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## GLIMPSES OF THE HOMELAND.

The series of the SWISS HOMELAND BOOKS issued by the enterprising Publishing House PAUL HAUPT, BERNE, has recently been enriched through the addition of two volumes with an English text and adorned by the well-chosen, beautiful illustrations that form so pleasing a feature of these publications.

Like a previous book in an English translation — Hans Itten's description of the Alpine Gardens on the Schynige Platte — the present two volumes take the reader to the Bernese Oberland. They are entitled:—

LAUTERBRUNNEN, WENGEN, MURREN, by Hans Michel, and INTERLAKEN, by Hans Spreng.

The books are descriptive, informative and historical. The authors, specialists of considerable scholarship, have drawn much of their knowledge from the study of century-old chronicles and charters preserved in the cantonal Public Records. From their researches into these documents they have found it possible to reconstruct a fascinating picture of the social conditions of the Bernese highlanders as far back as the feudal times of the 12th century. Much of the history of Interlaken, for instance, is linked with the famous Augustine monastery, mention of which is found in a charter dated 1133. There are traces of a yet earlier culture and numerous land and river names point to a Celtic-Roman origin. As Sir Arnold Lunn, in his introduction to H. Michel's book rightly says "Switzerland is something more than a mere 'Playground of Europe' and the historical and cultural associations of the Alps are not the least of their charm."

The illustrations which form the major part of each book are delightful and selected with care. They offer a panorama of picturesque landscapes, magnificent views of mountains, lakes and waterfalls, scenes from the daily life of the native population at work and at play, churches, chalets, inns, homesteads, cowmen and their cattle, chamois hunters, guides, skiers, young women in their national costumes, altogether a most interesting collection.

The translation of the original German text into English is again very ably done by Elaine Rubli.

These Homeland books, attractive and interesting as they are, deserve to be widely known. Their value, we think, would be enhanced if a simple map were provided so as to give the reader who is not familiar with the district an idea of its geographical position.

J.J.F.S.

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## CONCERT NEWS.

It is not often that we have the pleasure of welcoming Swiss artists in this country, and unfortunately when they come, invariably their compatriots seem to ignore them, which is a great pity, as well as a disappointment to the visiting artists.

True enough there are plenty of recitals throughout the year in the various London concert halls, many given by world wide known personalities, and one finds hardly time to attend only a fraction of them; but let it be known, that our country possesses quite an estimable group of young and promising artists, who, if they do not all belong to the "top notchers" are nevertheless worth while listening to.

Amongst them is Rudolph am Bach, a young pianist from Zurich, who is giving a piano recital on Tuesday, October 23rd, at Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W.1 (see advertisement). He is of course no stranger to us, having appeared three years ago at Wigmore Hall when he met with much success.

Rudolf am Bach was born in Zurich, the son of a well-known Swiss conductor. As a child he received lessons from his father, and then studied with Professor Emil Frey in Zurich before entering the conservatory of that town in 1936. In 1939, he came to London to study with Professor Frederic Lamond, returning to Switzerland in 1940, when he won the first prize in the national Swiss music competition at Geneva.

This young artist is now well-known in Switzerland, Germany, Austria and France, where he has made extensive concert tours, and he has participated regularly at the International Music Festival in

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Lucerne. In 1953, he appeared with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under Rafael Kubelik when this orchestra visited Switzerland, and he was the soloist at the first performance of Hindemith's "Theme with four variations for piano and string orchestra", conducted by the composer in Zurich.

\* \* \* \* \*

We sincerely invite our readers not to miss the recital of our compatriot, and we feel sure they will appreciate listening to a programme which promises well.

#### UNIONE TICINESE TEA DANCE.

On Sunday, 23rd September, 1956, the Unione Ticinese again held a Tea Dance at the Dorchester. The proceedings started at 4.30 p.m. with an excellent tea, and I was told that the delicious pastry was made under the able skill of one of our compatriots. The exquisite flower arrangements, together with the sparkle of the chandeliers enhanced the elegant atmosphere. The glittering mirrors, I am sure, had not for so long a time reflected so many charming faces.

Excellent music was provided by Harry Vardon and his band, and soon after tea Mr. P. Jacomelli, President of the Society, addressed the gathering, over 300 members and friends being present. He extended a warm welcome and read a telegram from Mr. A. Albertini, who at present is in Switzerland, wishing a very happy time and great success, which, indeed, it was.

Soon dancing started to the lively strains of the band, and Frederick Williams, accompanied at the piano, sang arias in Italian, followed by English hit songs. He was enthusiastically applauded and later the audience called for several encores, which were readily given.

Billy Bourne and Eve Adams gave excellent performances of Ballroom Dancing to the delight of all present.

Next some lucky fellow, whose entrance ticket bore the humble number 4, won two lovely contemporary lamp-shades.

After the Cabaret, dancing restarted with increasing animation, soft drinks, wines and spirits appeared on the tables.

Thus time went, oh! so quickly, and to the strains of "God save the Queen", a very happy and enjoyable evening came to a close at 11 p.m.

L.M.

#### Nouvelle Société Helvétique (LONDON GROUP)

Monday, 22nd October, 1956.

at 7 p.m.

a talk in German with coloured slides on the Swiss Scientific Expedition to Mount Ararat by PROF. Dr. EMIL EGLI (Zürich)

at the

Schweizerbund, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Dinner with the lecturer at 6 p.m.



#### LA SUISSE CONNAIT LA PLUS GRANDE CATASTROPHE DE RECOLTE DEPUIS 1910.

L'agriculture suisse passe une année qui a vu les catastrophes se suivre. Après les méfaits du gel hivernal, la grêle a détruit des cultures et seulement une courte période de beau temps permit d'espérer en une bonne récolte. Mais la pluie et les orages ont détruit les dernières espérances. Le blé se trouve envahi des herbes et un grand nombre de gerbes est atteint de la germinaison. Notre photo montre un champ de blé dévasté près d'Yverdon, on reconnaît du blé germiné qui ne peut plus servir à la panification.

#### SWISSAIR ORDERS THIRD DC-8.

Swissair has ordered a third Douglas DC-8 jet airliner for delivery in 1961. Two aircraft of this type were ordered early this year for delivery in the first half of 1960.

The latest order has been placed to cater for the expected future increase in air traffic, notably on the North Atlantic.

Furthermore, in view of its investment programme, the Company will shortly offer for subscription a debenture loan to the amount of 30 million Swiss francs (£2.5 million), bearing 3½ per cent interest.

#### OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, October 26th, 1956.

We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: A. Spargnapani, Washington, U.S.A., E. A. Gotz, Mrs. L. Moehr, W. Preiswerk, Basle, H. Monney, Swiss Club, Manchester, O. Wüest, B. Frick, J. Keller, M. A. Mauch-Modica.