

Swiss artists win awards abroad

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is questioned or threatened from outside, the differently made-up groups of inhabitants are kept together by a glowing love for their home and country. It is interesting how the Swiss manage to live together. The following example illustrates the phenomenon: Voting rights for women have so far been granted only in a few parts of the country. But the first woman Minister was ordained in Zurich in the 'thirties, and in St. Gall, there has been a woman State Attorney since the 'fifties, although the law does not grant women the right to be elected to such offices. Many such examples could be given which prove that the Swiss do not solve their problems theoretically or centrally orientated. If a man or woman is needed for a special place, he or she will be put there, whether the law agrees or not. The Swiss are practical and pragmatic.

We are not only to investigate living conditions of Swiss writers and their relation to the community, but in the first place their work. In other words, we are interested to know whether these external circumstances which correspond to an attitude of mind, have found their expression in Swiss contemporary literature. Looking at the whole extent of writing, the question must be answered in the affirmative. By far the largest part of lyrics, the art of narrative and of drama is given a typically Swiss background, and the language is reasonably aligned to nature and the human aspect of the rural or urban scene. But it cannot be denied that this *Schrifttum* is accorded only small scope. In the work of Francesco Chiesa, past-master of the Italian literature of Switzerland; Andri Peer, so much concerned with the Romansh; Georg Thuerer, the historian; Maurice Zermatten, the sensitive and worthy successor of Ramuz; — just to mention one of each of the four parts of Switzerland — the Swiss recognises his own world as he lives and feels it. The novel "Schweizer-spiegel" by Meinrad Inglin, for instance, produces a marvellous insight into the nature and thinking of the Swiss people at a historically important moment. There could not be better documentation than this novel for anyone interested in the Switzerland of the twentieth century. But narrative, although handled with superiority, is marked to such a degree by the realism of the nineteenth century, that the time before the first world war produced more material rather than special poetic greatness. This applies to a large field of Swiss literature. Certain characteristics sometimes come from the dialects which the Swiss writer uses only rarely. When he does, they lend his work the charm of the intimate otherwise unattainable. But the diminishing group of dialect writers is of only Swiss, if not exclusively of local importance. For the German-speaking part of the country, Gottfried Keller's language depicted the world of the people in such a masterly way that most of his successors hardly reach beyond variations of his image. It may be assumed that every people and every linguistic group has received such images in the course of its history. We shall not elaborate on the successors to the great Gottfried Keller today.

(To be continued.)

DIAMOND AND IRON WEDDINGS

Two couples have recently celebrated their Diamond Weddings, Mr. and Mrs. Hans and Bertha Rahn-von Arx, *Bürgerheim* Schaffhausen, Mr. and Mrs. Albert and Frieda Tobler-Kellenberger, Lutzenberg, Appenzell-Ausserrhoden, and Mr. and Mrs. Hugo and Rosina Schwarz Wuethrich, Basle.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred and Elise Chapuis, Geneva, have recently celebrated their Iron Wedding (65 years).

(A.T.S. and "Basler Nachrichten".)

SWISS ARTISTS WIN AWARDS ABROAD

Swiss painter Gottfried Honegger-Lavater, born 1917 in Zurich and resident in Paris, has received the art prize for 1967 from the Carnegie Foundation of Pittsburgh, U.S.A. He is thus the second Swiss artist to receive this award within a relatively short time; in 1961 it was given to Alberto Giacometti.

At the second Biennale for Illustration in Bratislava, in which about 300 artists from two dozen countries participated, the young Swiss graphist and painter Paul Nussbaumer received a silver medal for his illustrated book "Tell's Boy".

Swiss musician Walter Ducloux has been named artistic director by the Los Angeles Orchestra Society.

[S.N.T.O.]

WINTER HOLIDAYS IN LUCERNE

Lucerne is not only a world-famous summer holiday resort; in wintertime, too, the numerous sights of this city, its cultural and social life as well as the possibilities of all kinds of winter sports attract many visitors. Lucerne is centrally situated with regard to other European countries, and at the same time all of Central Switzerland's sports centres are situated near-by. *Seasan-tickets* as issued by public and private transport companies and covering the whole sports region, are valid to 31st March and are for sale at the Lucerne Official Tourist Office, at Lucerne travel agencies and hotels as well as at the official booking-offices in Switzerland and at the Swiss National Tourist Office, Swiss Centre, 1 New Coventry Street, W.1. During the period mentioned, holiday-makers will find hotel prices particularly advantageous.

(N.T.O. Lucerne.)

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