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NOSTALGIC HOLIDAYS IN THE HOME COUNTRY.

How often we revert in our dreams and innermost thoughts to the happy days of our youth in mother's care, in the far-away beloved home-town, even on the hard school bench, but more so on our holidays away from school, at first maybe with some relations in the country-side, later perhaps on walking tours youth-hostelling or in some quiet mountain-resort with Mum and Dad and sister Nelly! How often we wish we could go back to one or other of those familiar places and recapture at least a little bit of the delight of those innocent days of first contacts with nature and landscapes and people! The gratification of this nostalgic yearning is not only a question of money, not just a thing to be bought by those of us who are lucky enough to go holidaying in Switzerland from time to time. It is much more a question of finding the right atmosphere and contentment in modest surroundings and a friendly welcome from kind-hearted people related to you, if not by family ties, then at least by the joint appreciation of the good things in life given to all God's creatures with eyes to see and simple hearts to feel. It is not a question of just going back to where we spent some happy days in the distant past. The relations we used to visit on our childhood holidays are not the same, or may not be there any more; erstwhile friends have long since departed or become so hardened by life and success that there is no pleasure in meeting them. Or we may ourselves have changed too much to respond to what was once our paradise of discovery.

Where and how I found a little replica of that paradise in the heart of Switzerland at a minimum of expense I will tell you right away at the risk of finding it crowded out by old friends of our Colony with their families next time I hope to return to it. It is at Dürrenesch, a small village on the ridge between Teufenthal and the Hallwilersee near Lenzburg and Aarau, less than an hour's railway journey from Zürich, Basel, Berne and Lucerne, in the midst of our Tiefland, but surrounded by a succession of lovely wooded hills with views in all directions to the Jura and the snow-clad alpine massive of central Switzerland. And the place to go there is the Auslandschweizer "Home", established for our use by a warm-hearted former Auslandschweizer who, having made good at home, has not forgotten the nostalgic yearnings far from the home-land, strongest perhaps in the heart of those who can least afford to gratify them and introduce their families to what is best in the home-country.

This generous countryman of ours, who wishes to remain anonymous, was lucky enough to inherit a number of buildings and properties in his home village, and imaginative enough to see in this the possibility of giving the Swiss abroad an ideal pied-à-terre in Switzerland, not only for holidays, but also for prolonged stays while looking around to resettle at home and for sending their children to school in Switzerland. It is a magnificent vision realised quietly and simply by the joy of creating something worth-while on the part of the donor and his equally high-minded spouse, without any beating of the drums or endless palaver with societies and authorities and committees.

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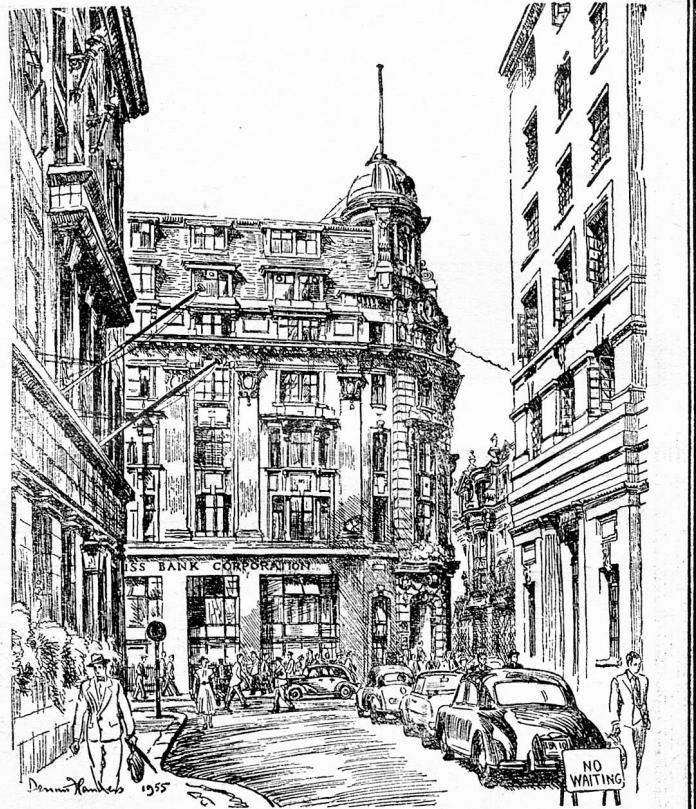
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It is not a hotel, because it is not run for profit. It is not charity because the visitor is expected to pay for the cost of his keep, say five francs a day, and lend a helping hand here and there in the house or garden or in hay-making or bringing in other crops, etc. He can choose to do what he likes best, and how much of it, or nothing at all if he does not feel like it or is not well. Nobody will mind so long as the sense of a peaceful friendly community is not disturbed. The meals are simple, but excellently cooked by a professional chef. They are served up by visitors in turn.

There is a comfortable lounge with radio and TV, various other common rooms and a play-room for children. There are single and double bedrooms and some dormitories for over-spills. But, most important, there is a large farm with out-buildings, domestic animals of all sorts, fields and woods where visitors may try their hand at whatever tickles their fancy. They are made welcome everywhere. You feel quite at home, or rather as if you were your uncle's favourite guest down on the farm. The fact that it costs so little is purely incidental, however welcome to most of us with families of a respectable size. The atmosphere and spirit of friendliness are "unpayable", the little work you are allowed to do at your choice can only be a pleasure, as it was when you first could help Mum making jam or assist aunty in the garden or proudly loaded uncle's cart with hay. Dürrenesch is unforgettable to all its visitors. If you wish to go there, write early to the "Home", Dürrenesch, Ct. Aargau, as the summer months are of course particularly favoured by most visitors, though all other seasons can be equally delightful.

E.

SWISSAIR'S FINANCIAL RESULTS IN 1957.

Swissair's accounts for 1957 show total revenue for the year at 120 million Swiss francs (£17,199,000) and expenditure, after usual appropriations to amortisation and reserves, at 207 million (£16,953,000). In the preceding year revenue totalled 159 million francs and expenditure 156 million.

Net profit for 1957 amounted to 3,175,450 francs, to which is to be added the previous year's carry-over of 311,607 francs.

The Board has recommended a dividend of six per cent for 1957 (same as for 1956). In addition, 400,000 francs are to be allocated to statutory reserve and 200,000 francs to the staff pension fund. A balance of 367,057 francs is carried over for 1958.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, April 25th, 1958. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donation over and above their subscription: L. J. Faire, F. Heller, J. Scheiwiller, M. Buchmann, F. Eggar, A. Steiner, J. A. Seiffert, A. Ehrsam, Mrs. A. Rossier, Mrs. F. Schreck, City Swiss Club.

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