

Notes and gleanings

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1923)**

Heft 111

PDF erstellt am: **06.08.2024**

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so. Vor Jahren waren sie gute Freunde, hatten dann einen Wortwechsel, worüber weiss ich nicht, seither treffen sie sich jeden Tag, sehen aber einander nie an. Dort ist der eine." Ich liess anhalten, sprach ein paar Worte mit meinem Landsmann, einem Berner, dem ich mich als Baslerbeppi vorstellte und den es zu freuen schien, zu hören, dass ich mein Baslerdösch noch nicht vergessen hatte. Auch mit meinem zweiten Landsmann, einem Graubündner, sprach ich später kurze Zeit. Auf die Frage des Kutschers, was wohl die zwei Landsleute entzweit hatte, erwiderte ich: "Die Schweiz ist zwar ein kleines Land, hat aber 22 Kantone, die vor Zeiten beinahe souveräne Länder waren. Es hat vier Sprachen, zwei Hauptreligionen und mehrere Sekten und zwei Dutzend Regierungen. Es gibt in der Schweiz hohe Berge, tiefe Seen und reisende Flüsse. Das alles begünstigt die Entwicklung der Eigenart des Einzelwesens und führt schliesslich zur Unerträglichkeit und Zanksucht. Wober die beiden im australischen Busch sich gezankt haben, ist nicht von Belang."

Im Verlauf des halben Jahrhunderts, das ich im Ausland zugebracht, sind mir noch andere Beispiele von Schweizer Streitsucht zu Ohren gekommen. Die richtige Erklärung für diesen seltsamen Zug findet man in Oechsli's Schweizergeschichte.

(C. C. S., Bournemouth, im "Bund.")

Basler Ferienkolonie in England.—Wie früher in den Jahren 1909-10 und 1913-16, Schüler der Kant. Handelsschule Basel (Ob-Realschule), unter der Führung von Herrn Jos. Meyer, verliessen am 16. Juli Basel, um einen schon lange geplanten Ferienaufenthalt in England anzutreten. Der Continental-Express Dover-London brachte die Partie am folgenden Tage nach der Victoria-Station. Während des zehntägigen Aufenthalts in der Weltstadt wird Gelegenheit geboten zur Besichtigung der wichtigsten Sehenswürdigkeiten. Es seien davon erwähnt: die königliche Münze, die Docks, Bank von England, Tower Bridge, das Windsor Schloss, ein Warenhaus, der Zoologische Garten, sowie verschiedene Museen und Kirchen.

Während die Schüler in London in der Zentrale des C.V.J.M. wohnen werden, steht für die letzten 14 Tage, die sie in Hastings am Meere zubringen werden, eine öffentliche Schule mit Küche zu ihrer Verfügung. Am Meeresstrande können sie sich von den Londoner Strapazen ausruhen und das Badelieben geniessen. Am 10. August werden sie dann Hastings verlassen müssen und am 11. August alle wohlbehalten und körperlich und geistig neugestärkt in ihre liebe Vaterstadt zurückkehren.

(National Zeitung.)

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NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

Young Swiss—England.

A very well-informed and, what is perhaps more, a very well-intentioned member of the Swiss Colony told me the other day, when we were discussing my recent paragraphs in the *S.O.* on this subject: "You know, the majority of our compatriots in London are much too apathetic. Once they have got a billet they do not care what happens to others and you cannot expect them to take any trouble in such matters." Now, I know it is hot. I know that to take trouble on behalf of others is an ungrateful task, unless you value the feeling of having done something unselfish for once in a while, but I really do hope that my friend was unduly pessimistic. Now then, Swiss, do get a move on, somehow, somewhere! Don't let that very important question go to sleep again! Agitate! It is extremely important for the future of commercial Switzerland that young Swiss should be allowed to come over to England and stay here for a couple of years. Restrictions must be abolished! If the matter is properly explained by the Swiss to the British Government, I am quite sure that the latter will make the necessary concession. John Bull has never refused to help when help was possible and especially when it could be proved to him that it would be beneficial also to his own interests: Now then, *Agitate!*

Switzerland and German Films.

Cinema (5th July):—

The Swiss themselves are at last up in arms against the persistent efforts of the German producers to misrepresent the history of other countries on the screen. What has roused the wrath of the little republic is a film of "William Tell," made in Germany, the producer not even taking the trouble to cross the Swiss frontier in order to secure the correct historical backgrounds for his scenes.

The "Revue Suisse de Cinema" says it is high time to make a firm stand against such methods. If France and England have allowed Germany to give untrue representations of their respective histories in several films, there is no reason, says our irascible contemporary, why Switzerland should put up with a similar indignity.

"It must never be forgotten," the "Revue" adds, "that a film goes from one continent to another, bearing with it in its travels its living images, which penetrate the mind of all who see them, and leave lasting impressions behind them. Never let us forget, in fact, that such films are weapons."

The Germans have always used the films for propaganda and have been more clever than others in that direction. At the beginning of the war films were shown in Swiss cinema theatres, and "Our Soldiers on the March" showed *German Field Greys!* And our "pacifically penetrated" compatriots shouted Hurray! It is certainly necessary to keep a sharp watch against such mal-practices. I think that the N.S.H. keeps, or used to keep, its weather eye lifting for such manoeuvres.

Switzerland and her Future.

Daily News (9th July):—

"The Other Voice," by H. Wilson Harris—The following merits being reprinted in full, I think, and I am sure many of my readers will be thankful for being able to read this really charming and wital very informative article. I should like to emphasize one happy sentence which so clearly shows us our duty as *Swiss*:—

The main function of the German Swiss, the French Swiss and the relatively small Italian Swiss elements is to work together (with, of course, numerous cross-divisions) on internal affairs, instead of pulling apart over external.

Most Englishmen know quite a lot about Switzerland. Many of us, for example, know it has the distinction of containing Mont Blanc—which it has not. Many more know it is separated from Italy by the crest of the Alps—which it is not. An eminent diplomat, speaking at the opening ceremony of the Lausanne Conference, knew it had never been invaded—which it has.

To knowledge so comprehensive it may perhaps be legitimate to add a few coping-stones of more immediate information. There is, after all, some advantage in writing about a country from inside it, and as I happen to be inside Switzerland at the moment, a word on it may not be out of place. It is worth while, I think, in any case. We ought to know more of Switzerland than we do, for there is at root a real affinity between the Swiss nation and our own. Word-words—

Two voices are there, one is of the sea,
One of the mountains, each a mighty voice,

linked together two great crusades for liberty, each as resolute as the other. And though it is Switzerland's misfortune that, being essentially pacific, she occupies nothing of that place in the public eye reserved for nations who win battles or lose them, her national period, so to put it, well deserves a little quiet study.

In reality the astonishing thing about Switzerland is that it should possess a national personality at all. Trilingualism illustrates what I mean. When you are menacingly assured that—

E pericoloso di sporgersi—
C'est dangereux de se pencher en dehors—
Nicht hinauszuhehnen—

that represents no triplicated passion for Safety First, but simply an official regulation whereby the three languages of the country must all stand on the same level in public notices. So that Switzerland is not merely a confederation of 22 different cantons, but an agglomeration of at least three different peoples. And out of that national personality has unmistakably been fused.

The differences, no doubt, matter less than they might in view of the fact that owing to her unique

neutrality and inviolability Switzerland has little of a foreign policy to consider. That does not mean that she has no interest in international affairs. The effect of the Ruhr occupation—an effect uniformly adverse—on public opinion has been striking. But it remains true none the less that the main function of the German-Swiss, the French-Swiss and the relatively small Italian-Swiss elements is to work together (with, of course, numerous cross-divisions) on internal affairs instead of pulling apart over external.

It is curious that in spite of that the public question on which feelings are most stirred to-day is one of foreign relations. It would be too long a business to explain here the affair of the "zones." It is enough to say that on certain Western frontiers of Switzerland France has, under various old agreements, kept her Customs houses some distance within her political frontier, the French territory between this Customs-line and the political frontier becoming thus a free-trade area for Switzerland. During the war everything, of course, was tightened up, and the French pushed their douanes on to the Swiss border. There they now claim the right to keep them, and an agreement with the Swiss Government to that effect was concluded. But here the public raised its voice, which under a constitution that includes both initiative and referendum it can do very effectively. Angered by the Ruhr occupation, which affected Switzerland directly, the Swiss people rejected the zone agreement by a referendum vote of five to one, and deadlock on the question now prevails.

In point of fact Switzerland, despite its large Franco-Swiss population, is at present definitely anti-French. The German part of the population has, of course, expressed itself freely regarding the Ruhr, and the French-Swiss Catholics are, as the result of the Pope's letter, disposed to take much the same line.

That is the more natural in that the effects of the Ruhr occupation have come as the climax of a series of economic strains under which Switzerland is labouring. She is, as everyone knows, largely dependent on her tourist industry. Since the war practically the whole of her Austrian, her Russian and her German clientèle has vanished. In addition, the fact that her exchange stood till a few months ago above par, and till two years or so ago very much above par, automatically kept British and other foreigners away and would have done so even without the further fact that the low exchanges in Italy and France were attracting tourists to resorts in those countries rather than in Switzerland.

On top of that came the export of capital due to alarm as proposed Socialist measures, notably the attempted capital levy of last year. As a result of one factor and another the Swiss franc, which not so long ago stood at 21 to the £, is to-day nearer 27 than 26 and falling steadily, while unemployment has reached a level for which there are few precedents. Politically the result is to cement a coalition of all other parties (which fall broadly into the two categories of Catholics and Radicals) against the Socialists, whose stock, after their devastating capital levy defeat, stands temporarily at any rate very much at a discount.

But, speaking generally, there is no reason why Switzerland's position should trouble her patriots unduly. Her staple industries, the machinery of Winterthur and Zurich, the embroideries of St. Gall, the chocolate of Vevey and elsewhere, the watchmaking of Geneva and Neuchâtel, the milk and the raising of every rural district, the wines of Vaud and Valais—all these are sound enough, and if Europe as a whole should ever regain peace and stability, Switzerland, all fear of attack absent, and markets and sources of raw material open, should acquire again the prosperity she has for a brief period lost.

I do not remember having ever heard our *National Task* expressed with such felicity in so few words before, and I could wish that the sentence quoted could be printed in large letters, framed and hung in a prominent position in the Council room of each Cantonal Council, as well as of the National Council and the States Council for the ever-present benefit of all our Councillors!

A Veteran Alpine Guide.

Some little while ago I printed some matter connected with the Matterhorn tragedy of 1865. The following article will be of interest to many of my elder readers. The *Observer* (8th July):—

There recently passed away, in the mountain village of Zermatt, canton Valais, Switzerland, a notable figure, Peter Taugwalder the younger, the last survivor of the never-to-be-forgotten first ascent of that grand rock pyramid, the Matterhorn, on July 14, 1865. Born in the well-known village 6,000 feet up by the banks of the Visp, "Peter," a familiar figure to so many climbers, lived and died in the village of his birth, and with his "passing" is turned the last page in the book of that tragic adventure which ended the most daring enterprise in the history of Alpine climbing.

"For some time previous to 1865," writes the Rev. C. A. Wilberforce Robins, in "Chambers's Journal," "various attempts had been made to find a way up the Matterhorn. This noble peak was always considered by the natives to be inaccessible, and no human being had ever set foot on its summit. At last the day arrived when, nearly sixty years ago, the intrepid Englishman, Edward Whymper, who probably had to his credit more first ascents than any other climber of his day, succeeded in reaching the summit, accompanied by Charles Hudson, Hadow, Lord Francis Douglas, and guides Michel Croz and Peter Taugwalder, father and son. The ascent was accomplished by the Eastern face; and when the party stood on the top and unfurled their little flag of victory, they saw the Italian party, which had left Breuil to climb the mountain on the south-west side, coming up, some 1000 ft. below them. The Italian party, on seeing what they knew were the victors on the top, fled quickly down the mountain, only to return some days later and complete the ascent on the south-west side."

Whymper's party left the summit for the descent in the following order: Michel Croz, the famous Chamonix guide, led the way, followed by poor Hadow, Hudson, and Douglas, Taugwalder senior, Taugwalder junior, and Whymper at the end of the rope. On reaching the "shoulder," not far from the top, probably the most dangerous spot, Michel Croz turned completely round towards Hadow to give him assistance, and to place his feet on the safest ground. I am describing it as best I can from my knowledge of the mountain and Whymper's own narrative to me when he spoke of his dread that day of any undue strain on what he feared was a weak rope, though his own portion of it would have stood any strain put on it. Whilst turning round to continue his way, Croz was

suddenly hurled forward by Hadow, who had slipped, and in a moment of time these two, with Hudson and Douglas, were in the act of falling. Whympyer and the two Taugwalders at once realised what had happened, and clung desperately to the ground where they stood. They had heard poor Croz's exclamation when Hadow upset him, and in a moment the awful jerk of the rope shook them violently. It broke in two pieces just half-way between Douglas and Taugwalder senior. For several seconds—and what awful beats of time!—Whympyer said they could see their dear comrades sliding on their backs at a fearful speed, their hands stretched out in a frantic endeavour to clutch at anything to save their own lives. So their companions of a few moments before saw them, one by one, disappear from view, to pass from abyss to abyss on to the great Matterhorn glacier, 4,000 feet below. Five days later the mangled bodies of Michel Croz, Hadow and Hudson were recovered and brought to Zermatt, where they were buried. The body of Francis Douglas was not recovered, and no trace of him has ever been found.

The Zurich Musical Festival.

D. C. Parker in *The Daily Telegraph* (July 7): I suppose there is no more suitable place on the map of Europe for musical travellers to meet, hear musical performances and exchange ideas than the town of Zurich. Being an important railway centre, it might be said to stretch out its arms in welcoming gesture. It is easily got at and is a delightful spot to live in. But not content with its fame as a university town, it is evidently determined to offer tempting baits to pilgrims who love the art of music—a legitimate ambition, surely, for a community among whose forefathers no other than Richard Wagner so long sojourned. This summer saw the third International Musical Festival, which, as I write, has just come to a close. Though nothing absolutely new graced the prospectus, undoubtedly it offered plenty of variety. Here, at Zurich, North and South, East and West, so to speak, are able to meet with a minimum of trouble. When advantage is taken of this favourable circumstance, it follows that the patron will have no cause to complain of a lack of contrast. Only four operas were promised us, three of which must have been familiar to most of those who heard them. They were "The Mastersingers," Handel's "Rodelinde," Rossini's "Il Barbiere," and "Boris Godounow" (two performances each).

The festival opened on June 12 with the Wagner work, under Felix Weingartner, not long departed from the scene of his London successes. The presence of the conductor, of course, lent the occasion prestige. Whatever the expectations of those present, I think it may be said they were fulfilled. Weingartner gave a capital reading of the score, clear and sane and full of the authority he knows how to impart. Soloists, mainly from Vienna, Dresden and Zurich, offered a sound rendering of their various parts. Berta Kiurina, of Vienna, was particularly good as Eva, and Hermann Weil played Sachs with that breadth and ease the rôle demands. Richard Schubert impressed me as being one of the best German tenors I have heard. The choice of opera was extremely fitting in view of Wagner's residence in Zurich and in Lucerne; in view, also, of the fact that in the last act there occurs a procession of the Guilds. Such a procession is to be seen in the spring in Zurich still, and it has been said that an experience of this fête in the Swiss town was not without its influence on the composer.

It would almost seem as though some of Handel's operas were capturing the stage of Germany. Unless I am mistaken, Göttingen, Halle and Stuttgart have witnessed Handel revivals. "Rodelinde," which had a place in the Zurich scheme, brought us a group of singers from the Württemberg State Theatre, who presented the nearly 200-year-old work skillfully. The stage setting appealed to the eye by its effectiveness and simplicity, while the small orchestra, under Erich Band, played its relatively simple music with a proper regard for the rôle. "Rodelinde" was well worth hearing, being rich in those glorious tunes characteristic of Handel, and its appeal was certainly to more than the antiquarian taste. The version used in the adaptation made for the modern stage by Dr. Oskar Hagen.

I did not hear the remaining performances. Rossini's opera was to be given by a company from La Scala, Milan, under Antonio Guarnieri; "Boris" was to have for exponents Dresden artists. In addition to the above, a couple of performances of "Kabale und Liebe," produced by Max Reinhardt, had a place. There seems no reason why the Festival should not grow in importance as the years roll on, and thus coax to the hospitable soil of Zurich those who like to combine travel with artistic experience.

ROUND AND ABOUT.

Hearty congratulations and best wishes to Mr. J. Geilinger, the doyen of the London Colony, who last Thursday entered upon his eightieth year. Few can boast at this age of the perfect health and contentment which the Librarian of the City Swiss Club enjoys. The remarkable fact that for the last forty-five years Mr. Geilinger never has had a vacation seems to confirm the view that the climatic changes in London are quite sufficient to keep body and soul in the pink of condition. Most people think that a curtailing of working hours is most necessary for the preservation of our vitality; they will probably shake their heads when I tell them that young Mr. Geilinger was apprenticed in Winterthur to a firm where he had to be at his post at 6 o'clock in the morning and never finished till 10 in the evening; overtime had not been invented sixty years ago. Mr. Geilinger is spending his first holiday in Switzerland since 1898, where he is anxious to hunt up some of his old schoolmates.

Shooting is one of our national pastimes that has up till now found no exponents in our colony; all the same the traditional skill in this essentially Swiss exercise seems to be a hereditary characteristic of the rising generation, even if born abroad. At the Homefield School a shooting competition was held last Tuesday, and Master Teddy Barbezat made no less than seven consecutive bulls—a feat which is unique in the annals of this school. With

a distinction like this at the age of fourteen the London Colony may confidently look forward to having their own laurel-crowned representative at a *Tir Fédéral* in the coming years. Here is a hint for the foundation of yet another Swiss Society, to wit, The London Swiss Rifle Club.

I hear that the Swiss Choral Society has lost its conductor, Mr. W. Meyrowitz, who is now engaged in a similar capacity with the O'Hara Opera Company. Under his direction the choir achieved some notable successes, which probably induced Mr. Rodolphe Gaillard to step into the gap. Mr. Gaillard's name and personality should go a long way towards strengthening the choir, which recently lost a few vocalists owing to their departure from London.

Our compatriot, Mr. A. Maeder, has just signed a contract with the Moss combine. During the next eight to ten months he will appear in the provinces in a Julian Willie-Tate production, and is billed to commence in Birmingham on the 6th of August. He is, of course, assisted by his charming featherweight partner, Miss Muriel Marise.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

The Caisse Hypothécaire du Canton de Berne is making an issue of Frs. 20,000,000 in 4½% bonds to be redeemed by twenty annual drawings at par, commencing in 1934. The institution is guaranteed by the Canton, so that virtually this issue is on a par with direct Cantonal borrowing. The issue price will be 98%.

Conditions were specially favourable for towage work on the upper Rhine in 1922, and throughout the whole period little inconvenience was experienced owing to impassable shallows, so that communication with Kehl and Strasbourg by water was continuously possible. The report of the Swiss Towage Company in Basle states, on the other hand, that a strike during the year greatly damaged the trade, while the competition of the German railways continued to be felt. Although these lines were steadily raising their tariffs, the collapse of the mark exchange made it still possible for them to transport goods to Switzerland at cheaper rates than were possible by water. This was specially felt in the case of coal shipments. In spite of all these difficulties, the Swiss company carried in the year 550,000 tons of goods, as compared with 500,000 tons in 1921. The season opened in March, and the Swiss company were the only ones to utilise the good water-conditions on the upper reaches of the Rhine until November. Considerable losses on demurrage were, however, experienced owing to the delay in unloading which occurred in Basle in the months of June, July and August, when the harbour facilities were quite insufficient to meet the requirements of the traffic.

The improvement in the general business situation in Switzerland is well illustrated by the results of the C. F. Bally Company in Schönenwerd. This concern is now a holding or finance company, controlling the Swiss and foreign manufacturing subsidiaries conducted under the name of Bally. For the year 1922-23 the net profit was Frs. 2,398,719, and thus compares very favourably with a loss of Frs. 96,559 in the preceding year. The Swiss manufacturing branch of the business was unable to declare any dividend this year, so that the decision of the directors of the parent concern to pay 5 per cent. and to allocate Frs. 200,000 to reserves, is in reality a tribute to the success of the foreign subsidiaries.

The centenary of the "Gesellschaft der L. v. Roll'schen Eisenwerke," which was recently celebrated, is an event in Swiss economic history which merits a word of mention. The company is the only Swiss concern which carries on the business of iron production and manufacture in all stages from the mining of the ore down to the output of finished articles. The actual foundation, one hundred years ago, was not in itself the beginning of a new industry, for the company of that date took over the works of which Ludwig v. Roll, born in 1771, was already partner. The works then taken over included those still in operation at Gerlafingen and at Klus. Since that time development has been steady and many-sided.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

BONDS.	July 10		July 18	
	Fr.	Per.	Fr.	Per.
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	73.00%	76.50%		
Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5%	101.50%	101.00%		
Federal Railways A—K 3½%	78.75%	78.75%		
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921	102.65%	102.50%		
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892	69.50%	69.50%		

SHARES.	Nom.		July 10		July 18	
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	645	645	645		
Crédit Suisse	500	672	675	675		
Union de Banques Suisses	500	527	527	527		
Fabrique Chimique et-dev. Sandoz	1000	3125	3200	3200		
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2085	2100	2100		
C. F. Bally S.A.	1000	1030	1040	1040		
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon	500	670	680	680		
Entreprises Sulzer	1000	645	639	639		
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)	500	325	330	330		
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Milk Co.	200	177	177	177		
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	100	109	110	110		
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	492	492	492		

Dr. PAUL LANG'S LECTURES.

Dr. Paul Lang has concluded his series of three lectures on "Contemporary Swiss Literature" at the University of London (London University College). They were attended by an international audience, and on the platform the University Authorities were well represented. The Swiss Minister kindly accepted the invitation of the University to take the Chair. He introduced the lecturer with some very appropriate words on the difficulty of our country in voicing itself, because of its lack of a national language, instead of which we express ourselves in three or even four different languages. This makes it quite natural abroad to think of Rousseau as a Frenchman and of Holbein as a German, to mention two examples only. Through Spitteler, of whom Dr. Lang would speak especially, the world at last had become conscious that there is such a thing as *Swiss Art and Literature with a truly national character.*

In the first lecture, "*Carl Spitteler, the Reviver of the Great Epic.*" Carl Spitteler, the Swiss poet of Nobel-prize fame, was chiselled before us as a gigantic figure, which in its mighty greatness reminds one of the mythological heroes whom the poet has created in his masterly epic.

In the second lecture, "*The Contemporary Literature of German-speaking Switzerland.*" the general features of the literature of German-speaking Switzerland were presented in a clear survey, embracing all the prominent names—or may I say *nearly all*, for at least one or two outstanding women writers should not have been missing from this wide picture of Swiss culture. The famous names of Gotthelf, Keller and Meyer were touched upon in the literary development and details given of the respective values of the present writers, up to the recent works even of Arthur Manuel and Hugo Marti (which have been and will be touched upon in the literary page of Dr. Lang, in *The Swiss Observer*).—Of many new movements it is difficult indeed to gain a clear perspective yet.

The third lecture, "*The Contemporary Literature of French and Italian-speaking Switzerland.*" had quite a special fascination. We were told of the literary evolutions of Geneva, Vaud, Neuchâtel and of Fribourg, which now also has found a representative in G. de Reynold, the founder of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. (He, by the way, is representing Switzerland in the Intellectual Section of the League of Nations.) The personalities of Spiess, Ramuz, etc., were brought near to us, and sidelights were given generally on the work of many of our Western compatriots. The influence of Music and other Arts on the latest literary development of French-speaking Switzerland stood out especially.

Francesco Chiesa, the master of Italian Switzerland, was warmly recommended to the lover of grand art. Romanch literature was mentioned as represented chiefly by Peider Lansel.

I do not intend to enter into the matter of the lectures further here. The lectures probably will appear in print, and therefore anybody interested in Swiss literature will have the chance to enjoy them in their full extent and meaning. I would like to say a few words of appreciation only on the great work Dr. Lang has covered and the deep thought he has put into this serious study.

It was not a small honour that a young compatriot of ours was asked to expound Swiss mentality, as it appears in Literature, in the halls of London University, and the way Dr. Lang has mastered this enormous task and brought the thought and work of Swiss writers before his audience—in a language which is not his own and in none of the three or four of which he talked—will mean a propaganda of the most valuable kind for our country. As one of the University Authorities, who took the Chair at the last lecture, in thanking Dr. Lang warmly, expressed it himself, one wonders how little Swiss Literature (*and this means Swiss Thought!*) is really known abroad, even to those whose business it would be to study it. Dr. Lang's exposition truly had made one anxious to penetrate more into its side-lines.

Personally I have been wondering how many of our literary people, even in Switzerland, would have such a *wide range* and understanding of the National Literary Development with a really artistic penetration and valuation. We have great literary authorities in our country—some of them are well-known writers themselves—but besides Professor Seipel in Zurich, G. de Reynold in Berne, perhaps, and Prof. Bohnenblust in Geneva, I cannot think of anyone with an all-embracing literary understanding of our country from East to West and down the South. These names mentioned are established names, while the lecturer is a young Swiss, who only starts his way, and who already to his knowledge of Comparative Literature is adding the branch of *English Literature* (see: *Wissen und Leben*, Juni, 1923, "Englische Dichtung der Gegenwart," Paul Lang).—Switzerland can proudly look forward to his future achievements, and already there are serious promises for literary creations with a National Mission from his own pen.

A. H. R.