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ment of nations! And, if you agree, as agree you surely must if you face the problem without bias, do you not think that it is your duty as a Swiss to work for such a goal, as did our fathers?

My readers will surely forgive me for preaching a sermon they may have heard many times before. In these "Notes and Gleanings" the writer has too often to publish articles which are very flattering for us Swiss—the temptation to put them before my readers is too strong. It will, therefore, also be pardoned if "Kyburg" for once puts a few thoughts before his readers which may, perhaps, make them a wee bit uncomfortable, but which, he hopes, will make them think!

And as we now, with swelling pride in our hearts, sing our patriotic Swiss songs on the 1st of August, so, I hope, may our descendants sing one day a hymn commemorating the foundation of the Federated States of Europe. And even then, we Swiss, provided we feel that we did our best to help struggling and war-worn Europe towards that glorious goal, may take legitimate pride in having been, for long, Europe Within Europe, the nucleus of the Brotherhood of Nations.

School Excursions.

Several readers have sent me an article by Sir Alfred Hopkinson, K.C., LL.D., entitled "The English Schoolboy Abroad," which appeared in the *Evening Standard* on July 23rd:—

There is an excellent modern movement in education which might with advantage become more general. It is the growing practice of taking the pupils in schools, whether boys or girls, for walking tours to districts and countries they would otherwise probably never visit at a time of life when the mind is most receptive and most likely to acquire treasures of memory which will be retained permanently in the years to come.

The movement has spread over a large part of Europe and is not confined to any one nation.

Two examples met with by chance this spring may be taken as typical.

When staying a few weeks ago at one of the beautiful historic cities on the Loire, the three or four English visitors who happened to be in the hotel were informed by the friendly landlord that he expected a school party of about a score of English boys with their master to stay the night.

It is worth notice, by the way, how far from the truth are statements so often made that the English are generally hated abroad. Except at the time of the Boer war, the pedestrian traveller might, and may still, wander almost anywhere and not hear a disagreeable word or suggestion of unfriendliness among the country folk he meets.

He will find everywhere a note of common human interest if he will look for it.

But to return to our English boys in France. They come from an excellent school in the north of England, which has just celebrated the centenary of its foundation. How could they learn more in a few days than by their journey on foot through a country quite new to them, full of quiet, natural beauty and historic interest?

The result of such travel will, certainly not lead the young to care less for their own land if they know anything of it beyond the town or county where they happen to live.

The Swiss seem to realise this better than any other nation. The pupils of their schools have the best opportunities for seeing all parts of their own country at trifling cost, when most of the hotels are almost empty between the winter-sports season and August, when the English summer visitors usually arrive.

When the snow has just melted from the higher Alpine pastures and the meadows below are covered with a glory of spring flowers, happy parties of boys and girls from schools in the manufacturing towns set out for their walks among the mountains.

Even the devotees of solitude and quiet in the remoter places may almost welcome the sudden arrival some evening, when perhaps over two score of young people enter an hotel after a long day's tramp. They have come from an excellent commercial school in La Chaux-de-Fonds, the centre of the watchmaking industry, and are the children of high-class artisans or small traders there. They seem the embodiment of joyous health.

After supper the tables are cleared from the large dining-room, and the dance begins. There is no lack of variety in it. The teachers take part, and all spend a bright, merry evening.

But before seven o'clock next morning they shoulder their satchels again and start, in spite of the rain, to walk over a high pass or reach home by late train the following day.

To see their vigour and their happiness makes it possible to understand one, at least, of the reasons why, as Lord Bryce says in his last great work, the Swiss, in spite of differences of race, language and religion, "are not only a united people, but one of the most united and certainly the most patriotic among the peoples of Europe."

If our people, too, are to have this intense patriotism, and the love of their own country and the desire to serve it, they must learn, when young, to know and to enjoy its beauties. To many, however, wider opportunities may be given, also some direct knowledge of other lands and their people, which will be a solid basis for real international friendship.

Swiss Hotels and "Marriage Linns"

I am glad to see in the *Weekly Dispatch* of July 22nd the following:—

The Swiss Hotel Proprietors' Association denies a report that visitors to hotels in Switzerland are compelled to produce marriage certificates, and that the police make midnight visits to the hotels.

Visitors now enjoy the same freedom of movement as in pre-war days: the only formality is the production of passports when crossing the frontier. The more favourable exchange is making a great appeal to tourists.

Dr. Alfred Keller and European Protestantism.

Christian World:—

A startling picture of the critical condition of Protestantism in European countries was presented recently to a group of representative Free Churchmen, convened

by Rev. T. Nightingale, Secretary of the National Free Church Council. The speaker was Dr. Adolf Keller, of Zurich, Secretary of the European Central Bureau, which has been created to aid the Protestant Church institutions in their hour of acute need. This urgent need, which Dr. Keller thinks may continue for three years in certain countries, and even ten years in others, is an aftermath of the war, and an immediate consequence of the rapid disappearance of the middle classes, which have been the main supporters of Evangelical Protestantism in Central Europe. In Germany, which has been the pivot and prop of European Protestantism, the middle class is swiftly becoming extinct. The once prosperous professional families are reduced to penury. Many of them are becoming manual labourers, and in numerous instances, being too proud to proclaim their poverty, they go on quietly enduring under-nourishment, until some slight malady—a common cold even—finds them too enfeebled to resist, and they die.

But Germany does not stand alone. In fourteen European countries, Dr. Keller says, the Evangelical Churches and the Protestant benevolent organisations—orphans, schools and sisterhoods—no longer able to exist without foreign help. Last year the Protestants in five neutral countries, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, and Switzerland, set themselves to stay the ruin of European Protestantism, first, by establishing a central bureau for information and distribution, and, second, by raising funds. These five neutral countries raised £50,000 for this purpose—Switzerland being responsible for £20,000. Dr. Keller appealed to the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and has just returned from the United States, where he has been addressing meetings of religious bodies, which have promised to take action this autumn. In London he sought the help of Anglican Churchmen and of the Free Churches. To the Free Church group, at the Memorial Hall, he described the Protestant situation in Europe as very menacing. It is a common saying on the Continent, he said, that the result of war was a military victory for France, a political victory for England, an economic victory for America, a cultural victory for the Jews, and a religious victory for the Roman Catholic Church. In France, Latvia and Galicia the most pressing need was the restoration of church buildings; in Poland, Roumania and Austria the preservation of schools; and in Germany and Austria the maintenance of the Evangelical charitable institutions. Hundreds of religious periodicals had died, and Protestantism without a Press was sorely hampered. The saving of European Protestantism was a matter in which all Evangelical Churches should be concerned, since they would all feel the consequences of its collapse.

After Dr. Keller had presented his case, there was a prolonged discussion as to how the Free Churches could help, and plans were adopted for bringing the whole question before the Federal Free Church Council at its September meeting, with a view to action after the holidays.

I hesitate to make many comments on religious matters. All the same, expressing, perhaps, the opinion of the Man-in-the-Street, I think that as long as the Christian Churches fight each other, as they do now, so long will there be no reign of Christ upon Earth, except in the bosom of those who do not belong to any Church and seek for the truth of Christ's Teaching in surroundings more resembling those in which He taught His disciples.

Alpine Climbing.

Lancet (21st July):—

Many medical men know the value of Swiss mountain air for holidays after heavy work—some make a point of spending a month every year there. For the strenuous mountain-climbing is an attraction, and it is of interest to learn that for the timid amateur who dreads being a drag on other climbers a scientific course of instruction, theoretical and practical, in mountaineering will be given at the end of July in the beautiful village of Klosters, in the Grisons district, at a fee of £6 6s., including board. Full particulars may be had from Gustav Walty, Klosters.

Of importance in this connection is an article on Muscular Exercise by Prof. A. V. Hill, F.R.S., in "Nature" of July 14th, in which recent work on muscle contraction and recovery is summarised, leading to the modern view that man's power of taking exercise, whether violent or prolonged, depends largely on his ability to run into debt for oxygen. In prolonged effort, such as that associated with climbing, the healthy man is limited not by the magnitude of "debt" into which his body can run—not, that is to say, by the lactic acid maximum of his muscles—but chiefly by the maximum rate at which he can take in oxygen. With regard to the economical use of muscle by the trained athlete, Prof. Hill writes as follows:—

"Clearly if a given movement can be carried out more economically—i.e., at the expense of less energy—then less oxygen will be required for it, and its maximum duration can be increased. . . . This economy of effort can, in part, be taught; but just as all the practice in the world will not turn some quite intelligent people into mathematicians, so all the practice in the world may never turn some quite powerful and well-developed people into first-class athletes. Training and practice are essential, but they can only build on an aptitude already there. If a subject uses his muscles uneconomically . . . he will need an excessive supply of oxygen. Consequently he will be an ineffective athlete . . . he is uneconomical. Athletic prowess depends not only upon a large oxygen supply, but upon a low oxygen requirement."

Skill, power and economy of muscular effort result, Prof. Hill says, from the effectiveness of the "quick, silent, overmastering, and generally unconscious reactions, dictated by the nervous system on the receipt of urgent messages from tendons, joints and muscles, or from the little sense organs associated with the ear. . . . The instinctive skill, quickness and economy of the gymnast or climber, of the mechanic, airman, tennis-player or athlete depend upon a vivid and readily reproducible picture in the brain or nervous system, 'a picture,' as Pear puts it, 'of muscular exercise in terms of the sensations which effective and successful movements produce.'"

These considerations are very pertinent to the climbing course at Klosters, and a timely study of them by the would-be climber might save him disappointment.

A Compliment.

In January last Mr. E. Lawrence Levy lectured to the members of the new Church Guild, Handsworth, Birmingham, on "The Olympic Games, 1896-1924."

It was suggested at the lecture that in view of its success the regulations which govern the lectures, viz., that no lecturer be asked for two successive seasons, be suspended so far as Mr. Levy was concerned. What was at the time considered a graceful compliment has proved to be an accomplished fact, as Mr. Levy has received an invitation to lecture in the 1923-24 session on 'A Nation of Athletes' (Switzerland), and the date, 20th November next. Mr. Levy's thorough familiarity with the Swiss National Gymnastic festivals and the unique sets of slides he has collected in connection with them, combine to make the lecture one of the best in Mr. Levy's comprehensive curriculum of illustrated addresses.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

A syndicate, headed by Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co. in New York, offered there on the 1st of August \$20,000,000 of Swiss 3-year 5% gold notes for subscription. These notes were offered at 97.29 per cent. and thus give a yield of 6 per cent. The loan was quickly over-subscribed. The new notes are redeemable at 100 per cent. plus accrued interest, at the option of the Swiss Government, on the 1st of August, 1925, the 1st of February, 1926, or on three months' notice. It is understood that the proceeds will be used mainly in payment of grain bought in the United States.

The new Federal Loan in Switzerland met with a very favourable reception, and subscriptions amounted to some Frs. 15,000,000 in excess of the offered amount of Frs. 200,000,000. Allotments will probably be on a slightly reduced basis.

The decision of the Federal Courts to allow a reorganisation of the Loetschberg Railway calls attention to the very serious state into which this company's finances were brought as a result of the war. The line was completed not long before the war, and the disorganisation which followed made it quite impossible for the railway to obtain a fair financial start. The line was constructed with the idea of forming a direct link between Central Switzerland and the Simplon Tunnel. It is to be hoped that the drastic reorganisation scheme now planned will be the forerunner of a time of greater prosperity in the company's history.

The Maggi Company, which has its headquarters in Kempital and carries on a very large international business through its numerous foreign subsidiaries, closed the year to March 31st, 1923 with a net profit of Frs. 1,374,694. This is approximately equivalent to the result of 1921-22, and the directors again recommend payment of a dividend of 6 per cent. on the share capital of Frs. 21,000,000. The activities of the company in foreign markets have naturally been very seriously affected by the exchange conditions which ruled during the year.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

| BONDS. | | July 24 | July 31 |
|-------------------------------------|------|---------|-----------|
| Swiss Confederation 3% 1903 | ... | 73.00% | 73.35% |
| Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5% | ... | 100.85% | 100.40% |
| Federal Railways A-K 3% | ... | 78.75% | 77.75% |
| Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921 | ... | 102.37% | 102.25% |
| Canton Fribourg 3% 1892... | ... | 69.75% | 69.00% |
| SHARES. | | July 24 | July 31 |
| Swiss Bank Corporation | ... | 500 | 642 643 |
| Crédit Suisse | ... | 500 | 676 676 |
| Union de Banques Suisses | ... | 500 | 523 535 |
| Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz | 1000 | 3212 | 3255 |
| Société pour l'Industrie Chimique | 1000 | 2184 | 2260 |
| C. F. Bally & Co. | ... | 1000 | 1042 1072 |
| Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon | ... | 500 | 670 672 |
| Entreprises Sulzer | ... | 1000 | 668 662 |
| S.A. Brown Boveri (new) | ... | 500 | 323 322 |
| Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Milk Co. | 200 | 174 | 171 |
| Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler | 100 | 111 | 108 |
| Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman | 500 | 485 | 485 |

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