

Swiss Choral Society

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I remember a snow-storm in the Kienthaleralpen, where I felt anything but hot and certainly could not see much of the sun. However, in these few pages Mr. Arnold Lunn has been able to give us an excellent account of the impressions gained of the mountains by various poets.

To write on "The Swiss Landsgemeinden" would be a very dry subject had it not been for the skill of Dr. A. Latt, who found it possible to describe the customs in vogue and the origin of this venerable institution in a most vivid style. This article is highly interesting, both for foreigners and Swiss people.

Mr. H. Challinor James writes on "Cow Fighting" in Martigny, and I feel ashamed, as I have never had the pleasure of seeing the cows of the Val d'Hérens trying to "outdo" each other, but I have made up my mind to see "Rodeo" at Wembley, so that I may form an opinion as to how a fight of the "Schweizerkühe" looks. Indeed, I have been rather surprised and disgusted to read of such a detestable habit of these usually mild and inoffensive domestic animals.

The contribution of Mr. Flemwell about "Golfing in Switzerland," I think, contains a few very striking and true passages. So everyone will agree with me that when he introduces Leslie Stephen's phrase by describing Switzerland as "the playground of Europe," it would appear that there is rather too much truth about it, and further, recently our country has really been "mixing with Royalty," but I doubt whether they only practised "Royal Golf"! Nevertheless, the writer's opinion of the "Golfers' Paradise" is justified, and the pleasures which wait the golfer will be very much appreciated by all those practising this sport.

"The Protection of Nature in Great Britain and Switzerland," which article was contributed by Mr. S. Brunies, Secretary of the Swiss League for the Protection of Nature, really deserves the closest attention of everybody who loves nature, and it is highly gratifying to note the judgment that the Swiss National Park surpasses all the other reservations of the world, if not in size, at least with regard to efficient protection of life and strict supervision. We, therefore, all join in the appeal of Mr. Brunies to youth for participation, in order to support and extend the splendid work already done.

The "Chateaux in Argovie" have for long been a special attraction, and in a few pages Mr. Edmond Barde, of the *Journal de Genève*, has seen his way to give a short review of their varied history.

Mr. H. C. H. Marriot's "Hints on Cycling in Switzerland" will prove very useful indeed for all cyclists. Perhaps somebody will introduce the "Nagelfänger," as described, into England to the detriment of the tyre industry, but to the great joy of the "road hogs."

"Switzerland from America" is the heading under which Marie Widmer tells us of the relations between the U.S.A. and our native country, and will be specially interesting for the Swiss residing abroad, whereas "The New Tourist" and "Switzerland, the Land of Mineral Springs," written by M. J. Landa and H. Keller respectively, should be of more value to those who are about to pay a visit to Switzerland.

And, last but not least, "Through the Valley of a Hundred Valleys: The Centovalli Railway," by Mr. G. Flemwell, should attract the attention of every compatriot, and it is to be regretted that the reluctance of the authorities to construct the badly needed railway has long stopped the flow of tourists from reaching this beautiful spot.

On the whole, the "Swiss Travel Almanac" will please every reader, and will be a useful and handy guide for anybody intending to spend some time in Switzerland. The various excellent photographs are a considerable asset to the book, and it is only to be hoped that the publishers will be in a position to offer in the next edition more landscape photos, which, in my opinion, would largely improve this valuable work, taking into account that it is meant for propaganda abroad and amongst foreign visitors, who will go home saying: "There is no country like Switzerland and the lovely Swiss mountains and lakes."

"I saw them and they were the same,
They were not changed like me in frame;
I saw their thousand years of snow
On high—their wide, long lake below,
And the blue Rhone in fullest flow . . ."

—Wordsworth. (G.)

PERSONAL.

The engagement is announced of Mr. Oscar A. Jaeggi to Miss Audrey A. Fergusson. Mr. Jaeggi will be remembered as the popular vice-president of the Swiss Mercantile Society until his recent departure from London to take up the management of a branch of a well-known Basle export firm; Miss Fergusson is, of course, no other than the charming lady known in business and to most of us as Miss Hales, of 11, Poultry, E.C.3.

We believe the S.M.S. dances are mainly responsible for this happy event; Miss Fergusson will later on join her future husband on the Continent.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

"It was a perfect day."

So said every one of us as we came off the charabanc, after our outing on the 1st of June.

For some time it had been the wish of our dear passive member and friend, Mr. Lutz, to take the Choral Society and friends out in his "huge cars."

The weather did not look too bright as we started off in three charabancs from Union Helvetia. Still, a happy spirit prevailed amongst us, and passing through Chelsea, Putney, Wimbledon Common, etc., we soon reached the Surrey Hills, where we made our first stop. This was the time to forget London and its smoke out in the beautiful country.

We continued our journey over hills and dales, through forests and woods, when suddenly our cars arrived at a most picturesque spot on the hillside, surrounded by fir trees.

At this sylvan spot we all enjoyed a most splendid lunch. There was nothing missing. Everything was complete down to the O.K. Sauce, Villiger Stumpen and ice cream.

Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hassler and Mr. Schmid for carrying out all the arrangements so efficiently.

Then the members of the choir got busy, and a good many lively songs were rendered under the conductorship of Mr. Gaillard. Only too quickly the time passed, and we had to leave this spot, where we felt so happy and homely and free from all worries. I am sure, many of us were vividly reminded of our country, our dear old Switzerland.

Who could forget the lovely ride that followed through the fields until we reached a little place called Ewhurst, where we stopped to have some tea?

Unfortunately, at this point the black clouds, that had looked threatening for some time, broke, and the rain, so typically of the English climate, descended heavily.

We did not mind, however, as we were all under cover, and home we drove, every one of us sincerely thankful to Mr. Lutz for giving us such a pleasant day by arranging this outing.

As I went to bed and let the day once more pass before me, I said to myself: "The Swiss of old and his sound spirit still live." H. L.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

Meeting of the Council on Wednesday, May 28th, at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

1. The Treasurer reported one admission and one resignation.

2. The President, Mr. Baer, announced to the Council that the Committee had decided to subscribe to the "Ligue suisse pour la protection de la nature" and that they had asked the Secretary to forward twenty-five Swiss francs to it.

3. The Secretary reported on his visit to Basle to attend the 7th Day for the Swiss Abroad. He gave a long account of his journey to Basle, about which the readers of *The Swiss Observer* can find the principal features in one of the recent issues of that paper. Amongst other things, he gave some details about the meeting of the "Commission des Suisses à l'étranger" and also about the development of this movement as a whole. This report lasted more than an hour, and a very interesting discussion followed it, especially with regard to the question of eventual action being taken on behalf of the Swiss children in London. As a matter of fact, one of the most important points discussed at Basle was that of the Swiss children abroad, and several Groups of the N.S.H. have already begun to devote themselves to this question. Several members of the Council took part in the discussion. One member reminded the meeting of what had already been done in this matter in London, especially by the Swiss Church and the Swiss Sports, but emphasised the urgent need of doing something on a larger scale. As the debate proved that opinion was divided, particularly with regard to the question of finding out to what extent Swiss parents abroad should consider it their patriotic duty to do their utmost to avoid the assimilation of their children, it was decided to place the matter on the agenda of the next Council Meeting for serious discussion.

4. The Secretary received a report from the Holland Group of the N.S.H., which showed the interesting development of this new Group. A new Swiss paper has appeared in Wisconsin, U.S.A., entitled the *Schweizer Nachrichten*. This newspaper, which is published every week, contains eight pages (grand format) and is written in German. Dr. AG. KRAFT, Secretary.

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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Visit by the City Swiss Club.

At a recent meeting of the City Swiss Club a decision was taken to present the Swiss Rifle Association with a rifle. This official act will take place on Tuesday afternoon, July 1st, at the Hendon rifle range, when Col. Borel, the president of the C.S.C., will hand over a suitably engraved Swiss Service Rifle. The members of the latter club attending this function have been offered facilities for a shooting competition which they are now arranging. On the other hand, the committee of the City Swiss Club has extended an invitation to the members of the S.R.A. present that afternoon to join them at the monthly club dinner, followed by a dance, which takes place in the evening at the Brent Bridge Hotel.

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

Dimanche, 15 Juin, 11h.—M. le pasteur Emmanuel Christen, de Genève.

6.30.—Herr W. Dietsche.

Dimanche, 22 Juin.—Hospital Sunday.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Thursday, June 19th, at 7 p.m.—55th FETE SUISSE at Cavton Hall, Westminster. Tea at 5 o'clock. (See adv.)

Tuesday, July 1st, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at the Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon.

Every Saturday and Sunday (weather permitting).—SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Shooting Practice at Hendon (opposite Old Welsh Harp).

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