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WATCHES were placed top at the last official British Observatory watch tests, being awarded 96.8 points—only one-tenth of one point below the world's record. The series prize for the six best Deck and Pocket Chronometers at the last official test at Neuchatel was also awarded to Zenith watches.  
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(Continued from page 756)

known firm of Swiss engineers is installing in a Belgian power-house a turbine designed for 50 atmos. and 450 deg. C. superheating, the thermo-dynamical efficiency having been raised to 24 per cent. An intermediary turbine of standard design is arranged in series, with the high-pressure turbine running at very high speed, and the exhaust steam, previous to its entering the standard turbine, undergoes a suitable superheating. Other remarkable turbine installations are the 50,000 kw. units which, according to papers by Th. Reuter and Dr. Th. Meyer have been designed by Messrs. A.E.G. for the Goldenberg Electricity Works. A new arrangement has in this case been devised for the steam path, the exhaust steam from the auxiliary turbine fed with live steam being led into the condenser rather than into a low-pressure stage of the main turbine.

Interesting results obtained with steam boilers having convex heads, which are now being tested at the Stuttgart Engineering College, were made known by Dr. von Bach. Elliptical boiler heads were found to admit of much higher liquid pressure than the strongly curved heads so far used. Tests of the Wadurf boiler were discussed by Dr. Zwiauer, of Stuttgart. The coal in this type of boiler is burnt on the grate from the top downwards, so that the gases of incomplete combustion, being carried to the hottest layer, are burnt without any separation of soot. The grate comprises water-cooled tubes, the heated water serving to transmit the heat of the fuel to the water to be evaporated.

The cycle thus performed is similar to that obtaining in a hot-water or low-pressure steam boiler, the boiler proper being left out of contact with the fire gases. In the tests referred to, as much as 128 kgs. of steam per square meter heat-absorbing heating surface was raised, no evidence of imperfect combustion being noted.

### Revival of Basle's Industries.

*The Times* (11th August):—The industrial situation in Basle has improved. Production is fairly normal again, although below the unusually high level of 1920.

Sales of ribbons amounted in value to 70,000,000 francs in 1922, against 60,000,000 francs in 1921 and 42,000,000 francs in 1913. This result has been attained in spite of many adverse factors. There has been a slackening of demand from the United States, due to increased home production, and from France because the mills of St. Etienne and Alsace can meet all French requirements. At the same time Swiss makers have had to face strong competition in their own market from German and Italian goods.

Great Britain has saved the situation for Basle, and in conjunction with the Dominions has absorbed three-quarters of its output of ribbon. Prices have been greatly reduced, wages slightly lowered, but quality has been maintained and contracts have been carried out promptly.

The chemical industry of Basle specializes in dyes and drugs. Whilst the former branch has been working only five days a week, exports of coal-tar, dyes, indigo and other colours amounted in value to 68,000,000 frs. in 1921, against 67,000,000 frs. last year. The lack of orders from Germany and Russia has been balanced by larger purchases by Great Britain and China, each three millions more than last year. In the pharmaceutical branches ordinary lines are lower in price, but branded specialties keep steady. It is noteworthy that some of the leading firms have been able to declare higher dividends in spite of uncertain markets and unstable exchanges. The Société pour l'Industrie chimique is paying 12 per cent., as compared with 6 per cent. in the previous year; Sandoz, 20 per cent., against 10 per cent.; Schappe, 15 per cent., against 8 per cent.; and Kingwald, 15 per cent., against 10 per cent.

I am afraid I have found nothing else this week, except a large number of enthusiastic articles from holiday-makers in our beautiful country. Even *Elms*, in the Canton of Glaris, has been discovered at last by some English trippers, who report in the *British Weekly* (Aug. 9th) that, as the Ostend Express passes Ziegelbrück, only two hours' rail journey distant from Elms, the *London Times* can be got at Elms at 1 p.m. on the day following publication here. Some attraction, to be sure! I wonder whether the Rothermere Press have read this, and if so, what are they going to do about it?

Well, although most of my compatriots in London are coming back from their holidays and turn their mind, *volens volens*, to work again, and although they state with some satisfaction that the real summer weather seems at last to have broken for good, "Kyburg" is thinking of going to have a good look at the old homeland, and my readers will be spared my vapourings for some weeks to come, unless I find something really worth writing about from the other side, in which case the Editor will perhaps give me leave to have my words set to print. You, dear reader, must surely have noticed lately that writing this column was beginning to be real work. How could it be otherwise, with all one's friends on holiday, with picture post-cards streaming in from all sorts of wonderful spots somewhere some hundreds of miles away from Town? Just try it yourself once to sit down and write something interesting, when you feel as if you would be much better off somewhere else! Therefore, I, too, am off! Off for the mountains, the lakes, the valleys and hills of our beloved country, and, in a few weeks' time, I know from experience, I shall have no rest until I am back in dear old London Town!

### THE HOMELAND RE-VISITED.

"Wenn ich Königsglanz mit deinen Bergen mass,  
Wie war da der Bettler stolz auf dich."

"The Swiss Observer" of July 21st mentioned my holiday in Switzerland, and my desire has been fulfilled by a glorious Swiss tour.

From Basle to Winterthur I chose the very charming and interesting Rhine route, which was new to me, passing the Waterworks of Rheinfelden and Laufenburg.

Winterthur is now greatly enlarged by Toess, Wülflingen, Veltheim, Oberwinterthur, Seen, Wiesendangen and the surrounding charming villas; the old town remains much the same. The Town Hall, in best classic style, the new Art and Science Museum, the Girls' School on Heiligberg, the Post Office and Railway Station are outstanding buildings.

Then comes the very picturesque old town of Stein a.Rh. The Rathaus and some other buildings are decorated with pictures and legends of their history (1300—1600 A.D.).

I visited Professor Ferdinand Vetter (Berne) in his retreat Klosters St. Georgen, and was conducted through 20 rooms, filled with art collections from monastic times, and his large library. I had a charming reception and two hours' conversation with him. After this to Castle Hohenklingen and the Rhine Falls, now in massive flow.

In Zürich my friend, A. Huber, president C.S.C. 1875 and hon. member, was my guide. The Landesmuseum, the Art Museum, Polytechnic University, Gottfried Keller's birthplace, his favourite Oepfelkammer, Zürichhorn Park, with monument to the writer and composer of "Trittst im Morgenrot daher," a round on the beautiful lake will be abiding recollections.

Lucerne, Pension Hermitage, opposite the Pilatus came next. I had a glorious view of the lake and valley behind from the top of the Bürgenstock.

Then, a tour Lucerne, Altorf, passing Brunnen, Treib, Seelisberg, Rütli, Schillerstein, Tell's Chapel, all gloriously historic. The Mayor of Altorf conducted me through the Courts of Justice and the Chamber of Deputies, containing the old banners of Sempach, Morgarten, Marignano and various trophies. I greatly cherish that day.

In Lucerne itself the Lion Monument, the Glacier Garden Alpina, Bourbaki Panorama are of absorbing interest.

Berne followed, which I fully explored, guided by an unfiring friend. The Federal Palace, its magnificent interior, Zeitglocken Thurm, Kornkeller, the arcades, fountains, the National Museum, the National Library were my admiration and delight. The Casino Terrace offers also a splendid view of the great Alps. On the 1st August all streets were beflagged, in the evening all bells were ringing, the Federal Palace and Münster were illuminated; rockets in all directions; on the Schänzli a concert with Swiss songs and jollies; above all the views of the great Alpine Peaks, Jungfrau, Mönch, Schreckhorn, Finsteraarhorn, Altels, Niesen, Blimlisalp, were grand beyond description.

I visited Mr. C. A. Loosli, the well-known Bernese writer, now busy with Ferdinand Hodler's works. He well remembers his visit here in 1916 and sends his best greetings.

Of all places I give the palm to Berne, so historic, still so Swiss (eigenartig).

Going next to Solothurn, I was met by our dear friend, Professor Dr. A. Laett, who enquired after all here and who sends his hearty greetings. We visited the celebrated Ursus Church and the Zeughaus, the largest in Switzerland, containing an extensive collection of arms and uniforms from old times up to date. There is a scene of Nicolas von der Flüel, Stans peace parley.

My last Swiss town was Basle. I visited the History and Art Museums, collections of Holbein, Boecklin, Stüdelberg, the Zoological Garden in a beautiful park, the only one in Switzerland; also the Rathaus, with best old-style council rooms, finely carved ceilings and celebrated pictures, which no visitor should omit.

I also visited an old friend, Adolf Linder (82), who was one of the 14 new members in 1866 to rejuvenate the dead and alive club of 1856. A former member here, Mr. Ernst Walter, is now active in the "Volksschicht," Zürich.

Briefly put, the great educational institutions, the care for old and young, the evident general order and comfort, the cleanliness, the up-to-date traffic and home arrangements, combined with the forests, lakes, rivers, pure air, plentiful trees and flowers, white houses and villas, make Switzerland, even apart from the ever-glorious mountains, an earthly Paradise, and one can only repeat with Gottfried Keller: "O mein Heimatland!"

My tour is the event of my life. The small collection of the history, plans and views of the places visited will be a constant reminder of the same. Relations and friends outbid each other to treat me better than the Prince of Wales could have been. Aber "Die schönen Tage von Aranjuez sind nun vorüber." Now to work, rejuvenated!

J. GEILINGER.

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53

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### EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C.2.

Dimanche, 26 Août, 11h.—M. J. Ramseyer.

6.30.—Pir. U. Wildbolz.

BAPTEME.

Anthony Jack OBRIST, fils de Hans et de Bertha Lydia Obrist, de Rüschlikon (Zurich)—le 19 Août 1923.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB; Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Nuthall's Restaurant, Kingston-on-Thames.

Saturday, Sept. 15th, at 5 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Outing, with Tea and Dance, at the Royal Abercorn Hotel, Stanmore.

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