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Odds and Ends

A special kind of village festival takes place each May at Cressier, a few miles north-east of Neuchâtel. The festivities, this year on 7th May, concern a charming old custom, the "Course aux Oeufs", or Egg Race. The object is to collect a hundred eggs lying on the ground at intervals of one yard without breaking more than eleven and to finish this task before a single contestant covers a distance of some 1.5 miles. The winner—either egg collector or sprinter—becomes the hero of the day. The purpose of the egg race is not the awarding of a prize but simply an excuse to celebrate, and the entire local population takes part. The festival culminates in popular entertainment of all varieties.

Geoffrey A. K. Robinson, director of a stained-glass workshop in Bristol, England, has donated a stained-glass panel to the Ursuline Convent Hospital at Visp out of gratitude for saving his ear. The panel, which measures 20 inches by 31 inches, depicts Christ healing the ear of the High Priest's servant. Mr. Robinson made the panel himself in order to express his thanks to the convent hospital for healing his own ear. Two years ago, during a holiday trip through the Swiss canton of Valais, he was involved in a car accident in which he and his wife were fortunately not too seriously injured, with the single exception of his right ear. Because of the excellent medical care given the patient at the convent hospital, the ear was saved. The glass panel is intended for the convent chapel.

Talking about sport. . .

Main interest centres round the Swiss championships, with matches on 9th, 16th and 30th April. The long-term competition has not yet been decided, although Servette, pride of their home town, Geneva, are generally tipped as most likely winners. On their heels are the most promising runners-up—Zurich, Chaux-de-Fonds, the Champion Young Boys club and the formidable Grasshoppers. These clubs are playing off the following programme in April: 9th, Biel—Young Boys; La Chaux-de-Fonds—Grasshoppers; Servette—Chiasso and Zurich—Lucerne. 16th, Chiasso—Zurich; Grasshoppers—Basle; Grenchen—Servette and Young Boys—Fribourg. 30th, Basle—La Chaux-de-Fonds; Biel—Grasshoppers; Servette—Young Boys (a real attraction) and Zurich—Grenchen.

The Cup Final will be held at Berne on 23rd April. At the moment the finalists are not known. In

the semi-finals La Chaux-de-Fonds, Biel or Chiasso, Lucerne and Schaffhausen have clashed on Easter Monday.

A unique gymnastic event will be provided at Zurich's indoor stadium on 23rd April—the finals of the Swiss gymnastics championships. Switzerland's gymnasts didn't do too well at the Rome Olympic Games last year but they are still a cut above the general class internationally. There should be some excellent performances at the Zurich event, for competitors like Feuz, Fivian, Schwarzenrube and others will be trying to show that their Rome efforts did not represent their best form.

How many people know that Switzerland imports more than 1.1 million pounds of chewing-gum per year? In order to benefit from this favourable domestic market, the Swiss Union of Manufacturers of Biscuits and of Confectionery has now started producing a high quality Swiss chewing-gum.

The cannibals had a wonderful system. If the tax on food-stuff was too high they ate the tax collector.

If women only dressed for one man, they would not always be late . . .

QUOTE—from the American Mercury: "Every year it takes less time to fly across the Atlantic and more time to drive to the office".

In ancient Greece, a man who got a divorce was forbidden to remarry any woman younger than his first wife.

It takes two to bring about a marriage—a single girl and her determined mother.

After 21 years as general manager of the Piccadilly Hotel, 67-year-old Mr. Frederick Brawand is retiring.

The "Evening News" had this to say:

Mr. Brawand has been 51 years in the hotel business, 34 of them at the Piccadilly.

Latest trends in hotel life?

"We have more businessmen among our guests nowadays", he tells me, "and there are signs that the art of eating is returning. People ask for more exotic dishes than they used to."

He will begin his retirement with a holiday in Switzerland. He and his wife, Jessie, live at Golders Green.



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