

Home news

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): **- (1931)**

Heft 499

PDF erstellt am: **20.05.2024**

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. P. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 11—No. 499

LONDON, MAY 16, 1931.

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	3 Months (13 issues, post free)	3/6
	6 " " " " " "	6/6
SWITZERLAND	6 Months (26 issues, post free)	Fr. 7.50
	12 " " " " " "	14.-

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postcheck-Konto Basle V 5718).



HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

DIPLOMATIC VISIT AT THE FEDERAL PALAIS.

Sir Howard William Kennard, the new British Minister to Switzerland, presented his letters of credence to Monsieur Häberlin, President of the Swiss Confederation, last week.

WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL ELECTRIC TRAINS.

Switzerland has completed the first of a number of what will be the most powerful electric locomotives in the world.

They will be 110ft. long, will develop 7000 horse-power, and will be able to carry goods and express trains at 40 miles an hour on the steepest grades of the international St. Gothard line.

NEW SWISS COMPANY.

La Société Financière Métallurgique-Electrique is the name of a new company which has lately been organised at Basle (L. St. Alban Anlage) to finance electro-metallurgical undertakings.

NEW SWISS OBSERVATORY.

Three years of work under the most difficult circumstances has been crowned by the completion of the new observatory on the Jungfrauoch at a height of 11,500 feet. The observatory will be under international control. The installation of instruments is partially completed though the observatory will not be in use before the summer.

CINEMA TERMS TROUBLES.

At the general assembly of the Association Cinématographique Suisse Romande, recently held in Geneva, it was proposed to advise the special Commission appointed to consider the new terms for talkie films to call an assembly of Swiss renters and directors to discuss the question.

GENEVA AND FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

In a message to the British Red Cross Society conveying good wishes for Red Cross Day, which celebrated throughout the Empire the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birthday, M. Max Huber, President of the International Red Cross Committee, Geneva, says:

"The 12th of May is indeed a great day in the calendar of the Red Cross.

"Nor is the anniversary of Florence Nightingale celebrated in England alone. It is on the 12th of May that the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva distributes to the most deserving nurses throughout the world the medal which was founded by the International Red Cross Conference, and which bears the image of the Lady of the Lamp."

SLOTTED WING FOR SWISS PLANES.

An agreement has been concluded between the Technical Branch of the Federal Military Department of Switzerland and Messrs. Handley Page, providing for the fitting of the slotted wing mechanism to certain of the types of aeroplane used by the Federal Military Department.

SWISS YARN EXPORTS.

Swiss exports of rayon yarns in the first quarter of the year totalled 1,092,169 kilos. The total for March was 411,943 kilos., showing a considerable improvement over the February figure of 333,424 kilos. The total for March, 1930, was 391,721 kilos. Germany was by far the largest market with a total of 138,111 kilos, against only 87,781 kilos. in February and 101,451 kilos. in March last year. There were very large increases in takings by the United States and Italy, and Spain, Czecho-Slovakia and Australia also took considerably more. Imports, which amounted in the first quarter of the year to 501,320 kilos., totalled 187,170 kilos., against 185,246 kilos. in February, and 172,087 kilos. in March, 1930.

FOOTBALL.

The Swiss "Cup Final" took place at Lugano on Sunday last. The two teams which qualified for this event, were: F.C. Lugano and F.C. Grasshoppers Zurich, the former scoring two goals to one goal of the Zurich team, thus becoming the winner of the Swiss Cup 1930-31.

COHERENT!

Schweizerische Rundspruchgesellschaft is the new title adopted by the Union Radiophonique Suisse (Swiss Broadcasting Association), as they considered a more coherent description was needed, says Philips Radio.

It certainly sticks together pretty well and so satisfies one definition of coherent, but if some of our English friends had to pronounce it, it would hardly sound coherent.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

Captain Flückiger, chaplain of the 16th Infantry regiment, was found drowned in the river Goldbach. He was on active service when his death occurred. N.Z.

LUCERNE.

The elections for the cantonal government were held last Sunday. The government consists of seven members, out of which the five conservative members were elected outright. The two liberal members did not obtain the absolute majority (23,097) and a further election for the two vacant seats will be necessary. The socialist candidate received only 4,500 votes. V

BASLE.

The Basel Mozart Festival was inaugurated last Sunday with an impressive ceremony in the Martinskirche. The Litany in E, flat, K.243, the Mass in C, K.337, and the Ave Verum were rendered by the Basel Bach Choir and the Basel Orchestral Society, and addresses were delivered by Dr. Merian, of Basel, and Dr. Benz, of Heidelberg.

In the evening an excellent performance of *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* was given at the Stadttheater and enthusiastically received by a large audience, which included many foreign visitors.

SOLOTHURN.

Owing to the crisis through which the shoe industry in Switzerland is passing, the firm of Bally at Schoenenwerd, is contemplating a considerable reduction in their personnel. J.S.P.

APPENZELL.

Landammann Gustav Altherr of Speicher, has been elected to the seat in the National Council, which became vacant through the resignation of Dr. Hofstetter. ST.T.

GRISONS.

A committee has been formed in order to collect the necessary funds for acquiring the Klosterhof of Truns which dates from the year of 1424 and where the members of the "League grise" used to meet. J.S.

VALAIS.

The State Council has nominated M. C. Piteloud as President of the cantonal government. The new head of the executive council is only 42 years old, and has already a remarkable career behind him. At the age of 25 he presided over the Grand Council and five years later he entered Parliament. N.Z.Z.

VAUD.

A farewell dinner to Colonel Grosselin, former commander of the 1st Division, was given at Lausanne on the 2nd of this month by the Conseil d'Etat, amongst the participants were: the Conseil d'Etat "in corpore," the chancellor M. Dubuis, National Councillor, colonel Guisan, the new commander of the 1st Division, colonel Schibler, lieutenant-colonel Petitpiere, chief of staff of the 1st Division and M. Perret, syndic of Lausanne. T.G.

TICINO.

M. Angelo Casé, the wellknown goal-keeper of the F.C. Locarno, who, on the occasion of a friendly match between his club and the F. C. Neuchâtel received serious injuries, has died at the cantonal hospital, at the age of 23. V

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

Purpose and Methods of Education.

By C. J. Dryden, Ph.D. in *Education Outlook*.

During a recent visit to Switzerland it was my good fortune to come into contact with an enthusiastic educationist, Dr. Max Husmann, the head of Montana College, Zugerberg. The following is a résumé of the conversations I had with him which I feel will be of interest here, at a time when the extension of the school age is practically agreed upon and yet no decision arrived at as to the curriculum for the extended period.

Myself.—What, would you say, is the purpose of education?

Dr. Husmann.—First, let me clear the way by saying what is *not* its purpose.

Myself.—Well, that would be helpful.

Dr. Husmann.—It is not the purpose of education to train youth to play games merely for the sake of gaining a proficiency in them. Games should be encouraged simply for their service to health and for the cultivation of the spirit of fair play. When so employed they have the additional advantage of recreation—a change from serious study.

Myself.—I agree, and then?

Dr. Husmann.—Secondly, cramming for examinations is not education. The piling up of facts, with consequent burdening of memory, is useless. Reason must be trained in the use of what memory has stored.

Myself.—You mean, I take it, that a youth should be taught logically to handle the information he gains. But how is he to acquire or at least to train the logical faculty? What mental gymnastics are to be employed?

Dr. Husmann.—That brings me to the real purpose of education. In the first place it must be perfectly clear that the walks of life, its professions, its occupations, are so many and so diverse as to make it impossible for a schoolmaster to prepare a youth for any or all of them. But he *can* make the passage of life from the school to the working world far easier than it has been in the past. The truth is that our educational methods have not kept pace with the progress of civilisation, with all its complicated industries and varied commercial intercourse. We have lagged behind to such an extent that we have sent men into the world totally unfit to perform the tasks which a modern world demands of them. The university graduate steeped in ancient classic lore (proficient in the rhetoric which laid the world at the feet of the young Greek or the young Roman) is now like a man alone on an island, cut off, by seas of modern knowledge, from the rest of his fellows. There is, in short, no connection between his education and the life he will have to lead unless that life be one of the professions which still find a use for the ancient languages. The education of youth, therefore, must imply the laying of a foundation of something which later life completes. School life and life in the world must not be cut off the one from the other, but be parts of one whole. Industrial life and commercial life, as well as professional life, should begin at school.

Myself.—In other words, engineering applied science, commercial knowledge, modern languages, should have their place in school curricula as well as preparation for the older professions. With that view, too, I agree. But do these afford as good a mental gymnastic as did the old classical curriculum, and do they tend so well to the formation of social qualities as did the old humanities?

Dr. Husmann.—As to the latter part of your question, I do not see why the reading of the classics in translations should not give the same results in this connection as did the more pedantic ploughing of linguistic fields. As to the latter, cause and effect are ever present in the teaching of science, and such mental gymnastics as Latin, for example, affords may be found in the acquirement of some modern languages. The effects upon character are as beneficent in the modern course of study as in the old one. And the logic of facts is as good as the logic of the "Schools."

Myself.—And what is your view of the modern psychological theories relating to the school child?