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SPRINGTIME IN SWITZERLAND

Wherever Nature is untrammelled, and Springtime a pronounced event, fascination is more certain than at any other season. To declare that

"Heaven lies about us in our infancy",

savours of egotism; for Heaven lies about *all* infancy. Surely and universally does Youth appeal, and the "young of the year" is no exception. The Poet of Spring will be found singing in Lapland much as he sings in Europe and Australasia.

Hence everyone will swear by his own familiar bit of Spring—a Surrey lane, or Yorkshire dale, or merely a back-garden. It is largely a matter of personal association. The significant rapture of a daisy-sprinkled lawn, or the burnished gold of humble, wayside Celandine may rout all more pretentious bidders for one's favour. Indeed, in Spring, one's own window-box may be the wonder of wonders. For in the humblest blossom at this season is the joy and inspiration of Nature's re-awakening and rebirth.

An acknowledgment of these facts, however, need not deter me from proclaiming Springtime in Switzerland. When first I came to this country—in 1880—I was fresh from England's lovely wealth of Hawthorn and wild Hyacinth and, consequently, was keenly diffident about voicing the admiration I inwardly felt at meeting Spring in her ravishing Swiss mountain-mood. My secret enthusiasm seemed an outrage upon loyalty. But loyalty frequently is too fastidious. My diffidence was bound to evaporate and I was soon able to admire Spring everywhere—and especially in Switzerland.

For in Switzerland Spring is exceptional. Her setting is so varied and so grand. The length of her tether is so extended. Throughout the live months she never quits the land; even in winter, she will often make her waiting presence known by decking some sunny, snow-freed Alpine slope with bright-eyed Vernal Gentian. Because of the varied conditions on the Swiss Alps, Spring can produce Camellias at Christmas and Oxlips in Autumn.

But if the melting of Summer snows gives Spring occasional opportunities for presenting Soldanella and Vernal Crocus in the fall of the year, her normal and abundant opportunity begins with March and April and ends with the last days of June.

Spring's wonderful March and April carnival in Southern Switzerland is not sufficiently realized. The splendid display of flowering vegetation in these early months on the Swiss shores of Maggiore and the Lake of Lugano is almost incredible as a part of Switzerland's attractive year. It sounds so incompatible with Glaciers and Edelweiss.

The Blackbird is already chanting upon the fanleaved palm-trees, and lizards are gambolling about the walls. Under a bright blue sky, the wealth of Magnolias, Mimosas, Wisterias, Azaleas, Camellias and Rhododendrons, with oranges and lemons hanging on the trees, is gorgeous; one needs no passport for the South of France, or Italy.

Amid such sub-tropical luxury, the blossoming of ordinary fruit-trees passes almost unperceived. One must return north of the St. Gothard and Simplon to experience its full charm. Nor will the return come amiss. In the forward climate of Southern Switzerland Spring gives way to Summer when May arrives. A few last touches to the mountain-slopes and then she is off to superintend in person the lavish decoration of the lake-shores, woods and fields "up North".

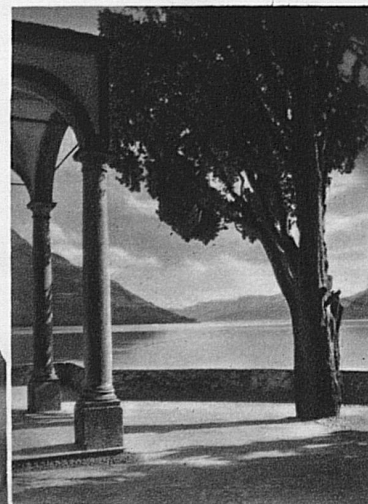
Generally speaking, May's first week is none too early for the best enjoyment of Spring's activities around the lakes of Geneva and Lucerne. By then Spring is afoot with an enthusiasm which is irresistible. One has but three weeks in which to go the rounds with her, from the Jura to Lake Constance. She will have opened Passes such as the Albis, Brunig, Sattel and Col des Mosses. A general impression is all that can be obtained; yet, this general view has its value: it is an effective introduction and one is inevitably impressed by the country's extraordinary endowments.

Springtime alone can bring home to one the many-sided loveliness of Switzerland, combined with its grandeur and sublimity. Blossom, blossom everywhere! Judging by the leagues upon leagues of undulating orchards, with whole villages buried, as it were, under *confetti*, one would think Switzerland could supply apples and pears to all Europe! And aback of this boundless wreath of bridal-blossom are blue mountains, sparkling snows, turquoise-tinted lakes, velvety and purpled forests.

When one spends a leisurely Spring with, for example, the Narcissus at Blonay, or the Purple Anemone at Sierre, or the rosy Heather at St. Beatenberg, or the Mealy Primula at Aegeri, one undoubtedly will be stirred to enthusiasm, but as likely as not it will be local enthusiasm for the Narcissus or Primula as afore one had for English Hawthorn.

And then, in June, when indefatigable Spring has moved her busy Court to the upper pastures of the Alps, one may safely follow, knowing that where she goes, *ennui* does not exist and health is paramount. With magic swiftness her wand is at work among the early field-flowers and floral denizens of rock and scree; at work, too, redeeming the paths of Winter's avalanches with gems to dissimulate the torn and scattered turf and loosened *débris*. Already will her glistening expanses of Crocuses and Crowsfoots be rare, and Soldanellas will be appearing only by the snows receding edge. But Geum and Gentian, Primula and Aster, Orchis and Anemone, Myosotis and Viola—to name but a few in her retinue—will be crowding, eager to breathe the wonderful air and rejoice in the wonderful sunlight.

There will be pastures awash with sulphur-coloured Anemones, mountain-sides alight with rosy Daphne, fields of white Lilies rivalling in purity those of the Narcissus, and slopes so blue with Gentians as to be the envy of the sky. And yet, relatively, they have been "born to blush unseen"—for a combination of fashion and pre-



*Zypressen in Brissago
Cyprès à Brissago
Cypresses at Brissago
Cipressi a Brissago*

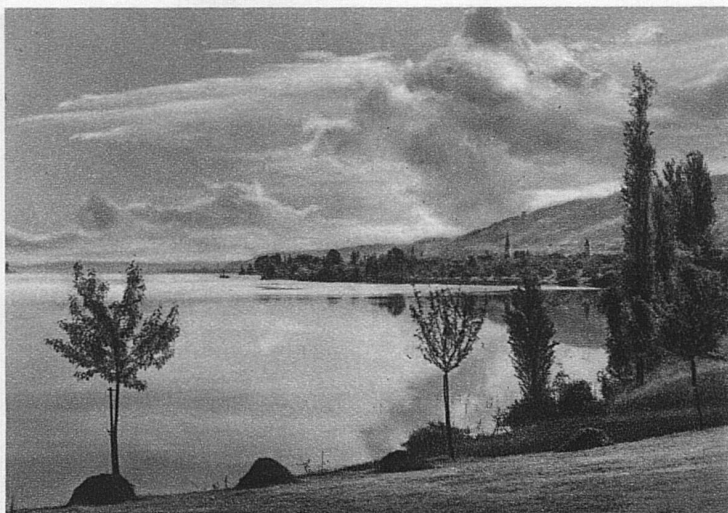
*Links: Narzissen im Centovalli
A gauche: Narcisses dans les
Centovalli / Left: Narcissus in
the Centovalli / A sinistra:
Narcisi nelle Centovalli*

Phot. Steinemann

*Unten: Am Rhein bei Schaffhausen /
Au-dessous: Le Rhin près de Schaff-
house / Below: On the Rhine at Schaff-
hausen / In basso: Il Reno presso
Sciaffusa*

Phot. Steiner





Mammern am Bodensee

*Mammern au bord
du lac de Constance*

*Mammern on the Lake
of Constance*

*Mammern sul lago
di Costanza*

Phot. Steiner

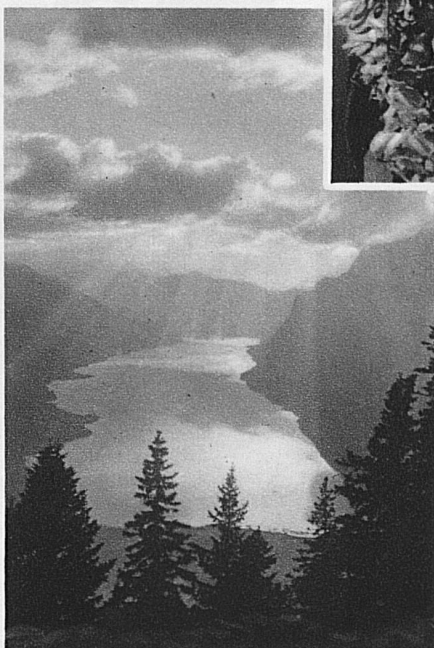
*Unten:
Der Wallensee*

*Au-dessous:
Le lac de Wallenstadt*

*Below:
The Lake of Wallen*

*In basso:
Il lago di Wallenstadt*

Phot. Burkhard



*Rechts: Gstaad im
Blumenkleid*

*A droite: Gstaad
dans les fleurs*

*Right: Gstaad clad
in Flowers*

*A destra: Gstaad in
abito floreale*

Phot. Naegeli



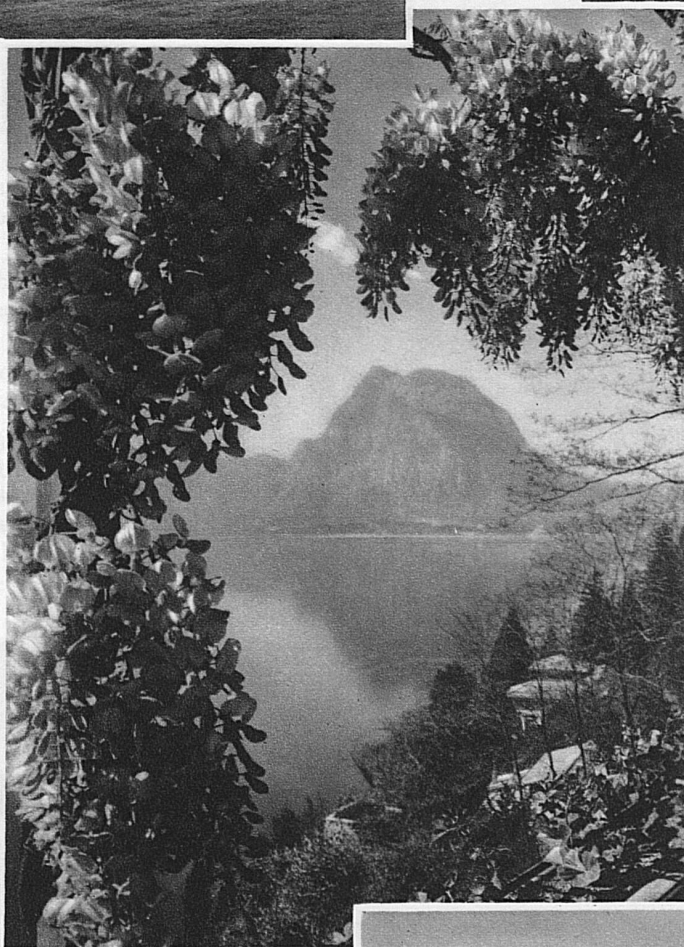
*Fischerplatz bei
Ermatingen*

*Le coin des pêcheurs
à Ermatingen*

*Fishing-ground
near Ermatingen*

*L'insenatura dei pescatori
a Ermatingen*

Phot. Burkhard



*Links: Der San Salvatore
bei Lugano im Rahmen
farbenprächtiger Glyzi-
nen / A gauche: Le mont
San Salvatore à Lugano,
vu d'un cadre de gly-
cines / Left: San Salva-
tore at Lugano prettily
framed in Wistaria / A
sinistra: Il San Salvatore
a Lugano visto da un
pergolato di glicini*

Phot. Rüedi





*In der Umgebung
Engelbergs*

*Aux environs
d'Engelberg*

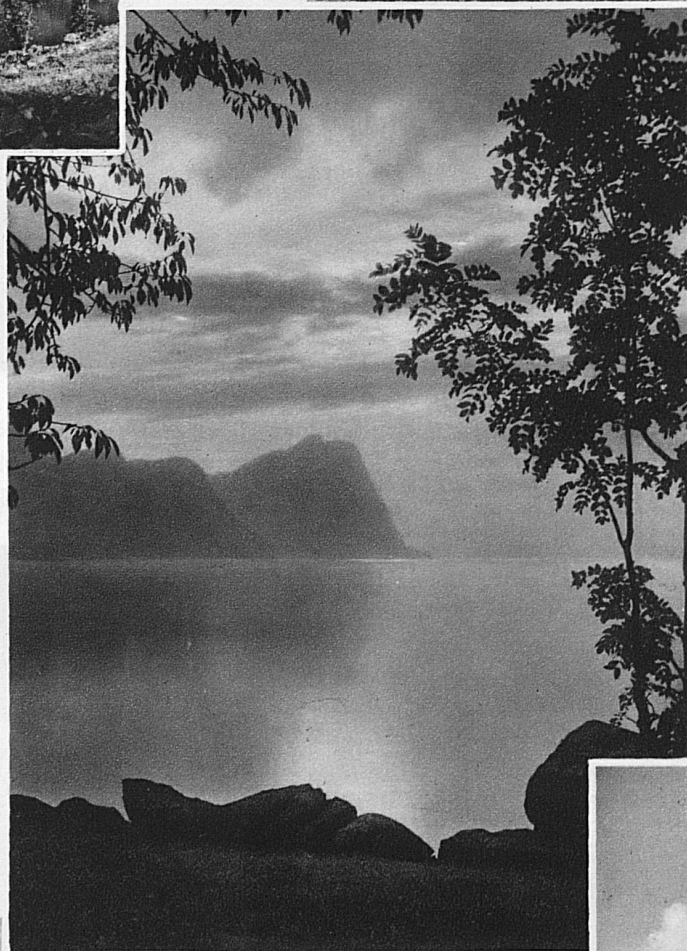
*In the Neighbourhood
of Engelberg*

*Nei dintorni di
Engelberg*

Phot. Schneider

*Rechts: Vierwaldstätter-
see und Bürgenstock / A
droite: Le lac des Quatre-
Cantons et le Bürgen-
stock / Right: The Lake
of Lucerne with the Bür-
genstock / A destra: Il
lago dei Quattro Cantoni
ed il Bürgenstock*

Phot. Steiner



Schloss Nidau bei Biel

*Le Château de Nidau
près de Bienne*

*The Castle of Nidau
at Bienne*

*Il Castello di Nidau
presso Bienne*

*Unten:
In den Gärten Vitznaus*

*Au-dessous:
Dans les jardins de Vitznau*

*Below:
In the Gardens of Vitznau*

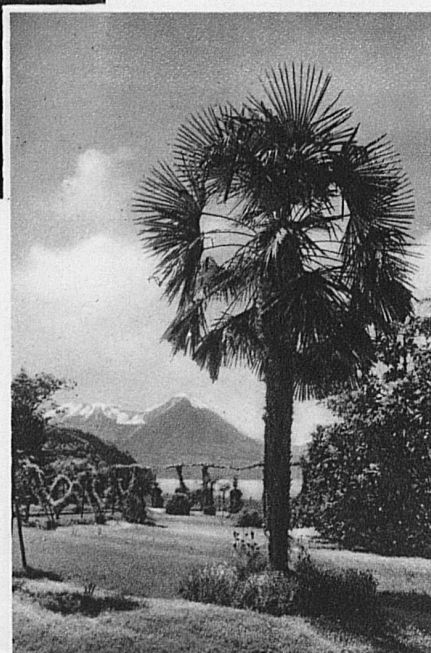
*In basso:
Nei giardini di Vitznau*

Phot. Gaberell



*Links: Der Hafen
von Luzern mit Pi-
latus / A gauche: Le
port de Lucerne et le
Pilate / Left: The
Quay at Lucerne with
Pilatus / A sinistra:
Il porto di Lucerna
ed il Pilato*

Phot. Schneider





An den Ufern des Zürichsees / Au bord du lac de Zurich / On the Shore of the Lake of Zürich / Sulle rive del lago di Zurigo

Die Aussicht vom Pilatus auf den Vierwaldstättersee / Le lac des Quatre-Cantons, vu du Pilate / View from Pilatus, looking across the Lake of Lucerne / Il lago dei Quattro Cantoni, veduto dal Pilato



judice decrees that the Alps are fit for patronage only in high-summer and mid-winter.

Here are the Alps at their sweetest and cleanest; here is Nature at her lavish best. Aesthetically, Alpine June is unsurpassed. Yet, nevertheless, it is as if a bann were set upon this too much beauty!

What is there to fear?—the weather? I have known the elements persistently and abominably minded in July and August; but patrons were legion. May, June and October frequently are the finest months of the year; and, comparatively, they are neglected.

One ought not to expect to find Switzerland basking eternally in sunshine. Her admirable loveliness has not been evolved, and is not maintained, without greyness and storm. Spring's Swiss flowers, themselves, are children of a stern up-bringing. Why should Man, even though a tourist, seek to escape the mixed conditions vital to the beauty he affects to adore?

Perhaps Swiss propaganda is somewhat to blame? Perhaps the serenely blue-skied posters on the hoardings induce the impression that Helvetia owns and runs Eden? But how would it be if storms were advertised? Switzerland would gain a reputation something like that of the Bay of Biscay!

Then, besides libels on the weather, I have heard similar libels about microbes. Why, any microbes that may have been left on the Alps from the previous Summer were washed down to the plains by the melting of the snow! Man brings his own microbes to these pure regions. When, in the Antarctic, a bale of

English goods was opened, there was an epidemic of Influenza.

Snow purifies. In Spring, therefore, the Alpine pastures stand purged and cleansed. The very air speaks of the fact. And if the flowers are of intensest, clearest hues, it is because they reflect and respond to the quality of the atmosphere in which Spring bids them bloom. That they gather here in their millions is not surprising. The surprising thing is that Man should be so perverse.

He mouths mightily Spring's attractiveness; his literature is freely interlarded with songs to this lady's eyebrows. Is it mere paper ecstasy?—or is it, in truth, a singing to the Spring-feeling in himself? Be that as it may, Spring here, in Switzerland, is inspiring, not enervating. One must be up and doing—dreaming, meanwhile, if one will.

"Vain is the glory of the sky,
The beauty vain of field and grove,
Unless, while with admiring eye
We gaze, we also learn to love."

However, twenty years ago I was crying in a worse wilderness than the one in which I am crying to-day. Twenty years ago Switzerland's Winter was traduced in far less mixed terms than is Spring today, and I was considered as at least "peculiar" for affecting localities which now are popular Winter Sport resorts.

The qualities of Springtime in Switzerland are such as must eventually win recognition.

"This fine old world of ours is but a child
Yet in the go-cart. Patience! Give it time"—

G. Flemwell.

Innovations dans les voyages de sociétés

Le tarif des entreprises ferroviaires et de navigation suisses pour le transport de sociétés subit à partir du 1^{er} mai 1929 des modifications importantes au profit des voyageurs:

- 1° Le nombre minimum de voyageurs exigé pour l'obtention de billets de sociétés à prix réduits est abaissé de 12 à 8.
- 2° Presque toutes les taxes des voyages de sociétés ont été très sensiblement abaissées, spécialement pour les sociétés de 15 à 60 personnes.
- 3° Jusqu'à ce jour, le prix des voyages de sociétés

aller et retour était du 10 % plus faible que le prix de deux voyages de simple course. Cette réduction est maintenant portée à 15 %

- 4° Les sociétés qui voyagent avec un billet collectif ne paieront désormais que la moitié de la surtaxe pour trains directs.

Le tableau comparatif ci-après montre la portée des facilités consenties pour les voyages sur les lignes des CFF et sur celles de certaines compagnies privées qui ont les mêmes bases de tarif.

Prix du voyage par personne pour l'aller et retour

surtaxe pour trains directs comprise	50 km.		100 km.		150 km.		200 km.		300 km.	
	II fr.	III fr.	II fr.	III fr.	II fr.	III fr.	II fr.	III fr.	II fr.	III fr.
8 personnes:										
Ancienne taxe ordinaire . . .	9.90	7. —	19.80	14. —	29.70	21. —	39.60	28. —	46.20	32.80
Nouvelle taxe de société . . .	7.25	5.10	14.40	10.20	21.25	15.05	28. —	19.90	38.20	27.20
Réduction	2.65	1.90	5.40	3.80	8.45	5.95	11.60	8.10	8. —	5.60
15—60 personnes:										
Ancienne taxe ordinaire . . .	8.50	6. —	16.55	11.65	24.15	16.95	31.75	22.25	43.05	30.15
Nouvelle taxe de société . . .	6.35	4.40	12.60	8.80	18.50	12.95	24.30	17.10	33. —	23.40
Réduction	2.15	1.60	3.95	2.85	5.65	4. —	7.45	5.15	10.05	6.75

On voit que la diminution est très importante, et qu'elle est de nature à atteindre son but, qui est d'encourager les sociétés de tout genre à entreprendre des voyages et à parcourir toutes les régions de notre beau pays. On remarquera, en particulier, que ces facilités sont à la portée de n'importe quel groupe de personnes. La seule condition est qu'on soit huit. Il n'est pas néces-

saire que le groupe soit une société constituée. Il suffit que quelques particuliers, qu'une ou deux familles, qu'une noce, s'entendent pour faire un voyage en commun et ils bénéficient de ces avantages.

On peut obtenir tous les renseignements désirables au guichet de n'importe quelle gare ou station.