

Switzerland's mission

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Switzerland's Mission

The following lines written at the beginning of the year by Mr. G. Lepori, who has just been elected a Federal Councillor, are taken from the "Journal de Geneve": "The concept of the Helvetic community, while preserving intact the spirit history has imprinted on it, has been enriched with a new element: the knowledge that dissimilar cultures can live together in peace and friendship. Not only are there twenty-five cantons, but also—and this perhaps even more important—three or rather four different races. The evolution of European political thought has attached ever-increasing importance to this element defining Switzerland's mission in the concert of nations: our country plays the role of mediator between the cultures that have made the West great; it shows that peoples of different races, origins and languages can live together in perfect harmony."

Death of a Great Scientist—Professor Auguste Rollier, of Leysin

From the "Feuille d'Avis de Lausanne" we take a few passages from an article paying tribute to this famous professor's methods and the benefits that may be expected from a carefully supervised cure in the mountains of Switzerland:

"It is worth while devoting a few paragraphs of this article to explaining the principle of the therapeutic methods used during the last fifty years by Professor Rollier, who has just died, admired and respected by a whole host of people, former patients he has cured, doctors, in short the whole population. He was, strangely enough for the twentieth century, an uncompromising advocate of the so-called naturalist school of medicine. Rollier the surgeon achieved the exceptional miracle of systematically refusing the resources of drugs and even surgery, to use for the patients under his care only the sun's rays, rest (although only comparative at that), fresh air and the invigorating properties of the mountain air. Until the advent of this Swiss specialist, doctors treated tuberculosis of the bones, the joints and glands by drugs, surgery, and long months and even years of imprisonment for the affected limbs in a plaster apparatus. The articular surfaces eaten away with tuberculosis were cut away, limbs considered incurable were amputated; use was made of iodoform, ointments and ichthyol. Success was rare; ankyloses and deviations, muscular atrophy were more often than not the heavy price to be paid for mediocre 'cures.'

"Rollier turned his back resolutely and at once on these deplorable practices. He reduced the length and rigours of the periods of immobility; he exposed the wounds and affected joints to the air and perfected the use of solar radiations with the greatest care, so as to avoid sun-stroke and heat-stroke; 'in the smallest doses' he would say, for the mountain sun (Leysin is at an altitude of 4760 feet) is a powerful medicine which wrongly used may be perilous. No surgery; for years, Rollier refused to use even forceps to remove the fragments of rotten bone. He only agreed to the use of needles for puncturing deep abscesses. This eminently conservative treatment, slowly perfected, resulted in thousands and thousands of cures, real cures, with recovery of the muscular and articular functions, and complete restoration of the general state of health."

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

Lausanne's New Theatre

An entirely modern new theatre capable of being used for symphony concerts, opera, ballet and musical shows has just been completed at Lausanne in the main building of the Swiss Comptoir. Possessing a large, very deep, operatic stage, and seating 1900, it is the work of a Lausanne architect, Marcel Maillard, who took as his inspiration the classical French conception with a central dome and semi-circular balcony. The stage is 85 feet wide and 43 feet deep. It is closed by a sliding partition which when opened makes it possible to extend the stage a further 69 feet. The acoustics are perfect, thanks to the walnut panelling which forms an elegant and warm setting. Lausanne will now be able to welcome the greatest orchestras as well as the largest opera companies, ballets and musical shows.

Civil Liability Insurance for Motorists

On arrival at the Swiss frontier, foreign motorists and motor-cyclists are handed a folder put out by the Swiss Automobile Club and Touring Club giving useful information concerning traffic regulations: on speed limits, priorities, respect of white lines, parking, unguarded level crossings, mountain roads and breakdown services.

Here is the information concerning civil liability insurance which is compulsory in Switzerland. Foreign motorists who cannot produce on entry into Switzerland an insurance valid for this country ("Green Card" or "Insurance Certificate") are obliged to pay a fee of 3 Sw. francs. This tax is not an insurance premium. It goes into a fund to help towards paying the damage caused by foreign vehicles in Switzerland. The parties at fault continue to be held entirely answerable to the insurance companies settling