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Zurich — Heidi, the little Swiss girl made world-famous by Johanna Spyri, Switzerland's favourite writer for young people, and her playmate, Goat Peter, recently arrived here via Swissair directly from Tokyo. The tiny Japanese schoolgirl, Kazue Saito, 12, and her 12 year old companion, Ichizo Kato, as a matter of fact, came not out of Frau Spyri's book but merely posed as Heidi fans. When "Heidi and Peter", a production by the Swiss film company Praesens, made its appearance in Japan's cinemas they entered a nation-wide essay contest for school-children. Their nicely written pieces on Heidi and the Swiss Alps won them a Swissair flight to Zurich and a holiday trip through Heidi's own homeland. Accompanied by a Tokyo news reporter they visited the hamlet of Hirzel in the Canton of Zurich where Johanna Spyri spent most of her life, the picturesque winegrowers' town of Maienfeld near Ragaz Spa in the foothills of the Grisons mountains, where the author of "Heidi" is said to have modelled her heroine after a local peasant girl, and the Diavolezza above Pontresina which was one of the scenic locations of the Heidi film. Before returning to Tokyo by air the two Japanese children spent a day at the Pestalozzi Children's Village near Trogen where orphans from all over the world have been given a happy home and upbringing.

* * *

Pontresina — At the upper fringe of the Languard Forest, overlooking Pontresina from an altitude of over 6000 ft above sea-level, stands the quaint little mountain church of Santa Maria which in recent months has been carefully restored and equipped with special protective devices against frost, snow and humidity. It has been known for some time that this Marian chapel contained precious art works some of which were discovered only a few decades ago.

It has now been established that the murals which will henceforth be protected from weather-beatings, include priceless frescoes of the early 12th century and 19 paintings depicting the Mary Magdalene legend and dating back to the second half of the 15th century.

A new "Mot-Hotel" has been opened recently by the Touring Club of Switzerland at Ragaz Spa. The so-called "castle" of Ragaz has been transformed into a hotel and sixteen motel bungalows situated in a wonderful park have been added. The "mot-hotel" also boasts a comfortable camping site.

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Specimen copies of the "Swiss Observer" will be gladly sent to addresses, supplied to our office, of likely subscribers.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

By MAX NEF

The Autumn Session of the Federal Parliament came to an end, in October, and with it, also, the 35th present legislative period. On the first Monday, in December, the new Lower Chamber resulting from the October elections, will be sworn in, for a new period of office, extending over four years. This means a new period of office, also, for the Federal Government, which will have to be elected by the new Parliament. It is still too early to make any surmises regarding the possibilities of new replacements in the Cabinet. Although — when compared with similar conditions

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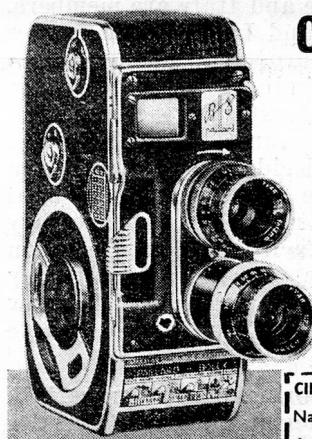


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