

**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:** - (1955)  
**Heft:** 1249

**Artikel:** Ascending the Matterhorn  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-691219>

### **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:** 29.03.2026

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

well-being almost every-where tends to breed enhanced love of political freedom? Is it too cynical to look upon the aspiration towards more liberty as the by-product of a rising standard of living?

If that is at least partly so, does it not shed a ray of light on the present situation? The Russian masses, be it under Czarism or under Communism, have never known any appreciable measure either of material welfare or of political freedom. May they not expect one from the other? And may we not hope that, as they become less indigent, they will become less subservient? And as they become more impatient of police rule and of censorship, may they not grow more sceptical about the myths on which their ignorance has heretofore been fed about the West, about its exploitation of the masses, about capitalism, and about its necessarily aggressive imperialism?

All this may be unwarranted optimism, the poisoned fruit of the very kind of wishful thinking which I have done my best to guard against and to repress in this paper as elsewhere. But even if it be deemed unlikely, it seems to me that the policy of the West should not dismiss it as necessarily untrue. Nothing is to be gained by acting as if the masters of the East were omniscient in declaring war to be inevitable and everything would assuredly be lost if we let ourselves be persuaded that they were as infallible as they are dogmatic.

Those of us who were privileged to enjoy the friendship of Lord David Davies and to share his hopes like to believe that he is with us still. We feel that the outcome of the second World War, the rise of militant and triumphant Communism, and the unsound peace which are its most tragic consequences would have led him to discard, or at least adjourn, certain of the immediate reforms he had advocated with most warmth.

And we have it on the authority of his own written word that "war cannot be eliminated unless it is possible to secure international justice". It is difficult, more difficult perhaps than Lord Davies' admirable intellectual integrity ever suspected, it is in fact impossible to define justice in terms that command the unqualified adhesion of all honest and critical minds. But it is still no less difficult and indeed just as impossible to set up and maintain peace between nations without a general agreement about certain minimum standards of human decency.

Of these standards, the most fundamental is that according to which civilized nations cannot and should not permanently be denied the political régime and the territorial frontiers of their considered and deliberate free choice. That right, which is at the bottom of true democracy within states and which inspires the current liberal evolution of traditional colonialism, is not, be it noted, contested in theory by the leaders of contemporary Communism. But it has no place whatever in the policies practiced by the Soviet Union.

Our supreme hope for the future is that the monstrous dictatorial and inhuman internal colonialism which prevails East of the Iron Curtain to-day may soon, or at least in time, be washed away by the rising tide of human freedom. We see no other political road to the ultimate salvation of mankind.

THE END.

## ASCENDING THE MATTERHORN.

An N.S.H. Talk.

The members and friends of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and the Anglo-Swiss Society had the delightful experience on Monday the 18th of April, to accompany one of the most devoted climbers of the Matterhorn through all the stages of an ascent and descent of this august mountain — with the aid of a quite unique collection of coloured slides. The conferencier was Dr. Joseph Zihler, Catholic pater, who is at present vicarising for Father Lanfranchi at St. Ann's Church, Westminster. Every summer Dr. Zihler returns to Schwarzsee above Zermatt as holiday chaplain at the Chapel of Schwarzsee and the hotel close by. And this gives him an opportunity of climbing the Matterhorn again and again in order not only to admire the majesty of the Alps around but also to obtain snapshots of the most incredibly varied colour changes and moods of the Matterhorn and the grandiose surroundings. Dr. Zihler accompanies the showing of these wonderful slides with a drily humorous commentary which was also much appreciated. The Union Ticinese has arranged for a repeat showing of the slides by Dr. Zihler on May 15th.

Dr. E.

## PYE INDUSTRIAL AND UNDERWATER TELEVISION SALES DRIVE IN EUROPE.

Pye Limited are to hold a series of demonstrations of industrial and underwater television at the Kongresshaus in Zürich on the 11th., 12th and 13. May. Prominent businessmen from all over Europe have been invited to attend these demonstrations, which are designed to show how the technique of television can be applied to assist production in modern industry. A feature of these demonstrations will be Pye's new underwater television equipment in operation in the Lake of Zurich — the same type of equipment as that now being used by the British Navy. Examples of Pye's standard range of television transmission equipment will also be on show.

Enquiries to: J. M. Gorst, Pye Ltd., P.O. Box 49, Cambridge. Telephone No. Cambridge 56411.

## THE FLORAL HOUSE

(J. SCHEUERMEIER)

23, MUSEUM STREET, W.C.1.

Tel.: MUSEum 8111

*Flowers for all occasions*

Receptions - Banquets - Bouquets

Sprays - Trade Shows

Contracts for

Hotels and Restaurants

(Florist for 40 years to Frascati's of London, now closed)