

Notes and gleanings

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ZURICH.

The collection for the Zurich Radium Fund has, so far, brought in Frs. 315,000. This sum was received from Banks, Insurance Companies, Commerce, Industry and private donors. There are more contributions promised, and when this money has also been received, the fund will be used in the first instance to increase the radium so far in hand to one gram. There are now also means available to carry out research work, which will be directed mainly towards combating cancer. St. G.T.

BERNE.

Mrs. Margreth Lentholt-Ott in Meiringen, known in the neighbourhood as "Borter-Grättli," celebrated her 100th birthday on December 23rd. Still very active until a few years ago, she now suffers from the disabilities of her great age. St. G.T.

GLARUS.

Some skiers on an excursion into the Bächtal found a tourist lying on the ground apparently lifeless and frozen to death. They removed him to the Cantonal Hospital at Glarus. He is named Heinrich Blumer, from Zurich, and was on a tramp from Braunwald to Oberblegi. N.Z.Z.

Reports have appeared in the Continental press of the formation of a holding company in the Canton of Glarus, under the style of Seiga A.G. The new concern has a fully-paid capital of twenty million Swiss francs (£800,000), and its particular objects are to participate in manufacturing and trading concerns in the textile industry. The reports mention the belief that the company has been founded under the auspices of the British sewing cotton firm of J. & P. Coats, Ltd., with the co-operation of the Crédit Suisse in Zurich. It is now stated, however, on excellent authority that, so far as J. & P. Coats are concerned, it is only its special interests, quite outside its ordinary cotton interests, and in one country alone that will be associated with the new holding company. D.

BASEL.

The motorists from Switzerland and abroad who visit the Basle Zoo have become so numerous, that a special car park near the Zoo has become a necessity. The Executive Council proposes to the Grand Council to accord a credit of 50,000 Frs. for this purpose.

75 years ago the first railway line from Basle to Liestal was opened by the Schweiz. Centralbahn Gesellschaft. With what commendable foresight the leading men of those days worked, is proved by the fact that practically from the beginning most of the distance from Basle to Olten was laid down as a double track. N.Z.Z.

GRISONS.

The Second International University Winter Games will be held at Davos, from January 4 to 12. Students from all parts of Europe will represent their countries. The championship programme will include ski-ing, ski-jumping, skating, ice-hockey, bobsleigh, and skalom racing. The Swiss students will hold their own championship at the same time, and will therefore be strongly represented. The British team will probably consist mainly of members of the Oxford and Cambridge Ski-ing Clubs, who will be in Switzerland for the Universities match and other championships. There are, meantime, some half-dozen entrants from this country. France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Spain, Holland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Yugoslavia, will also take part. O.

Enterprising Swiss hotel managers have offered Oxford and Cambridge the most tempting terms in many cases to go en masse to their resorts in order that the social attractions of the place should be enhanced.

A large party are at St. Moritz indulging in the annual skating-cocktail orgy. I am told that

short drinks consumed per head of the population beat world's records in the Alps at this time of year. D.M.

FRIBOURG.

Under the patronage of Lt.-Col. von Diessbach a committee has been formed with the object of popularising flying and the establishing of an aerodrome. N.

GENEVA.

The municipal council of Geneva, following the example of other Swiss resorts, has decided to permit the game of La Boule at the local casino. D.M.

SWISS COLONY IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The establishment of a Swiss colony in South Africa is suggested by a Geneva newspaper as a solution for unemployment and over-population in Switzerland.

It is suggested that groups of Swiss band together and go to South Africa to organise the production of milk on a large scale. Flocks and herds would be taken to South Africa by the colonists, and an arrangement by which the Swiss should be allowed to develop the unoccupied areas is suggested to the union of South Africa.

The South African authorities are said to be favourably impressed by the plan, but nothing definite has been agreed.

FROM THE TICINO.

ASSOCIAZIONE "ROMEO MANZONI."

This educational association, which was formed in the early part of last summer, has now started its practical activities with a fine array of lecturers, including a number of professors from Swiss and foreign universities and other outstanding personalities. Among the Ticinesi are included Signor Carlo Maggini, leader of the liberal-radical party, and Signor Brenno Bertoni, a prominent member of the Federal States Council, who will speak on a subject of constitutional law. The lectures will deal with a great variety of subjects and will be given in Lugano, as well as in the principal centres of the Canton.

The formation of this association, with such suddenness and initial success, is the result of one of those "discordant voices" which are to be heard now and again in the Ticino and are "discordant" only in so far as they may not be pleasing in official federal circles, but do in effect represent the greater volume of Ticinese opinion.

In order to make up, at least to a limited extent, for the lack of a university in the Ticino lectures have been arranged for a number of years by the "School of Italian Culture," attached to the Lycée of Lugano, of which Signor Francesco Chiesa is the Headmaster. The organisers of such lecturers had invited last spring Signor Gaetano Salvemini, a well-known Italian historian, who has been teaching in colleges in this country and has been an active contributor to the "Manchester Guardian."

This lecture was, however, vetoed by Francesco Chiesa, apparently on the ground of Salvemini's well-known anti-fascist sentiments. The veto was upheld by the Cantonal Education Department and the Federal Council promptly communicated their refusal to allow the lecture to be given. A wave of indignation spread over the Ticino immediately the facts became known and steps were taken at once, by leaders of public opinion, to form the "Associazione Romeo Manzoni" so as to be altogether free from the pro-fascist tendencies of Signor Francesco Chiesa and in order also to be independent of the authorities.

When the Grand Council assembled in June the matter was the subject of lengthy discussion. The Cantonal Government pointed out that they had not been consulted in the matter, but that if they had been they would have allowed the lecture by Salvemini to be given. In view of the sharp criticism voiced by all sections of the Grand Council, particularly directed against the meddling of the Federal Council in such a matter and the undue consideration it showed to foreign influence, the Cantonal Government further undertook to protest severely to the Federal Council for what had been done from Berne.

It is perhaps as a reminder and as a mark of triumph that the programme of the "Associazione Romeo Manzoni" opens with the lecture by Gaetano Salvemini on "Currents of liberal thought during the Italian Renaissance," which had been vetoed before.

(continued on back page)

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

Sylvester-Day.

How peacefully I nearly overslept this *Sylvester-Day* morning! No awful noises produced by saucepan-lids violently used as cymbals, no raucous shouts of "Sylvester stand uf, heb's Bei zum Bett uus" at four o'clock in the morning, no, nothing but peace and quietude!

You will gather, dear Reader, that these notes are written on the morning of the last day of the departing year. It is not an easy job this morning. Last week I gave you my little sermon suitable to the occasion and my best wishes for the new year and this morning, when I feel much more in that "wishing" mood, I am at my feeble wits' ends to think of something appropriate to write about. It's just like those poor fellows who, in the most appalling heat of summer, have to design snow-clad pictures suitable for Xmas cards! Verily, we scribers are off to be pitied!

However, "on with the motley" and other brave words to that effect:

The first item I will quote in the New Year is from *Truth*, 18th Dec., and I hope that this will be symbolical for all my writings:

Struwelpeter in Switzerland.

Struwelpeter has been parodied often enough before now, but never, I should say, with more richly comical effects than in "Winter Sportings," by Reginald Arkell, illustrated by Lewis Baumer (Jenkins 7s. 6d.). Mr. Arkell's verse has just the right quality for the occasion—the pretentious, not to say portentous, gravity of manner that distinguished his model, and, side by side with this, an infinite drollery of matter, delicious in itself, but rendered doubly delicious by the incongruous austerity of its phrasing.

Take, for example, the case of "The Girl who Was Torn to Pieces by Wild Scotsmen":—

Clarissa, one December day,
Had just arrived at Château d'Oex,
When she espied a sheet of ice
That looked particularly nice.
Its surface was beyond compare,
No single skater skated there—
Clarissa didn't stop to think,
She skated on the Curling Rink.
Oh me! Oh my! Oh us! Oh you!
There was a Bonspiel overdue,
And fifty lairds had taken pains
To polish up their granite stanes;
And fifty lairds were lurking round
The Curling Rink—that holy ground.
etc., etc.

But there! *Crimine ab uno Disce omnes*. (Not all the "crimes," of course, as ungrammatical quoters of Virgil sometimes think), but all the "criminals." There are many such criminals in "Winter Sportings," and each in his, or her, way is equally funny. And if Mr. Arkell expresses them with a mischievously graphic pen, no less does Mr. Baumer portray them with a wickedly vivid brush. Theirs is an ideal alliance, and the result of it is a veritable little comic triumph.

Then, to follow, we will have a wee little bit about

Ski-ing in Volumes and Volumes.

The *Star*, 20th Dec.

The troubles of the novice about winter sports are never ending.

One has to find out, for instance, just what winter sports are practised in Switzerland. The Swiss expert I met at the store where I purchased my outfit said I could learn a lot about winter sports before going out there.

I have had some experience of sport in winter in a modest English way. In my youth I often took a tea-tray to Hampstead Heath when it snowed, and at school I could slide farther on a frozen pavement than any boy in the class.

With all this previous experience, I imagined that a good text book on the subject was all I would require. So I went to a book-seller, and asked if he had anything on winter sports.

"Yes sir," he said, "We have 'Alpine Ski-ing,' 'How to Ski,' 'Ski-ing Turns,' 'Ski-ing for Beginners,' 'Knee Action in Ski-ing,' 'Ski Running,' in two volumes. . . ."

"Stop," I said, "One book on skiing will do to be going on with. And now, what about something simple on snowballing?" I received the withering look which has greeted most of my inquiries about winter sports.

From a booklet called "Winter in Switzerland," however, I learned much. My experience of tea trays on Parliament Hill, I saw, was going to be little help, for in Switzerland they seem to have developed tobogganing into an exact science.

There is the bob-sledge, which appears to be a very complicated affair, with steering apparatus, a captain, and a full crew, and there is what is called the Skeleton, a little sledge which is said to touch 50 miles an hour on a good run.

Whether or not it was given its name because unwary people who venture on one leave their bones behind in Switzerland I do not know, but it is evidently tobogganing in its highest form.

The rider wears a crash helmet, a suit of leather armour, and steers with spikes fixed to the toes of his boots.

Both these pastimes are only practised on specially made ice runs, several miles long. The free-lance, who wishes to toboggan at will on any Alp that may take his fancy uses what is called a luge.

This is an ordinary toboggan, really, but, in a country where the best people never throw snowballs, it would never do, I suppose, to call it anything so common.

Then there were the sports on the ice. Skating came first, of course, but I learned how to skate and sit down with grace when the Welsh Harp froze last winter, so I turned to ice hockey.

This, I found, was a game chiefly played by experts, and Oxford and Cambridge undergraduates, and the picture of a goal-keeper dressed like a knight in armour decided me to leave it to them.

Ski-ing, however, occupied much space. There seems no getting away from skis. You climb up mountains on them, and, if you are lucky, come down again on them.

You jump to great heights with them, slide on them behind a galloping horse—variety of the sport called Skijoring—and, when you fall into a crevasse, they stick out of the snow, and make useful landmarks for the search party.

The booklet says that skis are the simplest of all the servants of speed, that ski-jumping is the most dramatic and most spectacular of all the forms of athletic sport, and skijoring, I gathered, is great fun for the horse.

Just to remind you that some there are who really can go and enjoy the thrills provided by these winter-sports and that some there are who, like yours truly, dream about them, year after year, and look at the pictures and, perhaps, enjoy them, vicariously, as it were, just as much.

A little while ago I told of the wonder-cures effected by Sun treatment at Leysin and to-day I find the following in the *Jewish Guardian*, 20th December.

Sun Treatment at Leysin.

There has just arrived in England, in the person of Mdme. R. Botschko, one of the most active Jewish women workers on the Continent. The wife of Rabbi Botschko, of Montreux, she was for five years President of the Union of Jewish Women in Switzerland, and during the last few years has devoted her energies towards helping Jewish sufferers of the poverty-stricken areas of Eastern Europe who have been stricken with tuberculosis. She is the founder of the Jewish Institute at Leysin, beautifully set among the Swiss mountains, where the patients derive the full benefit of treatment by sun and air.

The Institute, which originally commenced by aiding five patients, has now under its care 123 Jewish patients, the majority of whom consist of young people to whom their families look for support, and children who are suffering as a result of undernourishment and unnatural hardships. About 80 of the patients of the Institute are absolutely without support, and the rest, who originally were able to support themselves in part, are unable to continue doing so, as their prolonged illness has, naturally, reduced their circumstances.

The Swiss Committee, after great efforts, raises sufficient yearly to cover the cost of the cure of about thirty patients, which amounts to some 50,000 Swiss francs, and finds itself unable to do more, as Swiss Jewry has already to support another tuberculosis institute in Davos, for lung sufferers, at a cost of 100,000 Swiss francs per annum.

The position of those who are unable to support themselves is very precarious, since they are doubly suffering, their illness being coupled with their poverty.

Frau Botschko is at present in England for the purpose of raising sufficient funds to relieve those who, with their sufferings, find themselves in a strange land.



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And I do hope, as you all will, that a very great number of subscribers will be found for this purpose.

Agriculture.

It is really wonderful how a little country like Switzerland manages to interest an enormous variety of interests in Great Britain and, presumably, in other large countries too. I find the following in the

Implement and Machinery Review of December.

The cultivation of cereals has never been carried on to any large extent in Switzerland where the particularly rich grass lands have been used for grazing, and dairy produce has constituted the main source of its wealth. At present Switzerland grows only 22 per cent. of the wheat that goes into consumption, and it is now proposed to put more land under cereal crops on account of the steadily diminishing exports of dairy products. These have been falling off so considerably of late years that the "Union Suisse des Paysans" has settled upon a programme which aims at reviving the prosperity of rural industries. The growth of cereals is stated to be of great economic value in the sense that it allows of the settlement of a larger rural population. There are, it is said, 25,000 acres of land capable of being put under wheat. All the land is held by small owners, and the nature of the country does not allow of the extensive use of harvesters, but this development of a wheat growing industry must necessarily bring work to the agricultural engineer.

And, when glancing through the December 21st Supplement of *The Grocer* and reading therein a very interesting article with pictures, dealing with the progress of the famous McDougall Flower Mills I read that

"the discovery of the roller mill came from Switzerland in 1833"

I bet, very few among us, Swiss, knew this!

Our country has some very interesting and some rather pathetic visitors too. I read in *The Daily Mail*, 21st Dec.

Diamonds by the Case.

Some weeks ago a dark, stout man walked into a jeweller's shop in a Swiss town and, opening a kind of camera case slung over his shoulder, showed the astonished proprietor several handfuls of unmounted diamonds, emeralds, and rubies which he wanted to sell.

The visitor was ex-King Amanullah, who only twelve months previously had been received at Berne with all the pomp and circumstance accorded William II when he visited Switzerland before the war.

Amanullah frankly admitted that he was in need of money, but most of the gems he had to offer were of such poor quality that they were worth only about a quarter of the price he gave for them in India. One of his encourage said they were the only things Amanullah was able to take away with him when he made his precipitate flight from Kabul by aeroplane.

Notes from Geneva.

I don't know quite what it is, but our Geneva friends are very lucky, because their Town gets a lot of publicity. Not unmerited, of course, but, being only frail, I do wish sometimes, just like our charming friend from the Ticino that other Towns, like Zurich, might get such nice and snappy articles, like the following, from *Christian Science Monitor*, 2nd Dec.

To the foreign visitor, perhaps one of the most distinctive touches in a Swiss town is the appearance of the gendarme one encounters in

Tell your English Friends to visit

Switzerland

and to buy their Tickets from

The Swiss Federal Railways,
Carlton House, 11b, Regent St., S.W.1.

GESCHÄFTS-ANZEIGE

Anstatt durch Zirkular, gestatte ich mir auf diesem Wege meinen verehrten Landsleuten anzuzeigen, dass ich das von Herrn F. W. Rühmann anno 1887 gegründete, sich eines sehr guten Rufes erfreuende,

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RESTAURANT

eröffnet, wo gut zubereitete SCHWEIZER-PLATTEN und andere kontinentale Spezialitäten täglich zu bekommen sind.

Darauf mache ich insbesondere die lieben Studenten der Swiss Mercantile Society in Fitzroy Square, aufmerksam.

"Ich luh nüd nah, und luh nüd nah,

bis dass mer überall seid:

Wä mer wirkli öppis Guets will z'Eese ha

So mues mer zu ürem Landsma Sköri gah."

Erfreuen Sie mich durch Ihren werten Besuch, ich werde dafür sorgen, dass Sie wiederkommen!

Hochachtungsvoll empfiehlt sich,

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the streets. Two Swiss towns have lately introduced changes in this respect, and in each case a resemblance has been noted to uniforms seen in other countries. In Lausanne, the famous London policeman seems to have been taken as a model, whereas Berne traffic is now directed by an agent resembling in appearance the French gendarme. The horizon-blue uniform of this latter is said to have been introduced on account of its visibility in traffic. That France should have supplied the model for the capital of the Swiss Confederation and that Lausanne, whose French sympathies are proverbial, should have sought inspiration in London, may perhaps be regarded as evidence of the spread of the sense of internationalism in this "playground of Europe."

While Swiss towns may look abroad in matters of this kind, however, they are taking counsel with one another in economic matters, and they have recently come to the conclusion that their interests are not at one with those of the agricultural districts of the country. The Union of Swiss Towns, which recently held a conference in Geneva, passed a strong resolution against the Government's policy of protectionism, which they regard as favouring agriculture at the expense of trade and commerce and the consumer generally. This looks like the beginning of a struggle between town and country. Switzerland, before the war, was a free trade country, and the cost of living was low; since the war, however, largely under the influence of the Swiss Farmers' Union, which has become strongly organized and is now the most powerful political influence, a policy of protection has been followed which has forced up the cost of living to a level above that of the surrounding countries. This has had the natural repercussion on wages and on costs of production in other industries, and with increasing industrialization there is growing opposition to the policy of the federal authorities.

The Geneva Theatre has recently celebrated the fiftieth year of its existence, with a gala performance of "William Tell." It was with a performance of this opera that the theatre opened its doors in 1879, and registered an immediate success. This was exactly fifty years after the first performance of Rossini's masterpiece at Paris, so that the occasion was at the same time a celebration of the centenary of that event. There was a great rush for tickets and every place was filled, not only for the gala performance on the first night, but for the ordinary and "popular" performances which followed. Unfortunately, the Geneva Grand Theatre has of late years fallen on hard times and its doors are now opened only occasionally. The movies and the talkies and other forms of amusement and recreation have proved too much for it, and the town finances have passed through a crisis which has made large subsidies impossible.

The famous Swiss police dog, Wigger von Blasenbergr, in Lausanne, has become an important factor in the police department of the Canton of Vaud. Trained by Mr. and Mrs. Enstis, he has worked on more than forty important cases, of which he has solved thirty-two. Once he found a purse that a farmer had lost. He dug it up from under a six-inch furrow in a field after several hours' search. One of his cleverest exploits was the finding of a woman who had disappeared from her home in the Jura Mountains. For three days her family and friends searched for her in vain. Then Wigger was set to work. He picked up a seventy-hour-old scent, which was half obscured by snow which had fallen in the meantime. For miles he trailed up through the mountains and in a heavy snow-drift he lost the scent. After further search, the woman was found quite close to this spot in an exhausted condition, and half covered with snow.

Every Woman in Switzerland to be Economically, Morally and Spiritually Free.

Read: "The Lehrerinnen Heim"—*Woman Teacher*, 13th Dec.

(The following extract of an account by our old friend, Mr. Tate, one of the founders of the "Federation," will be of interest to our readers.)

My object in writing this is to pay, or at least acknowledge, a debt of gratitude owing since the midsummer holidays; hoping that in doing so I may suggest a very happy and pleasant way of spending a longer period later on, and desiring that a few remarks at the end may lead to the extension of the work for equal pay and equal opportunity.

After the Victory Dinner last year, Miss Lane went back to the Lehrerinnen Heim at Egghölzli, near Bern. Every letter from her asked us to go over there, and after much hesitation we decided to go.

When the Federation was first formed, one of my dreams had been Homes of Rest for

Women Teachers, and here was the building and the surroundings that would have been my ideal. The Swiss Women Teachers have chosen their Home well, and owe much to Fräulein Müller, the president of the Home, and the committee responsible for the building and its position. In front, across the chalets of Egghölzli and its surrounding woods, can be seen the steeple of Bern Cathedral; to the west, across gardens and fields, the picturesque wooded heights of the Gurten; lesser heights in the distance to the east; and on the south, over villages, meadows, red-roofed, white-walled, green-shuttered farms and forest-covered hills, we see the red-ribbed ranges and dark peaks of the lower Alps, backed by the towering ice palaces of the Bernese Alps rising high in the air forty miles away.

In the Heim we were at once at home. The genuine cordiality of Frau Honegger and her niece, Fräulein Waidele, was shown not only in their hearty welcome, but in many little actions of thoughtful kindness that made adjustment to new surroundings easy and comfortable. Their spirit influenced all, and was especially noticeable in the pleasant-faced maidens, cheerful and modest, who looked after us with obliging attention free from servility. Daughters, not domestics, one would say.

Delightful it was to awake with the songs of the birds, to open wide the windowed doors to the streaming sunshine, and see through a break in the trees the distant Schreckhorn standing like a silver-armoured sentinel in sunlight. After breakfast a visit to quaint, picturesque, clean, very clean, old-world Bern. Every morning something new to see. The low-arched covered walks before the shops, the rows of fountains with grotesque figures of armoured bears and ogres and knights, the old cathedral and the Town Hall. Standing on the Nydeck Bridge we look down and see old wooden houses rising above each other up the steep bank of the Aar. Winding wooden steps, queer little landings, curious secret-hiding nooks, sudden projections of bedroom-windows, odd long thin crooked chimneys. We are not surprised to find Hans Anderson standing by us, pointing out rows of Troils climbing up the little winding stairs with bags of treasure that they hide in the little nooks and houses.

Back home (the Heim is certainly a home) for dinner, a little nap, a cup of tea and then a walk.

Across the garden, through a wood, and we are looking down the steep banks of the Aar. How beautiful the colour of the water. Down on the sandy path at the side of the river we saw a wonderful picture. Straight in front of us stretched the river like the nave of a cathedral paved with turquoise, bordered with gold and emerald. Choirs of trees on each side, and high over the centre a tremendous glittering altarpiece, the Jungfrau in all the splendour of her beauty.

What shining memories have I stored up! When we left the Heim, Frau Honegger and Fräulein Müller asked us to give their good wishes to their English sisters of the Federation, and this I am doing at my first opportunity, trying at the same time to give some idea of the pleasure of a stay at the Heim.

Miss Lane came away with us on our further journey to Interlaken and Lucerne, and as she has something more than greeting to give, I must leave her message for herself. Moreover, I hesitate to say what I heard. I may not have remembered exactly. It seems so strange that in such a beautiful country, with such thoughtful, democratic, religious people, women should be unfranchised and women teachers should suffer any kind of injustice. If, however, I have remembered correctly I would ask the members of the "Federation" to call to mind the words of Miss Kenyon at the Central Hall, Westminster: "The fight will go on until every woman in every country is economically, morally and spiritually free"; and the words of Miss Holtby: "The whole group suffers when any section of it is debased."

Jos. B. TATE.

And, with this I will close to-day. For, the day promises to be long! And I am sure that next Saturday, when you are reading these lines and when you think back to to-day, to-night and to-morrow, you will understand that I had to cut my work short somewhat!

FOREIGN TRADE.

The Swiss foreign trade during the month of October shows a marked improvement as compared with the preceding months. Its total volume has increased by about 40 millions in the course of the month and has thus reached the sum of 443.4 million francs. As compared with October 1928 there is, however, still a decrease of 13 million francs.

Imports have risen from 223.1 millions to 244.1 millions.

Exports have risen in one month from 179.7 million francs to 199.3 millions.

JOURNAL SUISSE DE PARIS.

Having already announced the appearance of a new Swiss weekly in Paris, we publish below a description of the aims of that organ, sent to us by our Minister, Monsieur Paravicini:

Cet organe est destiné à servir de trait d'union entre les divers groupements suisses en France et à l'étranger et d'organe de défense des intérêts de nos compatriotes résidant hors de leur pays.

Il espère donner à ses lecteurs une information étendue sur la vie intérieure de notre patrie et compte également parler largement de la vie des sociétés et colonies suisses en général. Le tirage a été fixé au début à huit mille exemplaires et la Rédaction espère l'augmenter bientôt. Elle déclare qu'elle sera heureuse de publier les informations que nos compatriotes voudront bien lui faire tenir.

The editorial offices of the paper are at 25, Boulevard Saint-Martin, Paris, 3e.

THE NEW BASLE MARKET HALL.

The middle of October witnessed in Basle the opening of Switzerland's first market-hall, covering a surface of 9,000 square meters. This construction, owing to its massive dome, 60 meters in diameter and 28 meters high, which is the third largest in the world, created a great sensation and constitutes a new sight for the town of Basle. The dome covers a surface of 3,000 square meters and is only supported by 8 columns; 1,014 cubic meters of beton were employed for its construction and its total weight is 2,800,000 kilos. A maximum amount of daylight was obtained by means of vast skylights with ventilation valves at the vertex of the dome itself, and a great number of high windows along each side of the eight encompassing walls. The central hall is surrounded by an adjacent building containing shops, a branch Banking Establishment, restaurants and various offices. The total building expenses amounted roughly to 3 million francs. The cellar situated beneath the market hall measures 4,075 square meters.

The principal aims of this new market hall are the development and furtherance of the market as a whole, the levelling of prices and the improvement of the agricultural production in Basle's immediate neighbourhood. S.I.T.

INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY.

In the Swiss industries work has, on the whole, been steady. Amongst 1,830 concerns employing 240,000 workmen there was satisfactory activity in 80.7 per cent. of the factories, employing 85.7 per cent. of the total number of workmen, whilst the results were unsatisfactory only in 19.3 per cent. of the concerns, with 14.3 per cent. of the workers. Amongst those industries which have a satisfactory activity, we draw attention particularly to the building industry, trade in stones and earth, watches, jewellery, metal goods, wood, graphic arts, chemical industries, food-stuffs.

Another criterion of the industrial situation is given by the index of activity on the produce-exchange, although this criterion is not of the same importance. This index was 220.66 in October, against 239.26 in September and 255.33 in October 1928. We must here also draw attention to the fact that five years had elapsed on Oct. 22nd. since Switzerland last changed her official rate of discount, an event unknown at any other time or in any other country. This stability has exercised a wholesome influence on commerce and industry during this period.

The Cost of Living remains stationary at 163 per cent. as compared with pre-war days.

SWISS EXPORTS OF ELECTRIC ENERGY.

After lengthy discussions among technicians and a severe campaign in the press owing to a possible repercussion on the country's political and economic situation, exports of electric energy have now been judiciously regulated so that, during 1928 over a billion Kwh. were calmly turned over to foreign buyers. This quantity represents 28.4% of the total amount of electric energy put on the market. This branch of our Swiss foreign trade has tripled in quantity and more than tripled in market value during the last 9 years.

Public opinion was aroused last year by the operations of several foreign electric enterprises who, according to the report of the Swiss Federal Water-Power Department, were endeavouring to set up hydro-electric stations in Switzerland to be constructed, financed and entirely run by themselves for purposes of exportation. In order to anticipate any possible danger of the internationalisation of a national wealth, the Federal Authorities decided, with the consent of Swiss producers and distributors of electric energy, to determine the conditions authorizing the construction of power-plants intended chiefly for exportation. Switzerland and more particularly its producers of electric energy should occupy permanently a predominant position as regards the

administration and financing of the plants in question; export of electricity at the price of production is forbidden; in case of prolonged drought, Switzerland is to be granted the possibility of utilizing a part of the energy intended for exportation to cover its own needs; after a period of 20 years foreign participation may be cancelled and the enterprises may be run, if necessary, exclusively to supply the Swiss market. Generally speaking, the Federal Authorities consider that it is preferable to leave the management of Swiss exports of electricity to plants which, first of all, regularly supply the Swiss market, rather than to concerns built purposely for exportation. S.I.T.

SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS ETC.

The Unemployment Insurance founded in Switzerland a few years ago by federal law is developing steadily. The total number of members of insurances has risen from 262,000 to 290,000 from October 1928 to October 1929. Of this number 19.1 per cent. are insured in public insurance societies, 61.2 per cent. in insurance societies organised by professional syndicates, and 19.7 per cent. in mutual insurance societies, i.e., organised according to the mixed system by masters and workmen.

We have on several occasions referred to the Tobacco Duties, the receipts of which are destined to form part of the 50 millions necessary for the establishment of social insurances in Switzerland. Hopes were first entertained that the new law proposed by the Federal Financial Department would be passed the Federal Chambers during 1929 and would enter into force on the 1st of this month. Difficulties having supervened, the Federal Parliament has not been able to take up the question last year, and it is exceedingly probable that the new law will not enter into force in 1930, certainly not before the latter half of the year. S.I.T.

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION.

No country other than Switzerland has electrified more than a comparatively small proportion of its total railway mileage, as indicated by the following table applying, from a railway point of view, to the more important European countries, the figures excluding narrow-gauge railways and those of a tramway character. The figures are and must be arbitrary, for it is difficult to define exactly the distinction between tramways and railways and suburban and main line electrification, but they may be accepted as indicating the general position:—

	Route Miles	Railway Total Route Mileage
Switzerland	1,203	1,943
Germany	1,010	33,350
Italy (State Railways)	1,005	9,910
France	754	25,990
Great Britain	620	20,243

A part only, however, of the electrified track occurs on main through lines as distinguished from suburban lines, and if the mileage of the latter be deducted, the following are the percentages of total route mileages which have been electrified for main line through traffic:—

	Per Cent.
Switzerland	61.9
Italy (State Railways)	10.1
France	2.5
Germany	2.5
Great Britain	0.0

if a mineral line 21 miles in length be excluded.

Home News—(Continued)

MILITARY SKIING COURSE.

Towards the end of January there will take place at Andermatt a course of instruction and practice, on skis, for officers and men of the élite and Landwehr battalions of the Ticino. The course is optional and men desirous of taking part have to announce themselves to the military authorities. As the élite battalions of the Ticino, together with those of Uri and Schwyz, form the mountain infantry brigade of the 5th Division, and as the Landwehr battalions are included in the special mountain infantry units forming the garrison of the fortified region of the Gothard, it is considered important that a fair proportion of the men should be efficient on skis.

Considering the lavishness with which Switzerland is piling up military expenditure, I should have thought it would have been considered a profitable investment to grant free travel to those desirous of returning from abroad to take part in the skiing course.

"FRIENDS OF FASCISM."

Concern has been expressed by several of the newspapers of the Ticino at the recent decision of the leaders of fascism to form groups called "Amici del Fascismo," recruited from non-Italian sympathisers with the existing régime. It is feared that this might make it awkward for Ticinesi and our other compatriots resident in Italy. O.B.

A feature common to the Continental countries is the availability of water for generation of electric power, while a further similarity of conditions is the non-existence of native coal in Switzerland and Italy, and the partial dependence of France, more particularly in the centre and south, on imported supplies.

A third feature, common to Switzerland and the districts in Italy in which electric power is being or has been substituted for steam, is the comparative steepness of the grades, and the consequent limitation of loads and speeds, and for conditions such as these the power of the electric locomotive to haul greater loads at higher speeds is obviously of great economic value. By the courtesy of Mr. Roger Smith, Member of this Institution, I am permitted to refer to statistics appearing in his inaugural address of 1927 to the Institute of Transport, which are quoted as indicating the relative effectiveness of steam and electric locomotives. Taking, for example, the St. Gothard Railway, with grades of 1 in 37, the standard load for steam locomotives is given as 325 tons, and for an electric locomotive 490 tons, while the speed is stated to be increased under electric traction by 20 per cent. to 24 per cent. for both passenger and goods trains. In this country the grades of through main lines are not generally severe, and the steam locomotive is capable of hauling a passenger train at a speed as high as is generally required or, perhaps, even considered desirable; while the length and therefore the weight of trains is controlled by the length of platforms rather than by the limits to the power of the locomotive. Water power, moreover, is not available in this country in large quantities; while, on the other hand, coal exists in abundance.—(Modern Transport.)

Heavy Sugar Imports to Switzerland.

In 1852, 751 waggons of sugar were imported into Switzerland and in 1928 the amount had increased to 14,380 waggons. This figure represents a little over 1/2 per cent. of the world's total sugar production. Domestic beet production roughly covers but 1/12 per cent. of the country's consumption. The principal countries which supply Switzerland with sugar are Czechoslovakia, Belgium, France, Java, Holland and Cuba.

FOYER SUISSE.

This year the House Committee of the Foyer Suisse again invited all the old people of the Colony for a reunion at 12/15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.

Over 80 invitations were sent out and 40 guests—their ages ranging from 68 to 84 years—sat down to Luncheon on the 16th December.

Monsieur Paravicini, the Swiss Minister and Hon. President of the Trust kindly took the chair. The hall at No. 15, was charmingly decorated and a most happy atmosphere prevailed throughout the proceedings.

The chef had excelled himself with a Menu admirably suitable to the occasion.

The music too had been carefully chosen. Patriotic songs and Yodels were interspersed by some delightful instrumental music to the general satisfaction of everybody. Various short speeches were made, also the following letter read:

Messieurs du comité du Foyer Suisse à Londres.

Je regrette énormément de ne pouvoir aller au—The old Folks Luncheon on Monday the 16th—car je ne puis voyager seule, et je n'ai pas de Fairy God Mother pour m'y mener. Mais je suis très touchée de votre aimable invitation, d'avoir pensé à moi, et je vous en remercie de tout mon coeur.

J'espère que mes Compatriotes et Contemporains, Swiss Old Folks, seront aussi heureux que moi Lundi prochain, et je penserai à eux.

Je suis invitée aussi dans ce petit village de Wribbenhall, toutes les amies, le ler. jour de l'an, pour un "Old Folks Supper and Entertainment." Alors Messieurs, voyez comme je suis gâtée, même par les Anglais. Là où la plus âgée reçoit un prix en argent. J'aurai 86 ans le 29 février de sorte qu'il se peut que je remporte le prix. Ici tout le monde m'appelle "La jeune vieille dame."

Chers Messieurs du comité, veuillez accepter mes remerciements et aussi mes meilleurs voeux pour chacun de vous, ainsi que mes Compatriotes. G.W.

After Luncheon Monsieur Paravicini made a most appropriate speech especially emphasising his own pleasure at meeting so many of the old stalwart representatives of the home-country. He also suggested that the Foyer Suisse might imitate the Worcester friends and offer a prize to the oldest Swiss Citizen living in London or England. He would feel proud, the Minister said, to hand a Silver Cup and a bouquet of red and white flowers to the winner next year.

At 3.30 the happy gathering broke up, everyone the better for having spent a few hours in a genuine Swiss atmosphere.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

(A Company limited by Shares incorporated in Switzerland)

Our service of

TRAVELLERS' CHEQUES,

which are issued in denominations of £2, £5 and £10, should prove of great convenience to all who contemplate travelling abroad. The cheques can be obtained at our

City Office, 99, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

and at our

West End Office, 11c, Regent St., S.W.1,

which is situated next door to that of the Swiss Federal Railways.

FOYER SUISSE, 15, Upper Bedford Pl., W.C.1

Swiss Girls and Ladies are cordially invited to an

AT HOME

EVERY SUNDAY FROM 3.30 P.M.

English Talks, Debates, Singing.

TEAS PROVIDED

Council of Foyer Suisse

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine

ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu le MARDI 7 JANVIER au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7 h. (prix 6/6).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C.2 (Telephone: Clerkenwell 9595).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal. Admissions. Démissions. Divers.

Divine Services.

ELGLIE SUISSE (1762),

(Langue française.)

79, Endell Street, near New Oxford St., W.C.2.

Dimanche 5 Janvier 11h—"Voyant qu'ils le suivait Jésus leur dit: que cherchez-vous?" Jean 1/38. Mr. R. Hoffmann-de Visme. 6h 30—Mr. Marcel Prærand.

Chers Amis et Paroissiens,

De tout coeur je vous souhaite une heureuse année! Et j'ajoute à ces voeux mes remerciements, les plus vifs pour tout ce que vous m'avez remis pour organiser les fêtes de Noël 1929. Votre concours si généreux et surtout vos nombreux témoignages d'affection, dans ces temps si durs pour moi, m'ont été infiniment précieux. Que Dieu vous le rende! Merci! Votre tout dévoué, René Hoffmann-de Visme.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2. (near General Post Office.)

Sonntag den 5. Januar 1930.

11 Uhr morgens Gottesdienst & Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends Gottesdienst.

Dienstag den 7. Januar 1930—3 Uhr nachmittags Nähverein im Foyer Suisse.

KREMATION.

Alice RIESEN von Oberbalm (Kt. Bern), geb. 14. Juli 1909, gest. 28. Dezember 1929—Kremation 31. Dezember.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, January 4th at 7 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Fancy Dress Dance at the Midland Grand Hotel.

Tuesday, January 7th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB Monthly Meeting at Pagan's Restaurant (See advt.).

Wednesday, January 15th at 7.35 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Ordinary Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Wednesday, February 5th at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIÉTÉ DE SECOURS MUTUELS: Monthly Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Tuesday, March 11th—UNIONE TICINESE: Annual Banquet, Ball and Cabaret at The Monico Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus, W.1.