

Prof. Maurice Lugeon (Lausanne)

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The Montana Vermala section of the Swiss Alpine Club has decided to construct a new hut (cabane) on the Col Porchet, fitted out with the latest improvements.

* * *

A sensational invention in the sphere of television is said to have been perfected by Prof. Fischer of the Zurich Institute for Technical Physics. Lamps with an extraordinary capacity will be able to project filmstrips on screens with a surface of anything up to 100 square meters. Films made in any part of the world can be transmitted by underground wire and thrown on the screen of local cinemas.

* * *

The movement of 100 glaciers officially controlled during the last year showed that seven had advanced, four remained stationary and 89 are receding.

* * *

Mrs. Ernst Hofstetter, wife of the Swiss Consul in Scotland, died at her home, the "Villa Suzanne," Balloch, Loch Lomond, on Thursday, 25th May. Mrs. Hofstetter, who was in her 41st year, passed away peacefully after a long and trying illness. During her stay in Balloch she had taken part in many activities and assisted to a great extent deserving and charitable objects. She was closely identified with the work of the W.V.S. The sympathy of a wide circle of friends will be extended to Mr. Hofstetter and his two children in their sad loss.

* * *

It grieves us to mention that our old friend P. Hilfiker, the popular chancellor of the Swiss Legation is suffering badly from heart trouble and has now been laid up for several weeks. We feel sure that the prospects of him having to sign our new passports before long will further a speedy recovery.

PROF. MAURICE LUGEON (LAUSANNE.)

Professor Maurice Lugeon, of the University of Lausanne, a distinguished Swiss geologist, has received a further signal honour in this country. He has been selected by the Council of the Royal Society as a Foreign Member. You cannot join the Royal Society by application and recommendation as you can most scientific societies. A limited number of Fellows is admitted every year, chosen for their merit in science by the Council of the Royal Society. This selection is always of great interest to everybody interested in Science. Perchance in this small list may be included one of your Friends. The field of possible Foreign Members is the wide circle of eminent scientific men all the world over. Six were selected by the Council for election by the Royal Society, two from America, two from Sweden, one from Australia and one from Switzerland.

We offer our sincere congratulation to our distinguished countryman.

In 1938 Professor Lugeon was given the highest award of the Geological Society of London, the Wollaston Medal. When he came to London to receive it, the President, Professor O. T. Jones, F.R.S., Cambridge, addressed him as follows:

The Council of the Geological Society has awarded to you the Wollaston Medal as a mark of their appreciation of the services you have rendered to geological science

by your brilliant and inspiring contributions to the study of the problem of mountain building, etc., etc. . . .

From the reply of Professor Lugeon, the following sentences are extracted as of possible interest to all of us:

"Votre haute marque d'estime a pour nous, les Suisses, une autre signification et je puis vous dire combien le geste que vous venez de faire pour l'un d'entre nous a eu et aura un profond retentissement dans mon pays. N'oublions pas en effet, ceci n'est plus de la science, mais il faut le dire, que dans la tourmente actuelle il y a peu de pays ou règne par la démocratie, la liberté totale de pensée et la liberté totale de dire ce que l'on pense. Non seulement nous sommes liés par la science, mais nous le sommes également par nos libertés."

The Royal Society was founded in 1660 and received a Charter from Charles II. It is housed in Burlington House. E.M.

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