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## Odds and Ends

With the arrival of May one can feel that spring has really come to stay. The words of a Ticino folk song go: "Mentre tu dormivi, abbiám' piantato il Maggio" ("While you were fast asleep we have planted the maypole")! And May in the Ticino with its dancing round gaily beribboned maypoles is an experience no one would wish to miss. At Castagnola near Locarno May festivals are among the most popular customs, and in Locarno itself the traditional festival of flowers will make a splendid show of colour on 20th May and the next day when the grand floral parade takes place.

\* \* \*

Whizzing wheels and screeching brakes mean that cycle-racing is here again. In the merry month of May when many of the "Classic" races have already been run in other countries, cycle-racing will also be in full swing in Switzerland beginning with the Zurich championship event, which enjoys high prestige and an international list of entrants and is run over a 250 kilometres route of great interest to professionals, both scenically and technically.

\* \* \*

Advertisement in a London evening newspaper:

*"Shop to let . . . suitable for  
wet, dried or fried fishmonger."*

\* \* \*

Interest in horse-racing increases every year in Switzerland, and more and more people from all walks of life are joining riding-schools and taking lessons. Could this be a healthy reaction against the disquieting increase in mechanisation and motorisation?

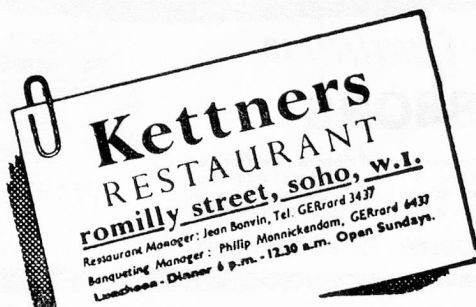
\* \* \*

Sign on a gypsy crystal-gazer's window in London:  
'CLOSED OWING TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES'.

\* \* \*

The "Blaue Reiter" was the name of a group of artists before the first world-war who were largely instrumental in determining the trend of German expressionism. The art museum at Winterthur is to present a historically very informative survey of the creative works of this group which included such notable artists as Kandinsky, Franz Marc and the Frenchman Robert Delaunay. "Murals" is the theme of an exhibition to be held at the Kunsthaus in Coire until 4th June.

**Kettners Restaurant** has no music and is not luxurious . . . but the Food and Wine are superb.



Roast Surrey  
Capon,  
Roast Aylesbury  
Duckling  
served every day

Lady on a number 29 bus, indicating the Treasury Building in Whitehall:

"That's Westminster Hospital, where Derek had his tonsils out!"

\* \* \*

Apart from the closing rounds of the national football championship — with Servette, Geneva, likely to finish at the head of the League, Division A — there will be two international matches which should attract football fans in large numbers. A world Championship eliminating match between Switzerland and Belgium will be staged at Lausanne on 20th May, and the European Cup Final will take place at the Wankdorf Stadium, Berne, on the 31st. The finalists will be two of four clubs, Barcelona, Hamburg, Rapid Vienna and Lisbon.

\* \* \*

German cultural and artistic creation will be a major feature in this year's traditional Zurich June Festival Weeks, which will actually start at the end of May and end in July.

\* \* \*

Shop assistant to customer who has just bought a gold ball: "Shall I wrap it, Sir"? Customer: "No, I'll drive it home".

\* \* \*

Two young ladies were discussing their marriage prospects. One of them was pessimistic.

"You shouldn't be discouraged", the other said. "In this world there's a boy for every girl and a girl for every boy. You wouldn't want to change that, would you?"

"I don't want to change it," the pessimistic one said grimly. "I just want to get in on it."

\* \* \*

Some motorists are in such a hurry to get to the next town, they go right into the next world.

