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Odds and Ends

Summer is here again, and there are quite a few sun-tanned faces around Piccadilly and Leicester Square.

Comedian Tony Hancock, who has just returned from holidaying, reports that he has his own sun-tan formula:

"I used a mixture of olive oil and iodine, mate. It's marvellous stuff for stopping sunburn — but it gave me a skin like an elephant — *grey and wrinkled*".

★ ★ ★

Formerly preferred as a spring and autumn resort, Lugano, the first city of South Switzerland, now has its peak season in mid-summer. The "Ceresio" — that is the Italian name of Lake Lugano — will form the lovely background for the open-air ballet and solo-dance performances to take place on 19th and 20th July. Members of the Rome Ballet Theatre will play works by Bizet, Debussy and Offenbach. With its beautiful lakeside promenades, Lugano-Paradiso, where the events will be staged, will dress in the splendour of festive lights. In the delightful City Park of Lugano, open-air concerts will be regularly held throughout the season. On 22nd July, the Italian neighbour — the Campione enclave, famous for its casino, on the opposite lakeside — will hold its Lake Night Festival. Lugano itself will follow up with its traditional fireworks display on 27th July.

★ ★ ★

Switzerland has provided an answer to the problem of building private swimming pools. A new "Swiss" collapsible pool has been designed which consists of a circular vertical wall made of corrugated aluminium and a thin plastic bottom.

The fact that the bottom of the pool is made of thin, supple material allows the weight of the water to be evenly distributed and the structure, which is supported by light metal struts, can be erected anywhere.

The new pool is made in three sizes of 13, 18 or 23 feet in diameter.

★ ★ ★

Boy, learning to swim: "See, I can keep my head above water!"

Facetious friend: "Of course you can. Wood floats."

★ ★ ★

The go-ahead town of Winterthur, also well known for its locomotive works, will be the scene of the Zurich Cantonal rifle shooting competitions from 14th to 23rd July. Opening on the 29th will be the Swiss Federal crossbow shooting festival of Ober-Engstringen, at the very gates of Zurich. As you might expect, there is a high standard of crossbow shooting in Switzerland, and the accuracy achieved by the best marksmen, whose weapons are equipped with every modern device, is amazing.

★ ★ ★

He: "I love you, darling. If you marry me, I can give you anything your heart desires. My uncle is a millionaire. Tell me, what you want."

She: "Introduce me to your uncle!"

★ ★ ★

The Musée d'Ethnographie at Neuchâtel has chosen the attractive theme "Parures et bijoux dans le monde" for its big annual exhibition. No less informative will be the special exhibition staged by the Swiss Folklore Museum at Basle entitled "Currencies and Beads among Primitive Peoples". The Rietberg Museum at Zurich is unique, apart from its own ethnological collection, because of the

purely artistic choice of products of primitive peoples and highly developed non-European cultures.

★ ★ ★

Tax collector: "You should always pay your taxes with a smile".

Mr. Smith: "I'd certainly love to, but you insist on cash".

★ ★ ★

During July — up to the 30th in fact — visitors to Lucerne are given an insight into recent Swiss art, for the National Art Exhibition is open to the talent of the entire country (not merely to members of organisations) for entries which meet the requirements of the jury. The special emphasis this time will be on striking talent. Another show all Swiss in character is the Alpine Art Exhibition, whose attractive mountain themes will be on view until 13th August.

★ ★ ★

This year, the eleven hundredth anniversary of the death of St. Meinrad, the festivals at Einsiedeln, the famous place of pilgrimage, will have a special significance. 16th July is the Feast of Our Lady of Einsiedeln and will be a big day in the religious life of this little town. On 10th July, the historic Battle of Sempach in 1386 was commemorated at the memorial chapel above Sempach. A patriotic note will also be struck by the evening "Son et Lumière" spectacle on the rocky heights above Sion, where incidents from the history of the Valais will be re-enacted in front of the historic buildings.

* * *

The latest thing in ticket vendors are the two 'robots' that have been set up in Geneva's Versoix railway station, where they were placed recently by a CFF specialist. The two automatic machines are also equipped with burglar alarms.

One of the robots changes one, two and five-franc pieces, and the other hands out the tickets. Not only does the latter simultaneously stamp and date the ticket, and mark it for the chosen destination, but it was also stated that it performs exactly the same work as a CFF employee — during office hours, presumably.

* * *

A favourite haunt of painters, writers, philosophers and nature lovers during the Romantic period was the Wengernalp in the Bernese Oberland, where, even in those early days, Alpine travellers were sure of a hospitable welcome at the Hotel Jungfrau. This historic inn has been converted into a modern Alpine hotel with fifty beds, but its unique atmosphere has been preserved.

Kettner's Restaurant has no music and is not luxurious . . . but the Food and Wine are superb.

