

Hedy's corner ... : an open letter to Mum and Dad

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a lot of the new language and thus became able to understand, but unable to converse with them.

At the funeral service in the Hillcrest Presbyterian Church, the Minister fittingly referred to the aforementioned with quotes from the Bible illustrating the difficulties and joys of emigrating to a new country.

In expressing our deepest sympathy to the bereaved families may we quote Michelangelo's inscription on one of his famous paintings: Death and love are the two wings that bear the good man to heaven.

—W.R.

Forthcoming Events

The Hamilton Swiss Club Picnic will be held on Sunday 22nd February, at the usual place in Ngaruawahia.

HEDY'S CORNER . . .

An open letter to Mum and Dad:

"THERE IS NO SANTA CLAUS"

Yes, this statement will be hurled at you sooner or later by your offspring. What could be better than countering the child's final loss of a cherished belief with the true meaning of the legendary figure—told in the form of a story. Below is such a story—yours to adjust to your child's understanding; yours to adjust according to your convictions and religious belief; yours to enlarge upon on any aspect upon the child's request.—

"Yes darling there is no real Father Christmas, but I will now explain to you why we tell little children about Father Christmas; it will make you see that we have told no real lie.

"You know that babies cannot talk, so they cry for everything they need. But the greatest thing for them is a cuddle with their mammy. You too cried when you were a baby and needed comfort or were hungry and needed a cuddle after mammy made you comfortable, showed you that she loved you. When you were a little bit older daddy amused you and made you laugh; that showed you that daddy loved you. Then you started to grow up: 2 years old, 3 years old, 4 years old until you are years old. You learnt to understand words and to talk. You learnt to look and hear, and you learnt to think. And so today you really **know** that daddy and mammy love you and **you** know that you love **them**. How do you know that? You cannot hear or see it, you

feel it inside you. This is precisely where Father Christmas comes into our story.

“Babies and little children cannot possibly understand what I have just told you about loving, so Father Christmas was invented to help the little ones understand about the magic of Christmas — the special day when we all show that we love one another.

“Now the day has come when you have found out that there is no real Father Christmas. This shows that you are now old enough to understand the **real** truth about Christmas; it is every bit as wonderful as Father Christmas was, when you were little”.

News from Switzerland

SWISS CHAIRLIFT FOR AN AMERICAN ZOO

Visitors to San Diego Zoo (USA) will soon be able to admire their favourite animals in complete comfort and with no risk of getting tired. The Swiss firm of Von Roll Co. Ltd. is at present building the first “zoo chairlift” in the world. Some 1650 feet long, it will blend inconspicuously into the vegetation, the four intermediate pylons being designed to look like palm trees. The four-seater cabins will glide smoothly over the zoo at a speed of 8.2 ft/sec., ensuring a capacity of some 1200 passengers an hour.

AN ORIGINAL INVENTION: THE OUTER “SHELL” FOR SKI BOOTS

The ski-boot of the future is already here! Everyone interested in skiing is well aware that racers generally get through one or several pairs of boots in a season. As a matter of fact, the great strain they undergo leads to deterioration of the boots, which lose their rigidity and no longer give the foot the support it needs.

The chemist and engineers of a well-known Swiss firm at Kreuzlingen (canton of Thurgau) turned bootmakers and came up with an original solution to the problem. Although simple in appearance, the principle of the new ‘Fibre-Jet’ boot is quite revolutionary. It consists in fact of an outer fibreglass shell which fits exactly, in two or three movements, over the inner boot which is as soft as a glove.

Strong and impossible to lose its rigid shape, the shell opens outwards on hinges like a cigarette case and requires absolutely no looking after. Once the joys of skiing are over, the outer shell can be removed leaving the skier wearing an after-ski boot which fits the foot like a second skin, allowing him to drive a car or dance with equal ease. (osec)