

Notes and gleanings

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HOME NEWS

In place of Dr. Fritz Ostertag, who last February was appointed director of the Bureau International pour le propriété intellectuelle in Berne, the two Federal Councils elected at a united sitting Prof. Jos. Piller as a member of the Federal Tribunal in Lausanne. Prof. Piller, who is only 36, comes with a great reputation from the University of Fribourg; he has also been lecturing at the University of Geneva during the absence of Prof. Eugène Borel. Prof. Piller subscribes to no particular political creed, and his choice adds lustre to the unbiased judgment of our Members of Parliament.

After a lively discussion the Zurich town council, the majority of which is held by the Labour party, decided to suspend the local tram service during the whole afternoon of to-day—Labour's great holiday; at a subsequent meeting of the authority concerned it was, however, resolved, to maintain the usual service during the whole of the day.

At the Landsgemeinde in Stans last Sunday National Councillor von Matt was elected Landammann for Nidwalden, whilst at Sarnen apothecary Stockmann was appointed to that office for Obwalden, though he had to give way to his opponent, State Attorney Amstalden, as a member in the Federal States Council.

In Trogen the Appenzell A.Rh. Landsgemeinde was attended by some distinguished visitors, amongst them being Federal Councillor Schulthess and the French Ambassador in Berne; the chief item of interest was the proposed introduction of an entertainment tax, which, however, the majority of the 8,000 voters present rejected.

The cantonal courts at Chur have acquitted Jakob and Adele Flugli, husband and wife, of the charge of having caused the recent conflagration at Sûs; many sensational statements were made during the trial, which commenced on March 22nd and was subsequently adjourned for further investigations.

In order to encourage saving, the "caisse d'épargne" of Thoune, has decided to present every baby born in the district with a deposit book showing Frs. 5 to its credit. More than a thousand births are registered in this district annually.

Lady clerks who have reached the age of 50, and who for at least 20 years have been employed in the town of Berne, become entitled to a yearly pension of Frs. 300 to Frs. 600, for which purpose the late Mr. Karl Ludwig Portenier has just left the whole of his fortune of about Frs. 200,000 to the municipality of Berne.

A regular fight tragically terminated a camping party of itinerant basket makers from Lucerne, who near Brunnen were regaling themselves sumptuously: Jakob Mehr, from Armez (Grisons), was stabbed to death by Franz Moser; the latter and his brother, who were both hiding in a neighbouring forest, have been placed under arrest.

In an attempt to overtake—and "cut in"—a motor-car on the Hochdorf road (Lucerne), a motor cyclist fell in front of the latter, he and the pillion-rider being run over. The lady companion was killed on the spot, whilst the driver, a Mr. Hunkeler, employed by the Lucerne municipality, was taken to the local hospital in a critical condition, and has since died.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

For uncivilised peoples, living in the tropics, it may not be so important that they are unable to read, as it would be for us Northerners. Hence, I take it, comes the fact that Eskimos take to the Gospel and subsequent education much more readily than do our dusky brethren of Africa and other hot climes, not to forget the Pacific Islanders.

You cannot guess why I write the above? According to the newspapers, and according to the state of health of most of my relations and friends in these foggy parts of the world, the SUNSHINE records of the present month show a shortage of actual sunshine of more than 150 hours. We all feel more or less miserable, and anxiously scan the weather forecasts or listen to the B.B.C.'s weather reports, hoping, almost against hope, that they may promise us SUNSHINE for the morrow.

Meanwhile, one great and real consolation, I find, we have is to read about Sunshine. This is where we score over those who cannot read, and whose mind, therefore, must be considerably more affected by such weather as we have been having of late.

You see now? The Scotsman on April 12th had the following—by the way, is it not significant that it should be The Scotsman?—

Lucerne Revisited.

That Lucerne should be one of the most popular gateways into Switzerland is easy to understand. Not only is it situated on the threshold of the Alpine country, but it presents a microcosm of the scenery of "The Playground of Europe"—to borrow the happy title which Sir Leslie Stephen gave to a book which has long been a classic in the literature of mountaineering. Almost everything that makes Switzerland what we know it to be is to be found in or near the delightful old town of Lucerne. As I stood the other morning on the Seebücke, I beheld the same scene of enchanting beauty as had greeted my eye eighteen years before—a scene reminiscent of what Wordsworth wrote of a very different prospect—

"Earth has not anything to show more fair;
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
A sight so touching in its majesty."

In front was the broad bosom of the Lake of the Four Forest Cantons, its shores steep and rugged, its placid waters glistening in the morning sun, and reflecting the jagged contours of encircling mountains, their summits capped with snow—

"Imperishably pure beyond all things below," as Byron says in one of those noble lines with which "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage" abounds. On the far horizon I could dimly discern those gaunt spectres—the peaks of the Bernese Oberland. Nearer, on my right, was Pilatus, wild, forbidding, but superbly grand—the Mount on which, as the legend runs, Pontius Pilate, in an agony of remorse, took his own life for having condemned Jesus. But Pilatus has a dangerous rival across the Lake, where stands, sentinel-like, that renowned Alpine peak, the Rigi, famous not for its elevation; but for the striking panoramic view which it affords. Then, nestling in the foreground, and imparting a human touch to surroundings so awe-inspiring, is Lucerne itself—a mediæval town, with hoary walls and watch-towers, quaint streets, and quaint buildings.

After this forerunner of articles on Switzerland in the Summer—when you lucky ones who have holidays in the offing, sit up and take notice!—I came across the following description of the great—

Zurich Spring Festival.

Westminster Gazette (19th April):—Festivals welcoming the Spring still survive in many parts of Europe. That at Zurich in April is invested with the real spirit of Carnival. The root-idea is the burning of Winter for all its wickedness and harshness. But on this is super-imposed political or social satire, which ever happens to be the topic of the moment.

The name of the festival, "Sechseläuten," looks awful enough in print, and is quite unrecognisable in its more general sound of "Zaks-lout." When fully restored to its original compound phrase it means Festival of the Six o'Clock Bell. This recalls the curfew marking the close of the working day, and dates from the time of the Guilds, which, still existent in Zurich, have long lost their economic and political significance. But Zaks-lout sees them in

all their mediæval panoply, with modern accretions, some pungently up-to-date.

It is the children's day, in the main. They have a holiday from school, dress themselves in the Swiss national or more grotesque costumes, with the boys favouring masks. In the morning they march in procession through the streets with a triumphal car representing the Goddess of Spring and her attendant nymphs. This ends where the Limmat pours into the lake. Here the bonfire takes place at the clanging of the bell. Zaks-lout is thus a combination of May-day and the Fifth of November, organised as a city celebration.

In the afternoon it is the turn of the adults. The Guilds have their processions. Once solemn, this part of the performance has developed accumulations of burlesque. The Guilds bedeck themselves in their ancient garb. Others run riot amid the local costumiers and their own wardrobe resources. Half Zurich gets itself up fantastically. Many of the revellers endeavour to express topical ideas. Imagine a procession of the Friendly Societies in full regalia, with a huge fancy dress parade tacked on, and you have some idea of how Zurich prepares for the auto-da-fe of the Winter Ogre.

All processions and people make for the scene of the bonfire. The Ogre, locally termed the Bögg, is a huge monstrosity made of white cotton wool, overfired with fireworks, well doped with paraffin and oil. The Bögg has frequently a double debt to pay. Not only has he to bear the sins of his fathers, but of whatever his godfathers thrust upon him from the unpopular personages or themes of the moment. He represents something more than Cruel Winter. He may be the effigy of some local celebrity, or symbolic of some scheme or idea that is in the black books of the populace. Nor is he always alone. There is no lack of "guys" when people are out to burn something for sheer enjoyment.

On the stroke of six the bells are set ringing. The Bögg, raised high on a pole, is set ablaze. The well-soaked rascal flares up at once. The multitudes that throng windows, balconies, roofs, and every point of vantage round about, set up lusty cheers. Wit his stuffing of fireworks the Bögg has an uproarious death. Each outburst draws a deafening din from the crowds, is answered with the whistling and the hooting of the lake steamers, with rival explosions and bonfires from the heights around.

Daylight fades, twilight rapidly deepens into dusk. Illuminated boats dot the lake, fireworks continue to whistle into the air. Gratitude for the awakening of the Spring is continued long into the night after the manner of mankind the world over.

Yes, and the morning after some of the members of those Zurich Guilds feel the awakening of Spring very much in their heads!

Summer Toboggans.

Winter Sports have taken such a hold on people that they have given birth to an idea, sketched in the following from the Yorkshire Observer of 17th April:—

An English resident of Vevey has invented a new summer sport for visitors to Switzerland. It takes the form of tobogganing on wheels. Something like an ordinary "luge" is mounted on a steel chassis with four solid rubber-tired wheels; the "luge" is detachable, and substantial springs have been fitted as shock absorbers. Steering and braking are controlled by hand levers, and a very necessary "hooter" gives warning of the toboggan's approach.

Successful experiments have been made with the new "wheeled toboggan," and great speeds have been attained on the mountain roads near Vevey.

So that pedestrians have yet another danger to reckon with, and sentimental promenaders will have to go farther afield and seek even less frequented and narrower lanes than hitherto.

New Swiss Railway.

For the old and infirm, and for the lazy ones who do not appreciate the joys of getting tired in the pure Swiss mountain air, a further means of seeing some of the loveliest and stateliest spots will soon be available. Lloyds List of April 12th states:—

The Swiss Federal Railways announce the opening next July of the new Furka Railway, which will link up Brig, on the main Simplon Tunnel route into Italy, with the Furka Pass, Andermatt and Disentis, in the Grisons. The completion of the line will establish through

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communication between Geneva and Lausanne in the west and the Engadine in the east, and should prove a boon to both summer and winter visitors to Switzerland. Plans and concessions for the line were obtained as far back as 1908, and actual construction was started three years later. Work had, however, to be suspended on the outbreak of the war, but the line from Brig to Gletsch, the Rhine Glacier station, has been open since 1915. Lack of funds, however, prevented the completion of the whole enterprise until last April, when work was resumed and carried out with the utmost dispatch. The railway, which is of the narrow-gauge type, is operated by steam traction. In its stretch of 60 miles it passes over more than fifty viaducts and through twelve tunnels and several avalanche galleries. It reaches its highest point at Furka Station (7,093 ft.), after passing through a mile-long tunnel under the famous Furka Pass.

And for those others whose idea of bliss is Speed, especially speed attained under difficult circumstances, the Coupe Internationale des Alpes, described in the following, will bring a few thrills, no doubt. Says the *Motor* of April 13th (note the date!):—

Alpine Motor Trials.

Acceleration and brake test, and a 50 kilo. "resistance" test on bad surfaces, will be features of the trial, in addition to the reliability test over the whole distance of 3,295 miles.

Early in August a contest, organised by "L'Auto," will be held among the French Alps, starting at Nice and ending on the French shore of the Lac Léman. The daily distances will be easy compared with those to be covered in the other trials.

Greatest of all will be the first Coupe Internationale des Alpes, organised conjointly by France, Italy, Germany and Switzerland. Originally Austria was included, but withdrew owing to disagreement with the conditions of the contest. The trial will be a strenuous one, averaging 500 kilometres (310 miles) a day over the Central Alps. The different stages are as follows: August 19th, Milan to Nice; August 20th, rest at Nice; August 21st, Nice to Geneva; August 22nd, rest at Geneva; August 23rd, Geneva to Zurich; August 24th, rest at Zurich; August 25th, Zurich to Wiesbaden; August 26th, rest at Wiesbaden; August 27th, Wiesbaden to Merano; August 28th, rest at Merano; August 29th, Merano to Milan. Competing cars will be classified according to cylinder capacity.

But to conclude our "travelling" notes, as it were, further attention is being directed to—

Swiss Inland Navigation.

primarily, of course, with a view to getting less expensive means of goods transport, but offering, I should think, a slow and lazy way of seeing Switzerland to those who have time and the inclination for that sort of travel.

The *Newcastle Daily Journal and North Star* (April 16th) states:—

In view of the attention that is being directed to the question of inland navigation, a report just published by the Department of Overseas Trade on River Navigation to Switzerland is of interest. The report gives a full account of the inland traffic upon which Switzerland lays stress. The inference drawn so far is that the results of the 1925 shipping season clearly demonstrated that the large capital invested by Switzerland in Rhine shipping interests can only be made to pay when the duration of the shipping season between Strasbourg and Basle can be extended to more than 300 days a year, instead of from 90 to 180, as is the case at present. It is held by the Basle Shipping Board that with a yearly traffic of two million tons entering or leaving Switzerland by the Rhine route the saving in freight costs would amount to nearly five million Swiss francs a year. Switzerland is, therefore, keen on seeing her projects for the regularisation of the Rhine between Strasbourg and Basle carried out as soon as possible. The French projects for utilising the Rhône from the Swiss frontier onwards towards Lyons as a source of power, and for rendering that stretch of river navigable, have also been focusing the attention, not only of the Swiss authorities, but also of the public. These projects are coupled with those for the utilisation of the Lake of Geneva as a regulator of the flow of the Rhône, and their execution would involve variations of nearly two metres in the level of that lake. Such fluctuations would probably prove a source of great inconvenience to riparian proprietors; a strong opposition has therefore been growing among the public in Western Switzerland, and the Swiss delegates on the Franco-Swiss Rhône Commission have now proposed to limit the amplitude of these variations. The canal which was being made at Thoune (Canton Berne) to enable steamboats to moor alongside the railway station was completed and inaugurated in June last.

Success of Dead Man's Invention.

To the ordinary person it always seems that Steel is Steel, and that the metal necessarily is heavy. Why? the ordinary person, of course,

could not tell. But it is at least somewhat startling to read the following.

Sunday Express (April 18th):—

A new steel invented by M. Boshard, a Swiss engineer, of Zurich, who died a few months ago, is now claimed to be 40 per cent. lighter and 30 per cent. cheaper than the present product. Experts recently tested the steel at Zurich and Dresden, and reported that the new steel is specially suitable for building railway bridges.

Fancy, Steel weighing 40 per cent. less than Steel, and 30 per cent. cheaper. I have renewed hopes of being able, by and by, to exchange my "bus" for a real car!

The Budget Speech has not exactly stunned me, as it was not to be expected that the present Government could cut into the flesh of its supporters too much. The steady increase in expenditure is a phenomenon which I understand from personal experience, but which must be condemned all the same as unhealthy and antagonistic to the interests of the community. I have spoken!

I might be justified in feeling gloomy to-day. Beer is not going to be cheaper, nor is the income-tax going to be less, and although I do take coffee regularly after meals, I don't think that the chicory excise repeal will make me happier. And I am much too gentle to harbour any malicious joy over the prospects of some of my more fortunate—in point of cash—friends having to pay more tax on their posh cars, whereas my modest 12-H.P. will jog along at the same rate, which is anyhow too much already.

But at the back of my head there is an uneasy feeling to-day, due probably to the fact that the Budget ought to have been much better and failed to be so. On the other hand, it may be an attack of flu, or of the blues, or anything. However, let's not talk about it any longer and get on with the job.

The French-Swiss Free Zones.

The next unpleasant item in our list is the following from the *Manchester Guardian* of 16th April:—

The Foreign Minister, M. Motta, has made an important statement in the Swiss Senate on the Free Zones dispute between France and Switzerland. Since 1919 France and Switzerland have been in disagreement as to whether the free zones between Geneva and Upper Savoy are legally still in existence, and as to what should be the new economic relations between the populations in those districts. In November, 1923, the Poincaré Government, which had always refused the Swiss proposals to submit the dispute to arbitration, virtually abolished the free zones by posting French Customs officers directly on the French-Swiss frontier, notwithstanding a Swiss protest. In the autumn of 1924 M. Herriot came to an agreement with the Swiss Government under which the question whether the free zones conformed to international law should be submitted to the World Court. After the Court decision the French and Swiss Governments were to enter into negotiations on the economic situation. If agreement were still impossible, the World Court should also arbitrate on the economic aspects of the dispute.

This arbitration treaty was ratified by Switzerland nearly a year ago, but the French Parliament has not yet discussed it. French suggestions were made to Switzerland that M. Motta should not insist on a decision by the World Court, but should immediately enter into economic negotiations. Obviously the French hoped that Switzerland would come to accept the abolition of the free zones as an accomplished fact, and be willing to negotiate in order to get better economic conditions than those imposed by Poincaré's arbitrary act.

M. Motta has now declared in the most categorical terms that the Swiss Government absolutely refuses to enter into any economic negotiations on this matter before France has ratified the Herriot treaty and the legal dispute has been submitted to the World Court. The determination of the Swiss Government to get international justice is by no means weakened by the economic pressure exerted since November, 1923.

Concerning the above, I refrain from further comments. They seem not called for. The only comment I will make is to express thanks to Providence for providing our country with a man of the stamp of Mr. Motta. We need him.

My readers will—or will not, as the case may be—remember the controversy which arose in these columns some months ago anent the question of Swiss-Russian Relations.

Since then has come the attack of Chicherin, an attack directed not so much against Switzerland as against the League of Nations and the Powers connected with it, and especially their motives in calling the Disarmament Conference. However justified our Government may have been in its attitude, regret is still being expressed by many influential newspapers that a formula was not found to bridge over the difficulties, and frequent mention is made of the nefarious influence exercised over the Swiss Government by a certain class of our citizens who thought they were right in seeing 'red.'

'C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas politique' we might now say to them!

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World Economics.

Daily Telegraph (April 13th):—

On Friday there will assemble at Geneva the Preparatory Committee for the World Economic Conference, originally proposed to the League Council by M. Loucheur. M. Gustave Ador, the veteran Swiss statesman, will preside. . . .

Some members of the committee may incline to a dangerous system of compulsory world-distribution in regard to raw materials, on Socialistic and International lines. Its proceedings will therefore require to be very closely watched by those nations that are rich in raw materials, in view of the covetousness of others less favoured.

The *Yorkshire Post* of April 21st, dealing with the same subject:—

... Judging from what is being published here on the subject, the Preparatory Committee will, first of all, discuss the conditions of world production. It is argued that in certain industries, the metal trades, for example, production is disorganised. The French are concerned about their supplies of raw material, and certain economic writers are suggesting that this question, as well as the tendency to create monopolies in favour of some countries to the detriment of the world's requirements, will come before the Preparatory Committee.

Another matter to be debated is what is called "economic nationalism," the raising up of exaggerated Customs barriers which prevent the circulation of merchandise and restrict the exchanges. Here the recent action of the French Government is increasing, with only a few exceptions, the Customs duties by 30 per cent. will come under notice. . . .

Readers of *The Swiss Observer* will perhaps recall that I have always been in favour of "pooling raw materials" and abolishing Customs duties everywhere. Some people, of course, cannot see farther than their own selfish ends and call "utopian" anything which they think might run against their own interests. But the world is marching on all the same, slowly but surely, and the time will come—please put this in, Mr. Editor, because it will make some readers wild!—when the absurdity of having to pay for train fares will be apparent to most of us!

Meanwhile, even Mr. Motta had to deplore, publicly, the dangers of secret diplomacy adopted recently by some Powers at Geneva.

Secret Diplomacy at Geneva.

The *Manchester Guardian* of April 14th says:

The Swiss Senate held a League of Nations discussion. Various senators protested against the return of methods of secret diplomacy during the extraordinary League Assembly in March. Secret negotiations had prevented any action being taken by the League Assembly itself, and might have been one of the causes of the failure. They insisted that the Swiss Government should promote the increased influence of the Assembly within the League.

The Foreign Minister, M. Motta, agreed that the secret diplomacy during the March session was deplorable. The Swiss Government wishes to prevent "the old diplomacy" becoming a Geneva tradition, and this is one reason why the Swiss Government is opposed to an increase in the number of Council members. If the Council is increased, a small executive committee of the Great Powers might be constituted, working by secret diplomacy, and excluding any real influence of the smaller States.

M. Motta repeated that the Swiss Government is of opinion that permanent Council seats should only be granted to the universally recognised Great Powers—France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Russia, and the United States. The Swiss Government, therefore, formally instructed the Swiss Delegation to the March Assembly to oppose, for the sake of the League, any increase of permanent or non-permanent seats. Only had a new and unforeseen situation arrived were the Swiss Delegation to have consulted their Government in order to receive possibly some change of instructions.

M. Motta could not say what might be his formal instructions for the Commission on the Council reorganisation, in which M. Motta will represent Switzerland. Although, of course, the main lines will remain unchanged, it is inevitable that M. Motta will have some freedom of movement. If all members came to Geneva with bound hands, agreement would be impossible. Asked whether he would support the Argentine proposal made at the first League Assembly in 1920 to abolish all permanent seats, M. Motta replied that, although this proposal theoretically is right, he does not believe that practically it has any chance of success, as the Great Powers do not seem ready to abolish their privilege.

M. Motta furthermore declared that he was convinced that Germany will collaborate in the League Commission, and that he has been informed that the Argentine Republic also will accept the invitation for membership of the Commission. M. Motta said he considered it useless to discuss the question of unanimity of Council decisions after the Italian statement that Italy has decided to maintain this principle.

"I NOSTRI BIMBI."

Era ritornato dall'Australia per offrire la sua bella gioventù, forte e baldanzosa, alla gran causa comune; e nei quattro anni circa che durò l'orribile carneficina, egli era là nel vulcano infuocato di Fiandra....

Due volte ebbe alcuni giorni di congedo, per godere un pò di tregua "in più spirabil aeree"... due o tre volte, leggermente ferito, passò per gli ospedali....

Dopo l'armistizio, tornò a Londra con pochi suoi amici, che, come lui, erano fra i più fortunati....

Londra gli piacque; ci si trovava bene, si sentiva "at home"... era sfiduciato e stanco della vita randagia che aveva sempre dovuto fare al di là dei mari... vita di famiglia non ne aveva mai conosciuta; gli morì la madre quand'era bambino, e, giovinetto ancora, emigrò nelle terre lontane.

Poi, in una serata fatidica, in casa d'amici, conobbe "lei"... una fanciulla bionda e rosea, l'affascinò, con la bontà sincera che le si leggeva negli occhi cerulei... decise allora di stabilirsi nella Capitale inglese; si fidanzarono; si sposarono dopo firmata la pace....

Erano felici; vivevano per loro soli... finalmente il povero solitario, reduce dai mari e dalla guerra, aveva un suo nido, un "home"...

Di bambini lui non ne voleva; bimbi?— oh no, non voleva fastidi lui! aveva tribolato abbastanza! ora voleva godere la sua libertà, vivere in pace, dormire sonni indisturbati... voleva la sua mogliettina tutta per lui.... "Bimbi?... oh no, non si usano più" diceva!

Li incontravo alle volte; sempre innamorati, in una continua luna di miele... una volta gli domandai: "Ma... e bimbi?...". "Oh no, non ne vorrò mai! non sono più di moda, costano troppo e siamo felici così!..."

Guardai lei... abbassò gli occhi, mi sembrò si commovesse, credetti sorprendere un fiavole sospiro....

Passarono sette anni; lo incontrai l'altro giorno... "E arrivata!" mi gridò....

"Chi?"

"Una bambina! una creaturina tutta rosea, bionda e bleu come la mamma sua... un tesoro mandotici da Dio! venga a vederla; è una meraviglia!..."

Attonita, guardavo la visibile trasformazione che veniva operandosi nel suo viso, dicendomi queste parole, con tutta serietà!

Vi andai in uno di questi bei pomeriggi di primavera; lui era seduto al sole, nel suo giardino, cullando una carozzella affatto nuova; s'altò in piedi.... "Venga, venga a vederla!..." ed il suo viso era raggiante... l'orgoglio paterno illuminava i suoi occhi neri e sembrava ringiovanito e d'aver riacquisita la sua bella baldanza d'anni indietro; accanto alla sposa sua contemplava estatico quel "cosettino" rosa, sprofondato nella bambagia, pizzi e seta... giocuava delicatamente con quelle manine che sembravano petali di rosa... non sapeva allontanarsi un minuto da quel suo capolavoro! era beato, felice!...

Si accorse della mia meraviglia a tanta metamorfosi....

"Ah" mi disse subito! "ero un egoista! non sapevo come la vita, già bella, può essere migliore... ora non vorrei essere senza bimbi per tutto l'oro del mondo..."

...I bimbi!... ma sono il sorriso della vita, l'incarnazione di noi stessi, il tratto d'unione fra i genitori... sono gli angeli di questa terra, quelle testoline riccicce bionde e nere....

Si, cari bimbi! che spronate i genitori ad alti ideali, a lavorare per voi... che riscaldate il cuore dei nonni; voi, ignari siete la forza, quasi indistinta, la chiara luce di coloro che vi amano e che vivono di voi e per voi!

T. LUNGI-REZZONICO.

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

BONDS.	Apr. 19		Apr. 26	
	%	%	%	%
Confederation 3% 1903 ...	80.00		79.75	
" 5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln.	101.67		101.50	
Federal Railways 3½% A-K ...	83.32		82.90	
" " 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	102.32		102.00	
SHARES.				
	Nom.	Apr. 19	Apr. 26	
	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.
Swiss Bank Corporation ...	500	718	715	
Crédit Suisse ...	500	777	770	
Union de Banques Suisses ...	500	636	627	
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2044	2052	
Fabrique Chimique et-dev. Sandoz	1000	3435	3432	
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe ...	1000	3238	3207	
S.A. Brown Boveri ...	350	464	460	
C. F. Bally ...	1000	1277	1280	
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	353	356	
Entreprises Suizer S.A. ...	1000	1005	994	
Comp. de Navig. n sur le Lac Léman	500	595	595	
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco ...	100	87	90	
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon ...	500	745	745	

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

Mr. Walter Berger, Berne: "The Future of the Swiss Industries." Mr. Constantin Bezzola, Florence: "The Roman Language." Mr. Willy Inhelder, Buche: "Auto-Suggestion." Dr. Max Keller, Basle: "Women's Political Rights." Mr.

Traugott Haefeli, Milan: "League of Nations." Mr. Ad. Grueninger, Basle: "A Few Considerations about Alcoholism." Mr. Rodolphe Stuber, Biberist: "Advertisements." Mr. Fritz Sandmeier, Baden: "Sounds of Stars." Mr. Otto Martin, Zurich: "Method of Coué." Mr. Max A. Thommen, Zurich: "Modern Young People." Miss Marie Antoinette Joris, Sion: "League of Nations." Miss Hanny Widmer, Lucerne: "Francis Bacon." Miss Schmid, Lucerne: "Girl Scouts in Switzerland." Mr. Max Roessler, Rorschach: "Emigration from Switzerland." Mr. R. R. Rietmann, Zurich: "Buenos Aires."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Should Priests be allowed to marry?" Proposer: Miss Marie Broennimann, Berne; Opposer: Mr. Henri Blom, Soleure. "Should Capital Punishment be abolished?" Proposer: Mr. Max Schelling, Zurich; Opposer: Mr. Max Buchwalder, Biberist. "Are you in favour of the law of Breach of Promise?" Proposer: Mr. Gustave, Berne; Opposer: Mr. Guido Marti, Breitenbach.

On Saturday a lecture was given by Mr. O. Ph. Masterman-Smith on: "The Conflict of National Temperament; the Origin and Effect upon National Politics." A social meeting of the students took place at the Foyer Suisse, followed by national Swiss songs.

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.
GROUPE LONDONIEN.

The Monthly Meeting of the London Group of the N.S.H. was held on April 21st at 24, Red Lion Square.

The Treasurer's report was quite a favourable one. There are now only nineteen subscriptions outstanding for 1925, and it is quite possible a majority of these may be recovered, whilst this year's subscriptions are coming in fairly well. Our present system of sharing our offices with the Swiss Institute is also proving an economical arrangement, as well as an entirely satisfactory one in every other respect.

The President brought several communications to the notice of the meeting, viz., a subscription list from the Swiss Sports Committee; a letter drawing attention to a new monthly, "Die Neue Schweizer Rundschau," which is taking the place of "Wissen und Leben"; and various circulars from the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger. One of these gave detailed information about the "Day for the Swiss Abroad," and gave rise to some discussion. Mr. Baer informed the meeting that the Committee had gone into the question of the date of the "Auslandschweizertag," it having been pointed out that Wednesday was not really a good day on which to hold it. Most people started their holidays on a Friday or Saturday, and therefore would probably not be inclined to wait until the Monday to travel in order to arrive at Lausanne in good time for the "Auslandschweizertag." On the other hand, if it were agreed to leave on the Friday or Saturday, many people might not care to wait on in Lausanne until the Wednesday instead of proceeding to their ultimate destinations. It was remarked that it was a great pity this point had not been raised earlier, and, as one could not expect the date of the "Day" to be changed now, the only thing was to do our best to raise a party in the circumstances.

It was agreed by the meeting that sufficient circulars with regard to the "Auslandschweizertag" should be obtained from the S.S.E. in order that we might send them to the various Swiss societies in London, so that they might bring them to the notice of their members and point out to them that, if a sufficiently large party could be got together (at least 24), return tickets to Switzerland would be obtainable at considerably reduced rates.

It was decided that the financial position of the London Group would not allow of it making any propaganda in order to attract English visitors to the "Comptoir," though no doubt many English people would get to hear of it through our efforts to draw the attention of the London Swiss to it, and it is therefore hoped that these would join our party in order to benefit by the cheaper rates.

Dr. H. Egli having very kindly offered to give a lecture to our Group at the end of next month, the meeting discussed the advisability of this. It was pointed out that May was a very bad month for lectures on account of the Whitsun holidays, and the general feeling was that it would hardly be fair to accept the offer if there was every prospect of the attendance being a poor one. It was therefore agreed we should rather arrange for Dr. Egli to speak to us next winter instead, if he would be kind enough to do this. A discussion with regard to the tariff on alcohol having arisen during the course of the evening, it was suggested that for the meantime Dr. Egli might be kind enough to say a few words on this subject at the next Council Meeting (May 19th) in order to stimulate a discussion on a question which is of such grave moment to Switzerland.

One of our members having raised the question of allowing members the right to use our offices for any private purpose, such as giving or receiving lessons, this question was discussed by the meeting. In principle the suggestion was agreed