

The dwarf forest

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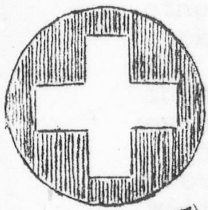
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HELVETIA

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We wish to extend to all our compatriots a very happy and prosperous New Year. May all of you be blessed with health and happiness.

CIRCULATING LIBRARY.

Recently it has been suggested that arrangements should be made for a circulating library, to give our members an opportunity of obtaining literature in their own mother tongue. With the kind assistance of some of our members, we are now in a position to begin with a circulation of Illustrated Swiss Papers; some of these date back a number of years, but we feel they will nevertheless be welcome in your home. Some of these illustrations will take you back to your dear homeland and awaken memories of days gone by. The Secretary will shortly take the necessary steps to circulate portion of the Magazines. Your co:operation in passing the papers to your next countryman will be much appreciated.

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THE DWARF FOREST.

Few tourists travelling from the pretty little mountain village Brullisau, Appenzell, along the noisy stream and amongst beeches and pines to the lake Sambtis, know that part of the journey they walk through a truly magic forest. About 3 acres are covered with nearly 2,000 dwarf pines, 2 to 3 feet in height and from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in thickness. Many of these trees having been cut for examination purposes, proved to be 150 years old or more. What a freak of nature! Is it not wonderful that, notwithstanding the many existing handicaps, Nature understands the necessary requirements for every plant in her domain. Even in Summer the sun shines for only four hours and, besides this obstacle, these pines get very little nourishment from the poor soil. Most interesting also, is the fact that immediately adjoining the dwarf forest, you will find pines 60-70 feet high and about 250 years old, while near-by other trees of about 100 feet or more show an age of only 80-100 years.

Dr. Baechler, Director of the St. Gall Museum has been able to discover the reason for this freak of nature. For perhaps thousands of years, moss, fern, heather, alpin roses and many

other plants have been able to form enough mould on this rocky ground to shelter the small but hungry roots. During the hottest summer months this soil shows a temperature of about 9 degrees Fahrenheit. In a depth of 3 feet it shows only 1½ degrees. When Dr. Baechler got down to 5 feet he discovered clear ice, which proved to be an existing underground glacier. During the heat of the summer, the traveller will notice little airholes in the ground through which he feels a slight draught of air coming through of an icy cold temperature. The wild stream which tumbles from rock to rock may give the impression that it is the outlet of the lake Sambtis. That is not so, however, because the outlet is subterranean; the stream is fed by the underground glacier only.

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THE RICHEST INNER-RHODER.

What a pity he is not paying rates and taxes in his home town! His name is Milton Hersche (in English, Hershey). He is one of the greatest Chocolate manufacturers in the U.S.A. and he resides in Pennsylvania in the town named after himself. Up to about 10 years ago, when the dollar was worth 5 Swiss francs, he had given away to charity some 65 million dollars, or 325 million francs. Although 80 years of age, he is still enjoying the best of health and is still holding the reins of his huge business.

His father emigrated from Appenzell to America, where he married a Miss Schneebeli of Zurich. He died as a poor farmer. His son Milton learnt the profession of pastrycook and made the manufacture of chocolate his speciality. In a very few years he worked himself up to the top. He is the founder of Hershey, the centre of his huge undertaking.

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BIG SWISS NATIONAL EXPOSITION TO BE HELD IN ZURICH, IN 1938.

Plans have recently been approved by the Swiss government for a National Exposition in 1938. While Berne, the capital, was hostess to the last event of this kind in the ill-fated year of 1914, Zurich, the country's largest city, has been chosen as the site for the next fair.

Zurich, with a population of 330,000, is the commercial and industrial capital of Switzerland. It enjoys a glorious location on both banks of the river Limmat and on the long and lovely lake to which it has given its name. Verdant mountains rise on both sides and a range of ermine clad peaks provides a heavenly outlook in the distance.

Plans of the Organization Committee of the forthcoming Swiss National Exposition foresee an expenditure of some 20 million Swiss Francs. The event is intended to put Switzerland on parade. Scenic attractions, native life and folklore, home and industrial activities, intellectual, scientific and artistic attainments: all these features will be realistically covered. Electrical power stations will be driven by Alpine torrents, workshops will operate at full speed, professional school classes will be in session, etc.

In connection with this national manifestation there will be a Costumes Festival, an International Music Festival, an Automobile Show, an International Exhibition of Modern Art, an Aviation Show, an International Rowing Regatta and a Horse Show.

A variety of intriguing sweepstakes will be organized as an attraction for the visitors. In the Art section, for instance, where each artist is at liberty to exhibit the picture he considers to be his best, the jury's choice will be