingli appears to be looking with stern approval on the bustling, business-like crowd.

The austerity that seems to pervade the city has also affected the weather. As the train leaves for Coire thick fog blankets the countryside, cutting off all sign of the lake — the sixth largest in Switzerland — the bathing beaches and castles.

It is not until an hour later that the fog begins to clear. First the shadowy outline of a mountain can be seen, a dark mass silhouetted against the dull grey clouds of mist.

The sun makes valiant attempts to pierce the semi-darkness, but remains a faint yellow disc hovering in the sky, and the land bordering the railroad looks cold and damp and uninviting.

Suddenly we find we are almost surrounded by mountains, travelling in a narrow valley that is hemmed in by big frowning slopes, mantled by mists that hide their peaks from view. Then, sweeping round a bend in the line, the atmosphere clears so surprisingly quickly that there are gasps of amazement as passengers look on white summits probing a pale blue sky.



FAMOUS FOR  
ITS CUISINE  
PRIMUS BON — Prop.

... AND ANOTHER "BON" SERVICE  
for the best food  
in ZURICH

THE MAIN STATION & AIRLINES  
TERMINAL RESTAURANT

By now we are in the Rhine Valley, passing through villages with their solidly-built stone houses and narrow streets. The people in this region seem to have passion for vivid colouring, for here are homes painted violet, leaf green and pink, crowded round a simple stone church with its square tower surmounted by a golden cupola. The sun is with us again, and happy at being once more master of the scene, lights up the distant snowy peaks with a crimson glow.

At Landquart we leave the efficient Swiss Federal Railways and take our seats in one of the spotless green coaches of the equally efficient Raetian Railways, whose narrow-gauge electric track stretches over 245 miles of valleys that furrow the rugged Canton of the Grisons.

This privately-owned railway can quite legitimately claim to cover the Roof of Europe, for at times it is humming through rock tunnels and over giant viaducts at an altitude of nearly 6,000 feet — which is 1,500 feet higher than Ben Nevis, Britain's biggest peak.

With Davos 31 miles away and another 3,000 feet

## 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 expert Staff pack and ship valuable Furs  
to all parts of the World

45x8

# 77th FÊTE SUISSE

CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER

THURSDAY, JUNE 12th, 6 to 10 p.m. (DOORS OPEN AT 5 P.M.)

Under the Presidency of

*Monsieur HENRY de TORRENTE, Ministre de Suisse.*

**LA CHANSON DU RHONE**

SWISS MALE CHOIR - CORALE UNIONE TICINESE - SWISS ACCORDION CLUB

ADMISSION (Tax included) : 3/6 (unreserved)

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

(All East Balcony Seats and parts of North and South Balconies reserved at 5/- each, inc. Admission and Tax)

Tickets obtainable IN ADVANCE from the Swiss Societies and Churches, or from the FETE SUISSE COMMITTEE, c/o 174, Wool Exchange, Coleman Street, E.C.2., or at the BOX OFFICE.

(Send stamped addressed envelope with remittance).

higher, the powerful little train starts to climb from the moment it leaves Landquart. As it cuts its way into the Prätigau valley, passing under towering cliffs, the track is lined by stout wooden fences as a protection against avalanches, a reminder of the dreadful dangers that every winter face these hardy mountain people.

Soon we are up above the snow-line and the scene changes to one of fairy-like grandeur. This, then, is the snow that melts into gold for the people of Klosters and Davos and the other winter sports resorts further on.

And here are the trappings that go with it — a horse-drawn sledge carrying a load of timber, a little girl on skis expertly flashing down a mountain path on her way to school, her satchel hanging from her shoulders, three postal sledges painted the distinctive yellow of the Swiss postal administration drawn up on the platform of a country station, and, of course, plenty of those nut-brown chalets that always seem to be dotting the snow slopes.

The first sight of Davos, however, is enough to make anyone cry: "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!" In the gathering dusk the cloudless sky is swiftly turning from blue to violet. Leaving the thick forest of larch and pine the train skirts the Davos lake, in whose waters can be seen the reflection of a semi-circle of white-topped peaks. And from the houses strung along the valley a multitude of orange-coloured lights twinkle gaily.

\* \* \*

Next — Davos for Sports — and spies!

## ANNUAL SWISS SPORTS AND GARDEN PARTY

SATURDAY, 21st JUNE, 1952

at

THE POLYTECHNIC STADIUM, CHISWICK  
from 2.15 to 7 p.m.

The programme includes

ATHLETIC EVENTS  
BOYS' and GIRLS' RACES  
MIXED RACES  
SPECIAL EVENTS

and musical entertainment by the Swiss Accordion Club.

Prizes will be given to the winners and also to the winners of a competition organised by the Swiss Rifle Association.

Admission free, no tickets required.

Covered Stand in case of rain.

Refreshments available.

Programmes with full details will be on sale on the Grounds.

How to reach the Polytechnic Stadium, Chiswick:

By Train from Waterloo to Chiswick S.R. Station thence a few minutes walk.

By Underground District Line to Turnham Green Station, thence by No. 55 bus to Chiswick S.R. Station.

By Bus No. 71 from Hammersmith to Polytechnic Sports Ground.