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Mr. Buxton, Minister of Agriculture in the present Government, in "Travels and Reflec-tions," compresses into small compass his im-pressions of his travels in the Middle and Near East, Japan and the Sahara, and, dispensing with wearisome detail and touching but lightly on politics, has produced a book of singular charm, spiced with adventure and humour. He envisages the Balkans and the Sahara as the future rivals of Switzerland\_-the Balkans in

envisages the Balkans and the Sahara as the future rivals of Switzerland—the Balkans in scenery and the Sahara in sport. His description of the Balkan peninsula, with its contrasts of scenery, is particularly vivid and he states that of all the scenic attractions which, in no distant future, will make the Balkans a new and fashionable Switzerland, its lakes will probably be the most popular. Motoring over the sand dunes of the Sahara—charging up a slope and sliding down the other side—provides such novelty as almost to constitute a sport, he says, and sliding down the other side—provides such novelty as almost to constitute a sport, he says, and he is "inclined to think that just as the English invented 'winter sport' in the snow, they will develop a game out of the dunes for which the next generation will be swarming to Africa instead of to Switzerland." Perhaps a rather sanguine prophecy, but this is an age for seeking new thrills.

Seeking new turnis. When mountaineering in Japan with the Rev. Walter Weston, he and Mr. Weston were reported as having lost their lives in a storm on Mount Fuji, and the supposed disaster was attributed to their temerity in climbing the mountains with-out the sanction of the spirits of Fuji obtained through the priests. Mr. Buxton claims that he and Mr. Weston were the first Europeans to climb Mount Enasan, in Japan.

### WINTER SPORTS.

The extension of summer into autumn has rather thrust winter into the background; but the year is slipping away, and a reminder that winter looms ahead is furnished by a profusely illus-trated booklet, "Winter Sports, 1929-30," which Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son have issued, de-Messrs, Thomas Cook and Son have issued, de-tailing their arrangements for the coming season in Switzerland and Chamonix. The booklet is an annual publication, and its continual increase jusze—this year it extends to 168 pages—is elo-quent of the growing popularity of winter sports. Among the contents, "Initiation Parties"— arranged for the benefit of the novice—are given special prominence, while full provision is also made for the needs of other sports enthusiasts. Two features of general interest are a series of notes on individual sports centres, and a table showing the cost of a visit to any one of them.

### Savings Interest Raised.

It will be good news to some of our readers to hear that the Swiss Bank Corporation has raised the interest rate paid on Savings Bank accounts to 41 per cent.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. Our readers will be interested to hear that a series of lectures in French "Lo voyage et la mentalité française au XVIII e siècle" will be given by M. le Prof. PAUL HAZARD of the Collège given by M. ie Fror. PAD HAZARD of the Conege de France, Paris, at the Bedford College, Regent's Park, N.W. 1. (Entrance : York Gate), on Mon-day, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 4th, 5th and 6th, 1929. Admission free, without tickets. The lectures begin at 5.30 p.m.

A course of six lectures by Professor HANS ZICKENDRAHT, of the University of Basle, on "Scientific Radio Research in Switzerland," will be given at King's College, Strand, beginning on November 18.

### **ADVERTISE** in the "SWISS OBSERVER"

It's Patriotic and it Pays!

## DARING ESCAPE FROM FOREIGN LEGION.

Four deserters from the French Foreign Legion sailed under police escort from Liverpool to Hamburg. Three days before the German steamer Jers-

Three days before the German steamer Jers-bek left Tunis, the Legionaries stole on board under cover of darkness, and lay concealed dur-ing that period in a cargo of loose grain, while a search party from their regiment combed the ship. At times the searchers almost walked over the concealed men, two Germans, a Czecho-Slovakian, and a Swiss. Two days after the Jersbek left port, a sailor on the night watch period a man graving and

Two days after the Jersbek left port, a sailor on the night watch noticed a man crawling out of a ventilation funnel, to be followed by three others, who immediately collapsed on the deck beside him. It was then revealed that the men had been nearly five days without food. When they had sufficiently recovered they worked with the crew during the remainder of the voyage. On their arrival at Liverpool the immigration authorities were communicated with, and the stowaways were handed over to the

with, and the stowaways were handed over to the police

Whatever is in store for them, all the men are congratulating themselves on their remark-able escape. One of them remarked, "Put me in prison as long as you like, but we are out of the Legion."

#### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the fol-lowing lectures were given by the students during last week

week:R. Pleuler, Basle: "Baden-Powell." M.
v. Arx, St. Imier: "Spain." W. Blattmann,
Waedenswil: "Aluminium." Miss V. Buol,
Flims: "Faithful Friends," and "Careers for
Girls." Miss R. Stotzer, Berne: "Petticoat
Lane." A. Bloesch, Neu St. Johann (St. Gall):
"Foreign Industry in Switzerland." M.
Rechsteiner, Basle: "Carnival in Basle." O.
Gloor, Rupperswil: "Swiss Beggars." O.
Walther, Weymuchle-Berne: "Swiss Railways
and Roads." A. Stoccklin, Neuhausen a/Rh.:
"Confucius." B. Wirth, St. Gall: "Music."
The debating classes dealt with the following sub-The debating classes dealt with the following sub-

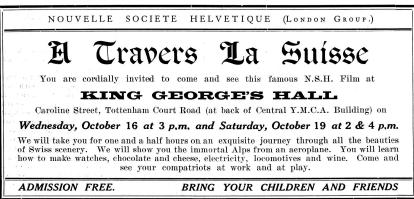
jects:--"Is America Fair in her Attitude Towards Europe?" Proposer, E. Cornamusaz. Opposer: F. M. Bezençon. "Have Modern Newspapers a Good In-fluence?" Proposer, M. v. Arx. Opposer: W. Blattmann.

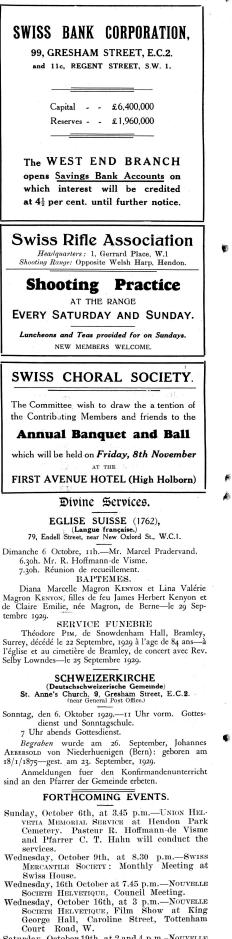
Friday, September 27th: A very interesting lecture (illustrated by slides) was delivered by Paul Seaford, Esq. The title of the lecture was "The Flying Scotsman," and the lecturer took his interested audience for a trip from King's Cross to Edinburgh, pausing by the way to visit many historic cities and some delightful land-scence

scapes. Mr. B. Davis, B.A., who presided, thanked Mr. Seaford for his excellent lecture.

On Saturday the school went to the London Museum via Trafalgar Square, Whitehall, Horse Guards Parade and St. James' Park. After lunch about forty students were able to visit the Royal Stables where they were very much interested in the King's horses and the State acade State coach.







- Court Road, W.
  Saturday, October 19th, at 2 and 4 p.m.-NOUVELLE SOCHETE HELVETIQUE, Film Show at King George Hall, Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.
  SWISS RIFLE ASSOC.: Every Saturday and Sunday, Shooting Practice on the Rifle Range near the Welsh Harp, Hendon
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