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Odds and Ends

Just before Christmas last year a lady made a batch of cookies and candies to send to her sister and her family while her two young daughters intently watched every move that she made.

Finally, as she set the cookies out to cool, the youngest looked at them longingly and said, "Mummy, why don't you just send Aunt Edna the recipe?"

* * *

In all winter sports resorts of the Bernese Oberland, modernisation and improvements are proceeding at a fast rate. Adelboden, for instance, has built an artificial-ice rink where skating, hockey and curling matches can take place from the very beginning to the end of the season. Ski-ing facilities at Adelboden are also being substantially improved, not least by the opening next winter of a new skilift from Geils (in the region of Hahnenmoos) up to the Laveygrat (7,218 feet above sea level). Moreover, the Adelboden Slalom Races, which will take place early in the New Year, have become a traditional feature of the international ski-ing calendar.

* * *

In Florida, a drunk wandered into a seaside bar and saw a huge tarpon mounted on the wall. Swaying on his stool, he stared at it a full minute, then pushed back his glass. "The fellow who caught that", he muttered disgustedly, "is a liar."

* * *

In the course of last winter, a dozen fine private chalets were built at Gstaad, the Aga Khan's taking pride of place. This is a real jewel, tastefully carved out of mountain timber. It is situated in the vicinity of the imposing Royal Winter-Palace which dominates the valley and is the rendezvous, not only of the nobility, but of everyone of wealth and influence in the world: film-stars and princes of fashion, magnates of industry, politicians and scientists, celebrities of the world of sport, music and the stage. In the hotel's entertainment programme we note the names of Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Yehudi Menuhin, etc. The winter prospectus mentions: a season ticket for 25 cablecars, ski-lifts, etc., a helicopter service for excursions and ski-ing descents and a riding school.

* * *

The hard-looking, many-times-divorced blonde passed the two men on the street corner. "There goes my ex-wife", said one. "Wonderful little housekeeper."

"Doesn't look it", remarked the other. "Not the type."

"She is though", insisted the first. "Divorced three times and kept the house each time."

Saanen is a famous resort for its succulent "Hobel" cheese, and for the fact that it is situated right on the linguistic border with French-speaking Switzerland, and that the inhabitants speak at least two languages is a useful asset, though not so important as the village's thriving dairy industry. Saanen has its own ice rink as well as a ski-lift on the Eggli which offers fine, easy descents back to the village. Its guests are also well placed to take advantage of the amenities of nearby Gstaad, less than two miles away and connected by both road and rail. Next February the Regional Curling Championships will take place on Saanen's ice rink.

* * *

A five-year-old girl, Marcia, was entertaining her nine-month-old cousin by letting her hold her favourite new toy, a horseshoe-shaped magnet. Presently it was nowhere to be found.

"Shelley, where is my magnet?" she demanded to know.

"Shelley is just a baby," the mother scolded. "You know she can't talk."

Marcia looked up with an exasperated expression and said, "Well, she could at least point!"

* * *

From the Daily Telegraph:

A woman living at Tunbridge Wells sends on to me a postcard she has received from a close Swiss friend, temporarily residing at a Spa:

"We are spending our very late holidays in a bath. My husband needs it very badly. We left our children alone at home. They have dinner in a small restaurant and in the evening they cook themselves."

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