

Farewell to the old, welcome the new

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Farewell to the Old, Welcome the New

ONCE again, time has brought us to the end of another year. "To that bourne from which no traveller ever returns." We bid farewell to the old and look forward to the regeneration of a new with hope and anticipation. We are about to step into another period of time which shall take us on another revolution around the sun, that life giving arbiter to whom man bows in deference and humility.

The word "Time" is constantly on our lips, but time encompasses so many phases of our lives, it becomes almost undefinable. Time is kind; it smooths many a rough path in our lives caused by doubt, fear and sorrow, and opens many a door through which we step into the unknown, into a new sphere, a world of hope, wonder and courage.

The past is wrapped up into a historical study; the perusal of our own intimate past which we often review with the objective of using our experience that we may improve the structure which we hope to build into the future, and to rectify our sins and omissions.

One of the values of historical study is the constant reminder it gives that our forebears faced difficulties as great as those which confront us, and yet survived. Seldom are we fully aware of the scope of the play in which we take so vital a part, but from the experience which the past holds before us we can create an inner strength which will enable us to do our best and accept the future as it comes. As we pause and give thought, we are very conscious that we are living through a period of time when change is rapid and far-reaching. We may sigh for the supposedly golden age of peace and plenty that lies buried in the past history, but we can never recover it, in fact, the perusal of history as far back as it can be traced, gives no indication that man ever enjoyed that mystic earthly paradise which lies beyond his dreams. The only worthwhile life is based on acceptance of the present and active preparation for the future which we certainly help to make ourselves and others to enjoy.

There is little or no pause in the struggle between the impulses which compel us to face the outcome of events, some of which are of our own making, sometimes caused by the actions of others, or the simple flow of life which brings in its course a multitude of elements of living which we have to accept, select and treat according to our abilities and inclination. Sometimes the contest is thrown into high relief, and we are very conscious that the decision will have a distinct effect upon us. If we fail we are left with the consolation of knowing that we have done the best we could, and that we have gathered an experience that will help us to improve whatever we set ourself to do, both for the

present and for the future. Yet, however richly we may have developed our own resources, there are times when we have need of a power beyond our own material strength; the power of the spiritual, that hidden driving force which through the ages of millions of years, has lifted man to his present high—though still imperfect state. There are always resources of enduring value within ourselves which are ever in need of cultivation; the elements of independence and interest which call for skill and excellence.

Refinement of thought leads to refinement of action, and we cannot face the future with fortitude, courage and strength of purpose without the aid of the powers of the mind and soul.

And so as we step into another finite period of time bounded by our calendar of days, and say farewell to the old, may we help to make the future which lies before us, a chapter that shall be filled with a record of whatever joy, happiness and goodwill to those in our immediate surroundings, and to all mankind.

Thus we sum up the past and prepare for the future, while we enjoy the present to the best of our ability and which the occasions allow us to do. —Reprinted from Progress.

SWITZERLAND BUILDS HER FIRST LARGE-SCALE THERMAL POWER STATION

Hitherto Switzerland's reserves of water power have provided the "fuel" from which the country's electricity supplies are generated. In view of the expected increase in consumption, however, towards the end of the 1960's the hydro stations alone will not be able to meet demands during the winter months. In any case the harnessing of Swiss hydro-electric power resources will be completed in ten or at the most fifteen years. Thus the thermal generation of electricity will become a necessity within the foreseeable future. At the present time there are two possibilities open: either conventional thermal stations or nuclear power stations.

In the long run it will be the nuclear power plant that will have to supplement the hydro stations in Switzerland. The nuclear fuel needed for operation incurs only low transport overheads, and several years' supply can be stored simply and cheaply. But for the time being the production costs of nuclear energy are too high to be able to compete with power generated in conventional thermal or hydraulic stations. Moreover if the reactor is to operate economically, its unit rating must not be too small, and should amount to a few hundred MW at least. In addition its hours of duty must not fall below a certain annual minimum. Any attempt to meet these demands in Switzerland at present could only be made at the expense of the rational exploitation of the available hydro-electric capacity.