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Odds and Ends

This year, Sunday, 30th April, will be the date of historic outdoor parliaments in several rural cantons. All enfranchised men are obliged to attend these assemblies held for cantonal elections and votes. This ancient institution, the purest form of direct democracy, is a most impressive sight. The outdoor parliaments of Appenzell, Hundwil, Sarnen and Stans always attract many onlookers, foreigners and Swiss alike.

The Glarus outdoor parliament will be one week later, namely on 7th May.

The world-renowned luxury hotel Lausanne-Palace is to be completely renovated, enlarged and newly furnished at a cost of over 12 million francs. This face-lifting operation, which has already begun, will extend over a period of five years. Another Lausanne hotel, the Grand Hotel Alexandra, will be remodelled at a cost of 1.5 million francs, and the project will take two years. Both houses are known for their unique situation in their own private parks. Lausanne's newest hotel, the 60-bed Bellerive, lies in Ouchy, in the southern part of the city, less than 400 yards from the shores of the lake.

* * *

"Could you tell me please when the next plane leaves for Australia?"

"There are direct connections from here every Tuesday and Saturday at 1.25 p.m."

"What is the precise route?"

"Beirut, Karachi, Calcutta, Singapore, Port Darwin, Sydney."

"When does the plane that leaves here on Tuesday arrive in Sydney?"

"On Friday 7 a.m. local time. We are at your service for any further information regarding prices, etc., which you may need."

"Many thanks, but I was merely enquiring about an airmail letter."

* * *

The year-round population of Morcote — a poets' and artists' Mecca on the sunniest stretch of the shores of Lake Lugano — is a mere 600, but swells to over 2,000 in summer, not counting the thousands of visiting excursionists.

In order to preserve the quaint architecture of the place without curtailing its growing importance as a holiday centre, a 1.5-million-franc restoration and renovation project has been designed and approved by the Swiss Federal Government in co-operation with the Swiss Association for the Protection of Monuments, the authorities of Canton Ticino and the town of Morcote. It will lead to the reconstruction of the picturesque village plaza with its palaces and arcades in all its old splendour and prohibit modern structures in this area.

The famous village church, a landmark of the region, will be thoroughly restored, so will its priceless frescoes and the old organ which is one of Switzerland's oldest. No less famous is the adjacent hillside cemetery. Here many prominent admirers of Morcote chose to be buried, such as Actor Alexander Moissi and Composer Eugène d'Albert. Some 120 wrought-iron lamps in the style of the 17th and 18th centuries have already been installed

in the narrow cobble-stoned streets of the village. Plans also call for the removal or "antiquation" of modern roofs and superstructures.

* * *

Early holiday-makers in the Ticino will have the opportunity of visiting the exhibition "Women in Ticino Art" which no doubt offers excellent insight into the life and culture of this Italian-speaking canton. The exhibition will be open in Lugano until 15th May.

* * *

Humour suisse . . .

La scène se passe à l'école.

Le maître :

"Dis-moi, Gustave, qui a été le premier homme?"

—Guillaume Tell.

—Tu en es sûr?

—Mais oui . . . Guillaume Tell!

—Et Adam?

—Ah! bien sûr, si vous tenez compte des étrangers. . ."

* * *

One of the outstanding events of the 1961 Swiss summer season will be the 20th Century Care of Health, Gymnastics and Sports Exhibition which is to be held in Berne, from 18th May to 17th July, under the abbreviated denomination "Hyspa". On this occasion the Swiss Association of Professional Dancers and Gymnasts will transfer its traditional Summer Course — which in recent years has taken place in Zurich — to Berne, where students from all over the world can attend, from 11th to 22nd July, lectures and seminars in physical technique, gymnastics, choreography and classical ballet. Among the teachers are the young American dancer and choreographer, Joseph Gifford, of New York and Boston, the choreographer of the Zurich Ballet Academy and former ballet director of the London Sadler's Wells Opera, Harrijs Plucis, and the principal for rhythmical gymnastics at the Swiss Federal School of Gymnastics and Sports, Nora Gildenstein of Basel.

* * *

"My wife", said Mr. Henpeck, "kisses me every time I come into the house".

"Ah", said his friend, "that's affection".

"No", sighed Henpeck, "that's investigation".

QUOTE — from the American Opinion: "Since the discovery of elastic it is estimated women take up one-third less space".

* * *

Congratulations to Mr. Franz X. Amrein, who has just completed his thirtieth year at the helm of the "Amerikanische Schweizer Zeitung".

Said Mr. Amrein: "Materially to-day we are not where we had hoped to be within 30 years. The unions saw to that with their constant pay increases, and shorter work weeks with almost every increase, with more and more paid holidays. It wouldn't surprise us a bit if one of these days operators will declare their birthday a paid holiday!"

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 12th May 1961. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: A. P. Gubeli, Mrs. Stafford-Solomon, Mrs. M. Cassel, E. F. Schwenter, A. E. Banderet, F. Blaser, R. Schmid, J. D. Bernoulli, E. Rognon, Willy Deutsch, G. Friberg.