The Edior's Post-Bag

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THE EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

To the Editor of the Swiss Observer.

Dear Sir,

May I be allowed to suggest that it is perhaps inadvisable to fill the columns of this paper with articles which, though admirable from many points of view, might possibly be construed as being criticisms of the conditions existing in other countries.

I am a fervent admirer of Kyburg, and am even inclined to be envious of his facile pen and cinematographogenous use of capital letters, but I cannot help feeling that his delight in tilting at his pet aversions, sometimes leads him, if not into mixing his metaphors, at least to mix up his dates.

It is, of course, a great joy to put up ones " bêtes noires " like so many ninepins and then proceed to knock them down to one's own entire satisfaction, if not to the edification of every one else.

Fascism and Robber Barons, sovietism, communism, the dark ages, the inquisition seem to be some of the ninepins at which Kyburg would hurl the missiles of his excellent prose.

But is it not possible that the two conditions mentioned were not imposed upon the countries in which they exist, but were the logical outcome of the conditions pre-existant and that if a particular state of affaires is found in any particular country, it may be argued that these conditions were the only ones which could occur, when all the different factors of race, climate, education and history have been taken into account.

For instance, it is possible to argue that the regime under the Convention during the French Revolution was not directly inspired by the Conventionnels, but was the result of the accumulated events during many years.

Another ninepin dear to Kyburg is the dark ages and the inquisition. I have always felt a little dubious about the dark ages, for one reads of so many marvellous things even in some of the centuries usually classified as dark.

We are told that in the 5th century, the splendour of Rome was such, that the sight of its buildings and statues covered with gold, dazzled the stranger with their magnificence, and during the 11th to 13th centuries were built those magnificent cathedrals which have never been equalled in modern and more enlightened times.

In the dark ages were invented rudders for ships, the present system of harness for horses, candles, stained glass windows, spectacles. I also fear that to couple the dark ages with the inquisition is slightly misleading, for the inquisition in Spain, and I suppose this is Kyburg's special bête noire, did not begin to flourish until the end of the 15th century.

It has become a platitude to suggest that it may come to pass in the distant future that even our present generation may be considered to be barbarous and unenlightened.

I do not wish to play the part of the carping critic and it is only my admiration for Kyburg which has induced me to venture the above remarks.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
Regular Reader.

THE ACADEMY CINEMA.

The Autumn Season at the Academy Cinema, 165, Oxford Street, will open on Friday October 6th, with Joe May's phantasy " Paris-Mediterranée." I can strongly recommend this film. It is a " conte de Fée " and does not pretend to be anything else and in order that you may make no mistake the story opens with the symbolical representation of a fairy story leading up to a view of the " Printemps " at Paris, in which store the opening scenes are laid. Annabella, whom you will remember as the delightful heroine in " Le Million " is the chief character. She is as charming as ever and plays the part of Jacqueline Pascaud, an employée in the Printemps who answers an advertisement from one who desires a companion who will share expenses for a motor trip to the Riviera.

The advertiser, a Mr. Anatole Biscotte, accountant in a hosiery firm, has won a car in a raffle but his means do not run to tyres and petrol for so long a journey. Hence the advertisement.

Jacqueline and Anatole correspond with one another and arrange to meet at an hotel, but, through a misunderstanding, Jacqueline makes the acquaintance of a wealthy Englishman whom she imagines to be Mr. Biscotte. Jacqueline and the false Mr. Biscotte arrange to go to the Riviera and to share expenses and off they start, followed by the real Mr. Biscotte and by a jealous but devoted admirer who is also employed at the Printemps.

After numerous adventures they arrive at Cannes and after further adventures and misunderstandings the story ends, as should end all real fairy stories, by the marriage of Jacqueline to the rich and noble Englishman.

In several places the film is intensely funny and the scenes on the Riviera are exceedingly well done.

It is very pleasing to see a film which is really humorous without being vulgar and in which, for once, no attempt has been made to endeavour to get within a hair's breadth of the Censor's Scissors. The production is good although the photography of the opening scenes in the store is not quite satisfactory. The diction of the actors is remarkably clear and Annabella, in particular, has an exceedingly pleasant voice. This is important for those who wish to combine instruction with pleasure and so to improve their knowledge of French.

I would recommend readers to watch the announcements of the Academy Cinema, because I understand that, as in the past, the Management intends to concentrate on the production of foreign films each in the original language.

Last year, I mentioned a film called " Zwei Herzen in drei viertel Takt " and I understand that an English version is being made with the title " Two hearts in Valse time." I can only hope that the English version will be as good as the original but I fear, that in many cases, translations are often a mistake.

ck.

SWISS EXPORTS IMPROVE.

Exports of textiles from Switzerland which for long have shown a declining tendency, appear to be on the upgrade once more. Exports during July, 1933, totalled 16,300,000 frs. which is practically 55 per cent. higher than for the corresponding month of 1932 (10,200,000 frs.). Those for August, 1933, again were some 50 per cent. in advance of August, 1932, viz., 15,000,000 frs. and 10,600,000 frs. respectively. As the following table shows, the total improvement (10,000,000 frs.) over the two months as compared with a year ago, was shared by (in millions of frs.) silk fabrics 2.3, cotton fabrics 6.2, cotton yarns 1.1, and rayon 1.0.

	August 1933	July 1933	August 1932	July 1932
Silk fabrics ...	3.1	3.1	2.2	1.7
Embroidery ...	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.9
Cotton fabrics ...	4.3	5.7	1.7	2.1
Cotton yarns ...	1.2	1.4	0.7	0.8
Schappe	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Rayon	2.2	2.2	1.6	1.8
Knit goods ...	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.4
Worsted yarns ...	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5
Silk ribbons ...	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6
Woollen fabrics ...	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, October 11th, at 8 o'clock — Monthly Meeting. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — followed by a causerie on South Africa, by Mr. Ch. Chapuis at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.

Tuesday, October 17th from 8.30 p.m. to to 2 a.m. " Fête des Vendanges " Union Helvetia Club, 1, Gerrard, Place, W. (tickets 2/6).

Wednesday, october 18th, at 7.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting, to be followed by a causerie by the Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, on " Le Val d'Anniviers " (about 8.30) at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Wednesday, November 1st, at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Saturday, November 4th, at 2 and 4 o'clock — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Film Show — " Berninabahn " — with commentary by Director A. Zimmermann, Poschiavo, at King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.C.1.

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6.30h. — M. R. Desaules.
7.30h. — Répétition du Choeur.

Mardi, le 10 octobre à 3 h. Au Foyer — Réunion de Couture des dames— reprises.—

Le Pasteur Hoffmann-de Visme reçoit le Mercredi de 11 heures à midi 30, à l'église, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2., et après les cultes. S'adresser à lui pour tout ce qui concerne les baptêmes, mariages, instructions religieuses etc. Pour rendez-vous particuliers, ou autre chose, téléphoner à Archway 1798, ou écrire à 102, Hornsey Lane,, N.6.

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7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.
8 Uhr Chorprobe.

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