

# Notes and gleanings

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interested in the subject would do well to obtain that article.

**Spahlinger Treatment.**

*Daily Sketch* (August 2nd):— Two of the greatest scourges are tuberculosis and cancer.

Regarding the former, an important announcement was made in the House of Commons last night as to the offer of the Ministry of Health in regard to the Spahlinger serum treatment.

"We are satisfied," Lord Eustace Percy, the Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Health, explained in the House, "that there is a prima-facie case for such further scientific inquiry into the Spahlinger treatment as will enable medical authorities and the world in general to form a final and definite opinion, but if there is to be any question of expenditure of public funds, Parliamentary sanction would be necessary, and the Government would not be justified in coming to Parliament to ask for such sanction, except on the basis of adequate information and reasonable security."

"Mr. Chamberlain has recently seen Mr. Spahlinger, and has consulted with certain members from Lancashire in regard to the assistance which Mr. Spahlinger now requires. In the opinion of Mr. Chamberlain, these conditions can best be satisfied by asking Mr. Spahlinger to take an early opportunity of making a full statement as to his process and its results to a body competent of passing an opinion upon it."

The House greeted the announcement with cheers, and Lord Eustace went on to mention that he understood an opportunity was being afforded in this country, and when Mr. Spahlinger had taken advantage of it it would be possible to arrive at a decision as to what action should be taken. Meanwhile Mr. Chamberlain hoped the appeal which was being made for funds from private sources might be successful.

I am sure my readers will be equally gratified that this matter is moving in a satisfactory way.

**Holidays.**

Most articles appearing in the British Press, and dealing with matters Swiss, are on the subject of holidays in our "Paradise," as Mr. J. Geilinger so felicitously called it after his return from his re-discovery of Switzerland! One article is perhaps worth giving in full, as it deals with a matter that those among us whose unhappy lot it is to have to use English hotels frequently, have very much at heart. If only British hoteliers, especially those of country hotels, could be sent to Ouchy for a course! How much nicer it would then be to tour the otherwise so absolutely beautiful English countryside! The article I am referring to is entitled "The Secret of the Good Hotel" and is by G. Ward Price (*Daily Mail*, Aug. 2nd):—

For the last fourteen years it has been my fate to live almost entirely in hotels, from one end of Europe to the other; yet out of all these hazily remembered hundreds only three or four stand out as places to which one would be ready glad to go again.

And what keeps these particular hotels in pleasant recollection is in each case the excellence of their service—alert, cheerful, intelligent, and marked by little courtesies of manner and attention, unobtrusively suggesting a single-minded desire for your comfort.

I say unobtrusively, for in the United States, to my mind, they carry the thing too far. In some hotels—the huge two-thousand-bedroomed Pennsylvania in New York, for instance—you find a booklet by your bedside emphasising the infinite capacity of your hotel to satisfy the caprices of its guests, and asserting that the precept enjoined upon the staff is that "the client is always right," a principle that must obviously have limitations.

But it will generally be found that where there is good service the rest follows. For the indispensable condition of attentiveness by hotel servants is personal keenness of the proprietor or manager for the welfare of his guests.

There is a well-known hotel in Berlin where before the war one saw this system well illustrated. The proprietor, though his later days brought him considerable riches, never delegated his personal oversight to anyone.

He was rather a distinguished-looking old man, over six feet high, with a red "mine host" sort of face under a shock of white hair like a musical composer, and from very early in the morning until midnight his frock-coat and top hat used to keep up a silent but ceaseless round of inspection in his hotel.

He knew the name of every guest and had a well-graduated series of bows adapted to their various degrees of consideration, while his sharp eyes missed not the slightest deficiency of his staff, and he was as ready as any one of his own page-boys to spring to the service of a client who had not received immediate attention.

The result was that his hotel functioned with the silent efficiency of a Rolls-Royce, and when war broke out he was discovered to have conducted quite secretly even an active espionage bureau for shadowing all the British residents in his establishment.

But for the highest hotel merit you must go to Switzerland. There a national industry, transmitted from father to son, has formed regular dynasties of hotel-keepers, such as the Seiler family, whose interests now extend to ownership of most of the Zermatt valley. Proprietors of big Swiss hotels send their sons to the university, but they also send them to do courses as waiters and reception-clerks in France and England. The result is that the whole personnel of a great hotel, such as the one where the British Delegation at Lausanne has just spent the greater part of eight months, is animated by a spirit of thoroughness and pride in its work that shows itself in every detail of service.

When a new guest arrives overnight, every member of the staff seems to know his name in the morning—a small thing, but one of the pleasant signs of self-esteem, as does the prompt recollection of him when he returns unexpectedly to an hotel where he has stayed before.

In such graces of the hotel-keeping art the Swiss excel, and it is gratifying to know that as experts in that calling they prefer British clients to all others.

"The British are more reasonable than other nationalities," a well-known Swiss hotel-keeper told me. "They want good value for their money, but if they have exceptional requirements they are prepared to pay for them."

And—what I am bound to say surprised me—he added that in twenty-five years' experience he had only once had a bad cheque passed on to him by an Englishman, though he cashes scores of them every month.

**Bundesfeier im Elymion.**

I make no apology to my readers for quoting, *in extenso*, the following, which was sent to me from Winterthur, where it appeared in the *Winterthurer Tagblatt* on the 4th of August. I think I have hardly ever read anything more "Züridütsch" and "Urchig" than this happily inspired, absolutely "bodeständig" article; and I hope that it will please many of my readers as much as it pleases me and those of my friends to whom I have shown it so far.

Im heimelige Näbedstübli vo der Pangsion "Schwyzerhimmel" z'Olympic sind amene prächtige Namittag e paas wärschafli, sälig gesprochene Eidgenosse bim Kaffiass gässe un händ z'wetterweiser, ob's nah emal welid mache oder ob's lieber welid in "Alpeblich" übere, wo's au schön sig. De Moler Arnold Böcklin hät sini vier Strich am Tafelrand agluget und gseit, er mög nümme, er überchömhüt soweso nu Laub und nie kei aständig Charte. De birüemte Züribieter Gopfrid Chäller het e chli mit dem Aegtl zwitteret und der Wirtin der Frau Regel Amrein grüeti, si soll dem Böckli cho d'Monete abnäh, si welid e chli witters. S'Stäbemetli, De Chlaus vo der Plie, de General Dufur, de Hagelhaus ussem Blitzloch, de Kleinjög vo Wermetswil und der Chasper Bodmer vo Züri, der Isak Iselin von Basel mit der Frau Merian, de Tschudy vo Glaris und de Johannes Müller vo Schaffhuse, de Wengi vo Solothurn, de Düremattbur und der Ueli Rotach, de Plyfer vo Luzern und der Vadian vo Sanggalle, de Leuebürger vo Bärn und de Guyer-Zähler vo Bäretschwil, der Escher von der Linth und de Heinrich Pestalozzi näbst vilen andere namhaft, Schwyzer, wo in ihrem Vaterland i' hohem Asähe stönd. De Gopfrid Chäller hät's Färrohr näbed em Gartenrüch uf'g'stellt, dass si chönd d's Lochli im Himmelvorhang uf d'Schwyz abe luege, em Stärbild vo dr Jungfrau über d'Achse n'ne, het de Böcklin gseit, gsch mäes am beste. Der alte Rektor Troll händs ersucht, er sölle ne 's Färrohr istelle und er häts natürlil zerscht uf Winterthur ab'grüeti. "Stärnehagel," seit de Forrer, wo als erschte g'luget hat, "isch das es G'gramsel i' d're Stadt unna, besonders am Grabe-n und bim Stadthaus, de reinst' neusehwe. Luce, verüssed d'Müler, wil de Fäszug so lang nid chäm." 's Gartenrüch isch nämlig radiotelegraphisch mit Winterthur verbunde worde, dass men als het chönne gehöre vo dunne. "Die Masse Lüt. — 's isch aber au kei Wunder bi däm prächtige Abig. I ha's em Wättermacher fest adunge, er soll mer dänn hüt öppe kei so Stämpene mache wie farn, wo's d'Augusthr verhelaget hüt witem i' der s'chweizer, un em Fäszug, un em Joh' kei Zit me abnäh," hät der Kleinjög biläufig bemerkt. "I gsehne-n es Trüppel mit Schwyzertrachte," seit de Düremattbur, "mi türi Seel, es sind Jumpere wie mes synerzit albe het chönne gseh, Schwyzerjungere u keini Fräulein." "Los, i' ghöre Musik, sie spiled de Bundesmarsch mit em Chäller sin Lied im Trio. "O mein Heimatland," seit de Böckli, "sichst halt glich chäbe schön." De Meister Gopfrid hät anderdesse 's Färrohr näbst dräyt und 's Föstal dur un em See na abe uf alne Hügel und d'berge helli Freudefär gseh üflichte, zantüme im liebe Schwyzerländli isch überall de heilig Funke vo der Vaterlandsliebi zur rote Gluet agwachse. De Stämpel und de Forrer händ au welle luege und d' anderen alli natürlil au. "Jetz singeds de Schwyzerpsalm," rüeft dä Plyfer, "losed sich au stille, i' ghöre ne halt früs Läbe gen. Hoffeli wered au alli mitsinge, e sone schöns Lied, wo 's Härz eso warm macht und 's Gmüet begeisteret." 's'unkt hüt i' de Gopfrid Chäller g'murret, "sich hüt hüt es Gschärl wo singt, die andere singe gopel z'füt oder kanned de Tägscht nid. 'Sich nu e so e Gaagete, — die tumme Hagle scheniered sich allwäg, de Schnabel ufzmache, wäg de Lüte." "Scho mügli," seit de Hagelhaus ussem Blitzloch, "si händ vilicht Angst, me chönntis ghöre z'Paris inné und übel uf'näh." Fäsch hetz na es Polder ghä, aber de feine Iselin vo Basel het gseit, me chönntis eigetli dene Lütelene nit starch verage wäns na e chli schüner seigid, der Chrieg und d'Revoluzion hetz ene halt doch e chli an Defang ghä. Losit au, jetz chunt juch d'Fästrid, het der Bodmer grüeft und alli sind müsilüstil worde. S'wär irtrassant gsi, während em Lose d'Mine vo denen n'alte Eidgenosse z'studiere, dit G'sichtsudruch händ sich nämlig alli nadinad ufgehoret, wo die wackere Wort vom Fäschtrედner i' d'Ohre klunge sind. "Alle Respäck," seit de Stämpel, "dä dörf ene au no underzunde, sich numme schad, dass es nid alli möged ghöre." "Dä ha' händ volkommne rächt," händ am Schluss wo Red alli Awäsdé, bipflichtet, "me mues 's Volk nid loss nach sin Guh rede, wie disäbe Genosse ohni Eid, wo ihrne Abängere immer nu de Späck dur's Muul ziehd und uf d'Volksrächte poched, aber nie d'Volkspflicht'e erwähnd. S'händ aber meini ordli Bode verlore, disäbe Volksgeklärer vo der andere Sorte, wo b'ständig wänd gulse und nie kei Ruelh wänd gäh," hät de Forrer gseit und de Gopfrid Chäller bifällig grunzet. "Schön hät er g'redt, het druf de Linth, mer bestätigt, 'scho wo mer mit em League vom Bundesfeier ag'fange het, hets mer guet g'falle und i ha d'Ohre spitzit. Ruelh und Friede im Land isch e schön Sach, dänn hät men au Zit und Chraft für Werk der eidgenössische Nächstelebe und der Landes-wolfahrt, gäll du Heir," — er het de Pestalozzi gmeint. "Wenns die Hagle nu au astimiere tätid," isch der Hagelhaus zwische dry g'fahre, "aber die Tonnerer si gäng ufzriede. Grad isch de Osggi Bider dur's Färrohr go abe luege, do rüeft em de Stämpel zue, er chönnt jetz g'schwint mit siner Motorlambe do uf's Schwyzerländli abe sädere und ne det unne vo eus en Gruess usrichte und ne säge, si sölle brav zämeha und d'Eifachheit und Bescheideheit nid vergässe. De Bider het gseit, abe chämmer allwäg scho, aber vilicht nümme uue, er heig 's erscht mol scho Müeh gha mit em Himmelportiee, bis er escht nie ghä heig, er wetts

nümme riskiere. "Schille," seit de de Zällwäger vo Appezell, "losed d'Musig intontert euses Landgemeinde-Lied "Alles Läben strömt aus Dir," do wänmer alli mitsinge. He det, Bürkli, du dörfst dis Chäppi scho abtue, du gottlose Revoluzzer, mi nimmts wender, wie du da ufe cho bist." All Eidgenosse händ d'Händ zämte und händ mitsunge bis zletscht. Jetz tiends no de Springbrunne bim Stadthüs bengalisch beluchte, seit de Forrer, isch verbrannt schön! De Gopfrid Chäller isch ganz still i' sym Egge gässe, me het ne nid dörfte störe, susch wir er wild worde, denn sym Gedanke sind z'Glattfäde n'umme gsi. "Achsig, jetz chunt d'Vaterlandshymne, het de Plyfer gmahnet, und de Bruschtkaste greckt. Si singed i alle Gartewirtschafte, i Dorf und Stadt, Heimet- und Volkslieder nach alter Vater Sitte, meldet de Chleimattbur, sich grad e Freud wies hüt zabig schön z'friede bine-nand sind. S'macht em ganz a, häts 's Vreneli Stapfer gseit und mit siner glögehelhe Schtiim agfange: "Ich bin ein Schweizerknebe," dass der Uli Rotach nu het müesse stumme und lose. De Bodmer und de Guyer-Zähler händ au iteschmitt und de ganze Chor het de drufabe no's Rütlied mitemand gunge. Däwäg chumeni 's nächstmol wieder, hät jede gseit, wo's Adie gmacht händ.

Don't you think, dear compatriot, that the Heaven depicted in this article is a Heaven which it would be worth dying for? The man who wrote this article knows us, is one of us, and really I cannot conceive of anything more 'heimelig' and Swiss.

**FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.**

Though the abundance of funds in the Swiss money markets is still a present factor, and the amount of bills coming forward for discount remains very small, there has recently been a considerable hardening in the market for long-term credits. Such bonds of the State or other public bodies as carry small rates of interest, e.g., bonds of the 3% and 3½% type, have reacted in a marked degree. This is to be attributed to the export of Swiss capital which is going on and to the better state of general economic conditions in the country. Industrial concerns are again able to make use of their funds for the financing of their own business, and this naturally leads to the liquidation of their holdings of long-term securities first to provide the necessary cash. It must also be added that, owing to the low interest rates ruling in Switzerland, investors are again inclined to place their money abroad, in Amsterdam, London or New York. This course of affairs has had the effect of rendering the terms more arduous on which the State itself can borrow.

The receipts of the Swiss railways as a whole, that is to say, the Federal Railways, other privately-owned lines, mountain railways, etc., in 1922 amounted to Frs. 455,918,491, while the corresponding expenditure came to Frs. 408,827,075, leaving, therefore, a surplus of Frs. 47,091,416. The previous year's figures only showed a surplus of Frs. 29 million. In the case of the Federal Railways and the tramways the surplus of receipts over expenses shows a definite tendency to increase steadily; in the case of the mountain railways, however, the surplus is less than it was a year previously, owing to the fact that revenue has fallen off, while it has been impossible to cut down expenditure to an equivalent degree. The traffic on these lines is still far from resuming its pre-war position. The general economic state of Europe makes it still impossible for Switzerland's tourist traffic to regain the proportions of the past, and although from certain countries the influx of visitors is most satisfactory, it must always be borne in mind that there are other States which used to contribute a very large quota of visitors, and for which a holiday in Switzerland is now no longer an economic possibility.

**STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.**

BONDS.		Aug 7	Aug 14
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	...	72.00%	73.25%
Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5%	...	100.20%	100.37%
Federal Railways A.—K 9½%	...	78.15%	77.70%
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921	...	102.75%	102.12%
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892	...	69.00%	70.00%
SHARES.		Nom.	Aug 7 Frs.
Swiss Bank Corporation	...	500	642 641
Crédit Suisse	...	500	672 663
Union de Banques Suisses	...	500	540 540
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3240	3250
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2205	2252
C. F. Bally S.A.	...	1000	1020 990
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon	...	500	675 680
Entreprises Sulzer	...	1000	640 625
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)	...	500	308 308
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Milk Co.	200	168	169
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Köhler	1000	110	107
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	470	475

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