

# Towers as larders in Switzerland

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## EDUCATION ON THE CONTINENT

It may seem strange that practically all the most important centres on the Continent with education facilities for English boys and girls are also among the most attractive places for British and other tourist-travellers. Most of them, too, were popular with English travellers long before they established schools for English pupils, so that in some degree such schools owe their origin to the influence of English wanderers in the various countries of the Continent, while on the other hand, all the tourist resorts have benefited and continue to benefit to a very large extent on the presence of these establishments.

For every pupil sent to a Continental school is usually accompanied by one or more relatives, who take the opportunity of spending a few weeks touring in the country; and during holiday periods, parents often go abroad to join their sons or daughters, while nearly every pupil who has received education abroad has a desire later on in life to spend holidays there.

No better proof of this connection between education and travel need be given than the present conditions of some of the towns on the shores of Lake Geneva—Lausanne, Vevey, Montreux, Geneva, Rolle, Territet and Clarens—where the climate for the greater part of the year suits English visitors and where the moral atmosphere is much what English parents desire for their sons and daughters.

Of late years, too, English pupils have entered the Swiss schools and universities, for the intellectual and professional culture to which Switzerland owes the privileged position she occupies among nations is due mainly to a thorough training well adapted to the requirements of modern life.

As an example of the education facilities offered in Switzerland, the scholastic work at Geneva may be given. This canton, like most of the others, devotes particular care to its schools. Primary instruction is obligatory and gratuitous for all children from the age of six to fifteen. Secondary instruction is given (1) at the College for three or four years; (2) at the secondary and high school for girls, with special classes for teaching French to foreigners; (3) at the professional school; (4) at the professional and house-keeping school for young girls; and (5) in the secondary rural schools. Higher instruction is given at the university, which comprises six faculties (science, letters, economical and social sciences, law, Protestant theology, and medicine); and holiday courses (French, botany, etc.) are held every year in July and August. Technical instruction is given at the School of Arts and Crafts, and commercial instruction at the Commercial High School.

The field of higher instruction is so vast that apart from the State institutions there are others due to private initiative, such as the J. J. Rousseau Institute (the School of the Science of Education), and the School of Social Studies for Women. The numerous private boarding-schools are well equipped and most are situated in large grounds with facilities for sports.

Of the private schools in various parts of Switzerland mention may be made of the Institute Sillig at Vevey, one of the oldest schools in Switzerland for English and other boys; the Chillon College near Montreux, conducted on the lines of an English Public School; La Villa at Ouchy-Lausanne, and the Lycée Jaccard at Pully-Lausanne, two well-known international schools for boys; and the Institute Carnal at Rolle (on Lake Geneva) and in the winter sports season at Gstaad in the Bernese Oberland, where the boys engage in skiing, etc. Of the girls' private schools, the more important include the Buser at Teufen, near St. Gall (famous for its embroideries); the Châtelard, St. George's and Des Esarts schools at Montreux; the Institution Fisher at Veytaux, between Montreux and Chillon; the Château Brillantmont, the Beau Chêne-Berrières, the Haute Rampe, the Grand Verger, the Ecole Vinet (for day pupils), and many others at and near Lausanne.

One of the best scholastic agencies on the Continent—the Mondover, with its headquarters in Paris—says that "the ordentness of the schools and the wonderful effect of the Swiss climate on growing children account for the large number of parents who send their children to school in Switzerland"; and with regard to the relations between education and tourism in Switzerland, it may be noted that the Swiss National Tourist Office in Zürich and Lausanne issues a free booklet on Switzerland and her schools, while the Swiss Federal Railways, 11b, Regent Street, S.W.1., also send out free brochures about schools in that country.

The Hendon **First of August Film** will be shown in conjunction with other New Swiss Films, on Monday evening, **September 30th** next at the New Victoria Hall, Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, W.C. Dancing will follow the Film Show.

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### TOWERS AS LARDERS IN SWITZERLAND

Switzerland has all sorts of queer old-world customs peculiar to herself and her cantons, but one of the oddest is seen (among many other odd ones) in the Valais.

Visitors to Sion, and their name is legion now that the summer is here, are always struck by the very picturesque architecture of the capital of the canton, and wonder that so many houses boast a more or less imposing tower, or at the very least a turret, as a finish to the quaint old roofs. But few guess that there is a practical reason for these "tournelettes," as the Valaisans call them, still less that this reason is purely gastronomic. Yet such is the case, every one of the towers being nothing more than a glorified larder for home-killed and cured meat.

When the cold days of December come round, the moment has arrived to proceed to a slaughter of the innocents, in the shape of cows, heifers, and pigs. Ox-beef is a rarity in Switzerland, where oxen are so much used for draught purposes, and to British palates cow-beef replaces it but indifferently.

But in the Valais there is a certain race of cattle, the Hérens Valley breed, and the flesh of these cows, which are never artificially fattened, is specially adapted for drying. Dried meat is but little known in Britain or, indeed, anywhere but in mountainous countries such as Norway and Switzerland. Its preparation calls for knowledge born of age-long experience, if the results are to be satisfactory; but when it is well dried as in the Grisons or in the Valais, it is not only extremely nutritive, but also most palatable, as many visitors to Switzerland can testify.

The method of preparation in the Valais is very simple, once the "tournelette" has been built. The quarters of beef and veal, the hams and pieces of pork are carried up into the age-old garret under the tower-roof, and duly suspended to wooden racks and to the great rafters by huge hooks that have done duty for centuries.

These enormous garret, larders are so built that they are open to all the winds of heaven, but the draught is cleverly arranged, so that the meat to be dried is always exposed to a refrigerating current of air; and during the cold Swiss winter, the best moment for the drying, a perpetual icy wind is blowing upon the joints and hams. This not only favours the preparation of fresh meat, but also acts as cold storage for that which has not as yet been eaten or sold, and keeps the latter in perfect condition.

Large quantities of this dried meat are now being exported to other countries, as doctors have discovered its peculiarly nourishing qualities for delicate or consumptive patients. But luckily for those people who live in Switzerland, much of this home-cured produce remains in the country and many families pride themselves on never eating any dried meat but that which has come to perfection in their own "fournelette."

Eaten with rye-bread and home-made butter washed down with the sparkling "fendant" or wine of the Valais, dried meat affords a feast for the gods, not to be despised by any modern epicure of any country whatever. (*Liverpool Echo*.)

### FORTY-YEAR-OLD ALPINE GARDEN.

The Linnaea Alpine Garden, one of the most famous gardens in the world, has just celebrated its fortieth anniversary.

Known to thousand of tourists who have made the spectacular motor journey from Martigny up to the Great St. Bernard, the garden lies above the little town of Borg St. Pierre, high in the Alps, at a height of 5,400 feet above the sea. Some 2,500 different species of Alpine flora are there collected in natural surroundings, among them being a collection of Balkan mountain plants which were presented by King Ferdinand of Bulgaria before the war. Part of the garden overhangs a huge buttress of naked rock, upon which a castle stood in mediaeval days.

The Linnaea Garden, named after the famous Swedish botanist Linnaeus, is the outcome of an attempt made in the early 'eighties to establish a collection of alpine plants in the Val d'Anniviers. This proved a failure owing to excessive altitude. The site above Bourg St. Pierre was bought in 1889, largely owing to the co-operation of Sir John Lubbock with French and Swiss scientists and Alpine clubs. The garden is now under the control of the Botanical Institute of Geneva University.

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