

Letters to the editor

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The brightly-lit chestnut stall is part of a Swiss city's Christmas scene. How better to warm one's hands on a wintry night?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

A Mr. Peter Slater regrets that there is a gap in history books covering the war years (Observer Sept. 77.) I wonder if he has read a book by Jon Kimche called *Spying for Peace*. How the Swiss Intelligence Service and their C-in-C, General Guisan, ensured their country's neutrality in World War II, an untold chapter of current history. It was published in 1961 by Weidenfeld & Nicolson. It was given to me by an English friend and, born in 1935, I found it fascinating.

Rösly Lancaster (Mrs.)
Manor Cottage
Aspenden
Buntingford
Herts.

Sir,

I note with interest your increasing use of German, French, etc. in your excellent publication. I had thought that your prior emphasis on English articles was a big plus, not only for us second generation Swiss but also for the transplanted Swiss, some of whom may need to improve their fluency in English. To be honest, all the transplanted Swiss that I have met are very proficient in English and do not need the practice.

Perhaps you are catering to nostalgia or perhaps some Swiss have been away from home so long that they need to practice their native tongue.

I think that an English language publication might increase its circulation among English speaking friends or

descendants of Swiss.

In any case, here is my renewal for two years.

George H. Wettach
17-20 Well Drive
Fair Lawn,
New Jersey 07410
USA.

Warning

In a recent edition of the *Swiss Observer* there was an advertisement which invited readers to send for details of a so-called money-making scheme. The laws of libel prevent us from giving full details but readers are advised not to part with any money before they receive the goods. We would also point out that all our regular advertisers are highly reputable companies so we must apologise for the fact that one "doubtful" advertisement has appeared.

Language policy

We are grateful to Mr. Wettach for sending us this comment about our newly introduced columns in French and German. It is always good to know what our readers think. On page 31 we proudly present the first edition of *Hevetische Spalte*, a feature we hope to bring you regularly. From now on it will be our intention to bring you *Rubrique Romande* (in French) and *Helvetische Spalte* (in German) in alternate issues but only in non-special issues. These columns have been introduced by popular demand.

W.G.S.

ESCALATOR CHAIR FOR THE DISABLED AND CRIPPLES

Schindler & Co. Ltd., a lift factory in Lucerne, which has already constructed a great many lifts for the transport of wheelchairs, has just produced a device for the vertical transport of cripples or the disabled for installation in private homes. It is placed on the staircase, which must be at least 90 cm wide and have a slope of no more than 50°. The installation work, whether in a new or an old building, is minimal. A tubular rail is installed along the banister or the wall and the armchair is connected to it by means of a toothed wheel drive. The normal mains voltage is sufficient as a source of power. To set the escalator chair in motion, the handicapped passenger simply presses on a push button. The device is also available in other forms; the chair can be replaced by a transport platform, in order to turn it into a small elevator for use in breweries, restaurants or hotels.

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