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means to an end. The " Swissness " of Switzerland cannot find so marked an expression in her cities, where a certain adaptation to internationalism is bound to happen, and I would therefore always encourage foreign visitors to sample both towns and villages during their visit to Switzerland. Only thus will they grasp the true loveliness of this grand country and the real character of its inhabitants. But I am wandering from the point of this article.

You must not think that the Swiss National Exhibition is merely a show or a fair; it is something much more lively and interesting, presenting a picture of all branches of production with their mutual relations and dependencies. The exhibits are not displayed in tiring series, but are to be seen where they belong with regard to their functions in daily life. For instance, furniture is to be found in the section " House and Home," and not in a furniture section, while office furniture may be inspected in a modern office. The electricity section, too, is not only confined to a display of the various applications of " white coal." In short, the individual manufacturer has given way in the foreground to the productive capacity of the closed economic group. Everyone has done his best to sacrifice his personal ambition to the community. This thematic arrangement makes the exhibition a world *in petto,* active and energetic and really productive.

Part of the charm of the Swiss National Exhibition is the natural beauty of its surroundings. Situated on the lakeside, one shore has been utilised for the showing of agricultural produce and the other is devoted to the creations of Swiss industry. Those keen on engineering may prefer the latter, but I found great pleasure in the farming and livestock shown on the right shore of the lake. In order to present a complete picture of rural life — however it may vary in different parts of Switzerland — a little village was constructed, and it is here, among these rural buildings, that the peasantry celebrate their own special costumes, sing their folk songs and dance their folk dances.

You can see at this exhibition all the strength of Switzerland which lies, surely, in her diversity. She is diverse in her scenery, in the occupations and life conditions of her inhabitants. She speaks many languages and has many varied customs and manners within her frontiers. But one spirit governs this little nation — freedom of thought for the individual and the independence of the State. You can find it here at Zurich, you can find it in all the odd villages among the hills.

Have I led you far enough, reader?

Admittedly, I have taken you over very little of the exhibition grounds, but I hope that I have led you far enough. For the Swiss National Exhibition at Zurich portrays before you all Switzerland, and it may be a long time ere such an opportunity presents itself again. It puts truth into the phrase which slips so lightly from our lips on some occasions: "The chance of a lifetime!"

Switzerland, believe me, has given of her best.

William Luscombe.

Finally I came across an article entitled

The Arbalestier — " *Country Life,*" 22nd July.

In the Canton of Schwytz, which is that part of Switzerland which gives its name to the country, the local Bisley is held at Morgarten and, in the truest tradition of William Tell, crossbows are still used. Actually, it is not entirely a bow-and-arrow meeting, and proceedings open with a rifle shoot at relatively long range. One photograph we reproduce shows the competitors, and it will be seen that some are sitting, though the majority seem to prefer kneeling. Some are using their slings, while others do not make use of this excellent accessory. The rifles are Schmidt-Rubins. These are the official weapon of the Swiss Militia, and have a rather unfamiliar action with a straight pull bolt. The action is very little known over here, though I have on occasion seen it fitted to match rifles at Bisley. The calibre is 7½mm., which is .295in., and the arms experts agree that it is one of the most accurate rifles in the world, although the standard military sights usually fitted lack refinement and a wind gauge. It is, however, very heavy, and its magazine only holds six rounds. Switzerland is a decidedly conservative country, and their traditional skill in musketry is encouraged by the maintenance of these traditional *Schutzenfests* and inter-cantonal competitions. This country is fortunate in providing many excellent sites for good ranges, and the terraced side of a small mountain forms an excellent butt. Another photograph shows the targets in groups of five in a slightly echeloned formation, and, as can be seen, the old-fashioned bull's-eye is retained. Actually there are three concentric circles in the black and two outside on the white. Arrangements for marking are also fairly primitive but quite efficient. Nevertheless, it is not simply the rifle shooting which is the main feature. A great deal of local enthusiasm is shown for the traditional crossbow events.

The crossbow event is at relatively long range, something less, I should say, than a hundred metres. The target is a 12in. square pine shingle well over an inch thick, and it is marked with a big black bull with concentric invisible circles. The illustration shows a typical Swiss crossbowman with his weapon, which is typical of the modern target arbalest, and it shows the mechanism in considerable detail. Just above the marksman's left hand is, on the top of the stock, an arrangement not unlike the hammer of a gun. In front of it is a shorter hook. The " hammer " is actually a rather complicated form of target sight, and the " hook " is the nut which retains the bowstring under tension of the bow when the arm is cocked. It is not possible to cock these bows by hand by a direct pull on the cord, for the wide, flat steel bow has probably a pull of over a hundred pounds. On the bench in front is lying a wooden lever. This is known as a " goat's-foot." Its forked forward end engages with projections just behind the bow and the short attached lever with the cord of the bow. The leverage afforded by the long wooden handle allows the cord to be drawn back till caught and retained by the nut. The trigger is usually a double set trigger affair with a pull of only a couple of ounces or so, and the front trigger, inside the trigger-guard and almost covered by the marksman's left hand, is solely for cocking the trigger-lock. The *Stecher* or true hair-trigger is a fine steel wire projection just behind the spur bow of the trigger-guard. The precision of these arms is equal to that of a light rifle at ranges up to some seventy yards. The penetration is about three-quarters of an inch, and the full range at maximum elevation over two hundred and fifty yards. These arms are toys compared with the big Genoese cross-bows, which had to be bent with a crane and windlass arrangement. One of these, when tested in modern times, needed over twelve hundred pounds " pull " to bend the weapon to full cock, and had a range of over a quarter of a mile. The advantage of the big war crossbows was their penetration. At sixty paces they would send a three-ounce bolt through all but the best armour, and even at longer ranges the shock effect of the impact would unhorse a mounted man. It is not known when or where it was invented.

The Retriever.

I guess that the above will remind some of us, anyhow the old Winterthurers of the Armbrust-shooting in the old Turnhalle under the able guidance of Turnvater Michel! Those were the days, lads! It is a long time since, but when I read the above article, I could feel my eye " tuning in " as it were and getting that steadfast, steely look which bodies ill for the Bull!

In those days, we took it for granted that we had to be trained to shoot, etc., the Armbrust came first, then the Cadet-Rifle — remember the old Vetterli which had a nasty habit of going off when least expected because the safety catch was somewhat loose! — and finally with the Ordnance rifle. Some uf us also, during our Cadet time had a go at the Guns which could be loaded with turnips and other stuff to produce a lot of smoke and a big bang. And did those exercises make us into Militarists? Not on your life, we never even thought about it, albeit, of course, we knew that if anybody should ever foolishly attack our Country, WE would be there to stop him. Those were the days, eh?

Kyburg.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS.

The outstanding success of the 1st August celebrations at St. Pancras Town Hall is entirely due to the wonderful support given by all the colony, and the thanks of the organising committee go to all those who have so generously contributed towards that end, either by their presence or their financial support.

The committee also wish to express their gratitude to all attendants, stewards, the charming girls, both Swiss and English, who worked with such energy in the selling of souvenirs, programmes or tickets, the musical and choral artists who contributed so much to creating a patriotic atmosphere, and last but not least, all the ladies who made the effort to appear in their national costumes. To all of those who helped so much to make a success, we say thank you.

Our sincere regrets go to all those compatriots who were unfortunately turned away owing to lack of accommodation.

The attendance of nearly 2,000 was more than double the most sanguine expectations of experts in the colony, and the huge success of the evening has given the committee such encouragement that provision will be made for considerably larger numbers next year.

For the Committee,
H. Bingguely,
Hon. Secretary.

EDITOR. — A full report will appear in our next issue.

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Dimanche 6 août 1939.

11h. Mr. le Pasteur Emery.

Les cultes du soir sont supprimés pendant le mois d'août.

Pour tout ce qui concerne le ministère pastoral, prière de s'adresser jusqu'à nouvel avis à M. le pasteur U. Emery, Foyer Suisse, 15 Bedford Way, W.C.1 (Phone MUSeum 3100).

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Sonntag, den 6. Aug. 1939:
11 Uhr vormittags: Gottesdienst mit Predigt v. Pfr. E. Bommeli.

Kirchl. Bestattung: Enrico Gaspard Ronzi, Hotelangestellter, v. Samaden, Kt. Graubünden.

Montag, den 7. Aug.: Ausflug nach Jordans. Day return ticket to Seer Green. Sammlung: 10 Uhr, beim Booking-Office, Marylebone Station. Abfahrt 10.20 h. Rückkehr 8.15, Marylebone Station.

Jedermann herzlich eingeladen!

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