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INTERNATIONAL BALLOON CONTEST AT MÜRREN

For the last two years, an impressive cableway has been operating as far as Birg (8,783 ft.), but the 15th June saw the opening of an extension of this line to the very summit of the Schilthorn. This is the first cableway in Switzerland to provide direct access to the actual top of a mountain. The station building is thus higher than the Schilthorn itself, and instead of a look-out terrace it houses a revolving restaurant on the upper floor. The Palace Hotel des Alpes — also known as the Mürren Palace Hotel — is worthy of its name. Rebuilt towards the end of the 'twenties, it has been the scene of many famous events in the history of ski-ing. The renowned Kandahar Ski-ing Club (K), the Swiss University Ski Club (S.A.S.), the Swiss Ladies' Ski Club (S.D.S.) and the British Ladies' Ski Club were all founded there — in the now legendary Room 4 patronised by Sir Arnold Lunn, high priest of ski-ing and leading promoter of the downhill variety.

The 6th International Alpine Balloon Week, organised by Fred Dolder and Erwin Sautter, is being held at Mürren from 11th to 24th June. To ascend silently in a balloon and drift high above the glittering Alps is a unique experience. 'Only ten persons per year can take part as passengers', says the handout. What does it cost? Ask

Thos. Cook — they do the bookings . . .

We have just heard that the three balloons which started on the first day, landed safely, the Swiss "Circus Knie" at Caluso (20km. North of Turin), the English, piloted by Jerry F. Turnbull, at Aosta and the German "Hanseat" at Villars-Echalod in the Aosta Valley.

[S.N.T.O.]

EARLY MEDIEVAL FINDS IN THE SWISS JURA

Saint Ursanne in the Bernese Jura draws thousands of visitors annually. Part of its attraction is its lovely location between steep wooded slopes, its old bridge over the Doubs River on the frontier, and its excellent fish *cuisine*. But its greatest point of interest is its Romanesque Cathedral, which was built before 1210 on still older foundations. Famous are its South portal, in the gables of which Christ is enthroned between Peter and Paul, and its fourteenth-century cloister with its fine Merovingian reliefs. A second restoration of the church, currently in progress, has brought to light twenty sarcophagi dating from the seventh and eighth centuries. And the experts are anticipating further surprising finds, since this site marks the spot on which the pilgrim Wandregiselus founded a small monastic community in the year 635, at the grave of St. Ursucinus.

[S.N.T.O.]

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