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are of very great concern to us. I felt the difference very acutely coming back after five months, and also the responsibility we all have. Within the three months since our return the political picture has been changing rapidly in many countries. The voters, losing faith in Europe's genius, range themselves to the Right and Left, pro U.S.A. or pro U.S.S.R. If hunger cannot be avoided, this cleavage between extremes will be still more accentuated. But enough of that!

As you would expect, many people ask us about our impressions of America. The interest in things American has grown tremendously. But we have not been able yet, and know that we shall never be able, to bring the wealth of impressions and information into one formula. And then: so many currents and cross-currents of thought and tradition would need an analysis which lies far beyond the possibilities of a casual visitor. It is easy to criticise many American ways of living, many superficialities, and it is just as easy to be over-enthusiastic about other things, but very hard to form an all-round fair judgment. So I am going to close this letter with a purely personal statement. My wife and I think that a most wonderful experience lies behind us. To get away from business and worries for three months is in itself a blessing to be thankful for. To see so much new country, receive so many new impressions, to hoard up information and new knowledge to last for a digestive period of months, and to draw from for years, is a privilege that seldom comes to a man fast moving towards his fifties. And to be received everywhere by kind people, old and new friends, to see that the policy of good neighbourhood does

not only figure in the foreign-policy programmes of the United States and Canada, but is put into effect from man to man, is a heart- tonic not to be forgotten. So this little *tour d'horizon* must end with heartfelt thanks to you all and to many unknown "neighbours" who were just kind because we were strangers, and very often more particularly so because we hailed from Switzerland. Of all of you who have read so far — and I hope that those who decided for the waste-paper basket solution started at the end — I would ask one great favour. This letter, taken as a whole, is a very impersonal affair. But please take at least our expression of thanks as being very personally meant. And seeing that we have already November, permit us to add our Christmas greetings. Mrs Wahlen has a rather checkered and difficult family of four children, two Swiss and two Red Cross fugitives. So there will be hardly any time for Christmas and New Year's letters.

With kindest regards and best wishes to you all,
sincerely yours
Helen & F. T. Wahlen.

Editor's footnote:— although referred to more than once as "material for the waste-paper basket", nothing could be further from the truth.

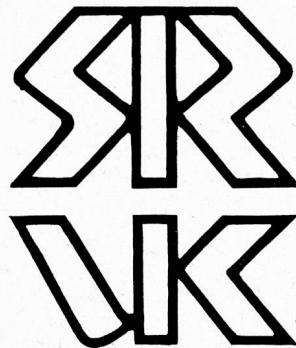
This letter, if read carefully, must rate as one of the most perceptive analyses of immediate post-war Europe as seen through the eyes of a contemporary observer. We thank Mrs Meier for making it available to us. Thank God things are different now — OR ARE THEY? REALLY?

Goliath frustrated

The friendly international football match played at Wembley between England and Switzerland on Wednesday, 7th September was prefaced by a reception at the Swiss Embassy to enable journalists and other invited guests to meet the Swiss team managers and other officials. Needless to say, the team was not present — they were busy training.

And train well they obviously did. The 0–0 draw was a surprise to all but a very few seasoned observers. At the reception the Swiss team manager, conscious always of the necessity to preserve his team's morale to the very end, refused to admit publicly that Switzerland was likely to lose the match by a substantial margin. What he did admit, albeit very privately, was that he would consider a draw an achievement almost beyond his wildest hopes. How prophetic his modestly-voiced hopes turned out to be.

To say that England was surprised by the result is an understatement. BBC Radio 2's commentator, however, proved that the match was indeed intended to be a friendly one — despite a rather unfortunate injury. Having expressed his own regrets that England had not won he was gracious enough to say "Well played Switzerland". We agree.



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