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Odds and Ends

Since the first St. Bernard dogs were kept as watchdogs at the monastery and hospice on the Great St. Bernard Pass about three centuries ago, many specimens of this sturdy, loyal breed have become world-famous for their rescue work in avalanches. Barry, one of the most celebrated examples of "man's best friend" that ever lived, is said to have saved the lives of forty people. Although the monks still keep a number of St. Bernard dogs as faithful companions, the job of life-saving after avalanches has been taken over by the less solid Alsatians, while the St. Bernards are mostly used as watchdogs. Edi Rodel, owner of the largest existing St. Bernard kennels, who raises between forty and seventy dogs at any one time on his estate at Ottenbach, near Zurich, last year went in for an avalanche course with two of his sturdiest animals. His experience confirmed his belief that the St. Bernards have lost nothing of their most important gifts, which lie in their tremendous strength, their sure sense of direction and their absolute obedience. Rodel, a farmer who bought a St. Bernard fifteen years ago as a watchdog, soon turned over completely to raising this breed. How successful he has been is shown by the large number of first prizes gained at international dog shows and the fact that dogs bred by him can be found in over one hundred cities all over the world, from Honolulu to Göteborg.

* * *

In teaching shorthand and typing we make a great point of accuracy," boasted the head of the business school. "And how about speed?" asked the prospective student.

The college head thought a minute. "Well, out of last year's class, sixteen young ladies married their bosses within three months."

* * *

In autumn many localities in Switzerland quite rightly feel the time has come to publicize at local fairs and exhibitions their creative genius in widely varying fields of production. Apart from the Swiss Industries Fair, always a big attraction in the spring, Basle also stages a traditional Autumn Fair. This trade fair is of all-round interest and adds a picturesque note to an already charming city. For fun and relaxation there is an amusement park.

* * *

A small voice, telephoning school principal: "Tommy Jackson will not be at school to-day. He's sick."

Principal: "Who's calling, please?"

Voice: "My daddy."

* * *

For football fans the key game of the month will be the long-awaited World Cup Qualifying Match between Switzerland and Sweden, due to take place in Berne on the 29th. Switzerland, Sweden and Belgium are in one of the qualifying groups for this tournament. The match against the Norsemen on their home ground ended in a dramatic 4-0 defeat, while the Belgians have so far lost both games against the Swiss. The table reads: Sweden: played 2, won 2; Switzerland: played 3, won 2, lost 1; Belgium: played 3, lost 3. But before the meeting at the Wankdorf Stadium the Scandinavians will be playing against the tough Belgian team. The Swiss, this time on their home ground, only need to draw — a likely result —

to qualify for the World Cup matches to be played in South America next year. The Swiss and Swedish Under-23 teams are due to meet on the 26th in Zurich and on the 28th in St. Gall.

* * *

Wife: "Don't be so impolite. You've yawned five times while I was talking to you".

Husband: "I wasn't yawning; I was trying to say something."

* * *

The exhibition of "Argovian Art Treasures in Gold and Silver" remains open until the end of October in monumental Lenzburg Castle, the historic stronghold in Canton Aargau where — who knows? — the ghosts of doughty personages of the past, such as the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, may roam at night. The exhibits come from old town halls and guild halls and noble families. Equally magnificent in a different way is the display of "Old Japanese Brocades and Chinese Embroideries", also on view until the end of October, in St. Gall's Industrial Museum.

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