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I RE-VISIT THE VILLAGE

(from a former inmate of "Stepping Stones", British House at the Pestalozzi Children's Village at Trogen.)

Two years had passed and I was returning to the Village of my childhood. With a feeling of joy and anxious expectation I entered Switzerland, the land of luscious green fields and snowy peaks. Mr. Marsden met me in St Gall and over coffee we discussed the changes, and the Village, and myself.

I climbed out of the car at Stepping Stones amidst joyous cries of welcome from familiar, but some strange faces. I looked from one to another reminding myself of how young they had looked when I left them and now, how much they had grown up. They were immediately enthusiastic to show me round the Village. Many things had changed but I still remembered the Village as it was and always would be.

It did not take me long to get back into the old routine of rising at 6.30 a.m. and continuing the day with whatever happened to crop up, and I was able to visit the German classes in the Secondary School and was thrilled to be taking part in a class not only beneficial to me, but interesting in the sense that all nationalities converse so freely together.

I also had the great pleasure of touring round Switzerland with Mr. Marsden and seeing more parts of this country, to add to my memories. I could once again taste the various kinds of Swiss food which are quite non-existent in my country. I visited St. Gallen to refresh my mind with the familiar sights and shops. It brought back memories of many visits, doing Christmas shopping!

During a party at our house on the eve of my departure Mr. Bill showed a film of a programme in which I participated many years ago. My memory jerked at the thought of the many joyous hours I had spent dancing, under the expert tuition of Frl. Körner.

I am returning to a strenuous month of exams, the first of which begins two days after my return. I shall be taking German, French and English, and I have already applied for a job as a secretary to a Tobacco company, where I could use my languages.

Before I go I would like to thank everybody most sincerely for the wonderful time I have had, and the joy of being able to see the Village, and all of you, again.

Tessie.

(Reprinted from "Freundschaft", the quarterly magazine which children of the Pestalozzi Village edit, set by hand, and illustrate with wood-cuts. Annual subscription, Fr. 3.—)

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