

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: - (1953)
Heft: 1211

Artikel: Modern Switzerland
Autor: J.J.F.S.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693547>

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MODERN SWITZERLAND.

In our issue of the 19th December 1952, we reviewed the English version of a work published in Zurich, to which the translators have given the title "Switzerland-Life and activity".

We understand that this publication has had a considerable success. The President of Switzerland is quoted as having written: "This book is so comprehensive and informative that it should be read by everybody". It is certainly a most interesting and attractive little volume.

The publishing of the English translation has now been taken over by George Allen and Unwin Ltd., and the book is on sale in this country at 15/- net. The text remains unchanged, except that the sequence of the chapters has been re-arranged. There are 165 illustrations and coloured plates, most pleasing and tasteful.

To the French and English versions of the original German text a Spanish edition has been added so that a world-wide circulation is ensured.

We can do no better than re-print our first review:

To the already extensive list of books on Switzerland, written or translated for the English-speaking public, a new publication has been added. Let us hasten to say that this is no unworthy addition.

The newcomer is a synopsis to which a number of Swiss writers, mostly prominent professional men, have contributed, each being an authority on his particular subject. Originally written in German, the work was planned and compiled by Werner Reist, edited by Dr. E. Schürch and published by Verlag Mensch und Arbeit, Zurich, price Swiss francs 9.60 paper-bound or 12.60 cloth-bound. The German title is *Die Schweiz-Arbeit und Leben*, the French translation is entitled *La Suisse, sa vie et son effort* and the English version SWITZERLAND, LIFE AND ACTIVITY. It is with the latter that we are here concerned.

The purpose and scope of the book is to give an overall picture of modern Switzerland, its historical background, its economy, industry, and trade, the peculiarity of its system of government and its position in the international set-up. Much ground is covered, every branch of industry is studied, education and culture, traffic communications and catering, all these find a place in the general survey. There is a short article — too short — on the Swiss army by Dr. Kurz and one by René Bovey on the International Red Cross. Even the recipes for "Berner Rösti" and "Fondue" are included.

One quarter of the volume — it runs to 200 pages — is taken up by an admirable historical survey contributed by Dr. E. Schürch. It is one of the finest digests of Swiss history we have ever come across. Equally well-written and most interesting is Prof. A. Lätt's study "Swiss Pioneers Abroad".

On the dust-cover appears the caption "What can the miracle of Switzerland mean to you?" This question Mr. Reist's team of experts attempts to answer. It does so with skill and competence and with a self-assurance which, without being aggressive or boastful, springs from a sober, national assessment of

the existing facts, and a clear insight into their significance and meaning.

The book is well printed, attractively bound and profusely illustrated. Some of the coloured plates are a delight to the eye. It is a fine production, exclusively Swiss, and affording evidence of the fact that the Swiss people can be their own and their best publicity agents.

J.J.F.S.

HYMNE A LA TERRE.

PIERRE GIRAD.

*Terre de mon pays, nourrie par la lumière,
sourdement travaillée par les quatre saisons,
ô terre de la vigne, terre du blé, terre
vivante comme un corps autour de nos maisons!*

*Tous les souffles du ciel, toutes les énergies,
les rayons ténébreux, les secrètes vertus,
se mêlent dans ton sein pour fomentier la vie,
qui montera plus tard le long des ceps feuillus.*

*Terre qui reprendras notre chair incertaine,
nos désirs, nos regrets, nos pleurs et nos espoirs,
pour que, du lac au mont, de la plaine à la plaine,
la moisson du matin salue celle du soir.*

*Terre, nous sommes nés de ta force tranquille,
un peu de ton destin séjourne en notre coeur,
tes lois règlent nos lois jusqu'en l'ombre des villes,
par la mort, par l'amour, par le temps et les fleurs.*

*O toi que nous aimons dans les yeux de nos femmes,
dans le torsos dorés qui travaillent aux champs.
tu nous donnes le vin fait de rêve et de flamme,
ô terre de nos morts, terre de nos enfants.*

*O morts qui reposez tout autour de l'église,
tandis que le clocher promène chaque jour
l'ombre de l'heure bleue, l'ombre de l'heure grise,
sachez que nous prenons la tâche à notre tour.*

*Notre pays, c'est vous qui nous l'avez donné
avec sa vigne abrupte auprès de l'eau tranquille,
et nous le léguerons à nos fils, à nos filles,
pour que demain s'ajoute à son noble passé.*

Kettners Restaurant has no music and is not
luxurious . . . but the Food and Wine are
superb.

Roast Surrey
Capon,
Roast Aylesbury
Duckling
served every day

