

Switzerland's new hospital

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Switzerland is another of the countries of Europe to cater for youth. Germany set the example, to be followed by Austria and Czecho-Slovakia and then Switzerland, after whom followed Holland, and now Britain comes in to the field. Already there are hostels in existence in different parts of Britain, but it will be a long time before the British Youth Hostels Association can advertise hostels at 6d. per night.

I trust that someone will be good enough to start a similar movement to provide us middle-aged chappies, etc. with similarly priced and at the same time comfortable hotels. Or are our "middle-aged" ideas of comfort perhaps not the same?

At School in Switzerland.

Queen, 24th September:

Switzerland is a country without natural resources of any importance, and it keeps its place on the world market merely by producing first-rate goods. Skilled labour of the very highest standing can only be performed by workmen of the very best schooling. On education, therefore, depends that public wealth and national prosperity of Switzerland.

Due to long traditions in this special field, the Swiss have acquired a remarkable talent for imparting knowledge, their pedagogic qualities being highly appreciated even abroad.

Perhaps no other country—certainly no country of the same size—may boast of such a wealth of famous names in the sphere of education, names such as Pestalozzi, Pèrè Girard and Fellenberg.

One of the best-known living Swiss authorities on education of girls is Professor W. P. Buser, Chairman of the Swiss Association of Principals of Private Schools.

Professor Buser has entirely dispensed with erudition derived from books, and superannuated methods, in which the memory plays the principal part. He tries to awaken and develop the faculty of thinking, the spirit of observation, initiative and joy in work by abolishing the old class organisation of 30-40 pupils, and substituting in its place small, moveable classes of six to eight girls, each girl following in each subject the course suiting her faculties best.

Thus the same pupil may be in French twelve, in English five, in history seven, in geometry four, etc., the classes of such a school of 80 pupils amounting to about 150.

This system takes into consideration the distinctive qualities and the preparatory instruction of every child. Pupils from abroad are not handicapped in their studies by a change of school, as they are able to take up their lessons in each subject exactly where they previously had stopped.

Utmost individualisation is possible without the disadvantage of the unsocial private tuition.

The main principle of Professor Buser's method is the development of personality. The members of the school are to be of different nationalities, of different religions, and are to learn to know and respect each other.

Characters, whose dispositions are unequal, exercise a salutary reciprocal influence. Thus school becomes a pleasant centre where girls acquire the ways and customs of society.

Professor Buser has not been satisfied to put forward these theories of education, but he has realised all his maxims to the very last and most successfully in his boarding schools for girls at Teufen, near St. Gall, and at Chexbres, near Lausanne, both places having been chosen for their climatic situation.

Teufen lies in the midst of beautiful, sunny highland scenery, at a height of about 2,700 feet, being sheltered from the north winds and enjoying the full advantage of sunshine.

On a sunny slope, 960 feet above the Lake of Geneva, is Chexbres, with all the advantages of a sub-alpine climate, and offering an unparalleled panorama. Light, air and sun, lake and mountains—these are its attractions.

These two colleges are ruled according to the same principles, the only difference being that the common language at Teufen is German, and at Chexbres, French.

In both schools there is a considerable number of English girls. This is not astonishing, if we take into consideration that girls pick up languages easily and without much exertion, the diversity of nationalities making the acquisition of languages more in the nature of a pleasure than a task.

Professor Buser lived for some time in England, and English educational principles have influenced his theories to a great extent.

Difficile à caser

Un gros monsieur venait de monter en tramway. Comme il cherchait à se caser et semblait fort en peine d'y parvenir, un voyageur lui dit aimablement.

"Vous n'avez pas de quoi vous asseoir?"

"Si, j'ai bien de quoi, mais je ne sais où le mettre."

SWITZERLAND'S NEW HOSPITAL.

I was fortunate this summer in passing through Basle to be able to see over Switzerland's newest hospital—the St. Clara Spital. Basle is known to most of us simply as a junction where we change our steam train which has brought us through France or Germany to one of the clean and powerful electric vehicles which take us on to the mountains and the lakes. But Basle is an interesting town where French, German and Swiss live side by side—a busy town, with fine buildings, a beautiful countryside, and, it must be owned, a most remarkable hospital.

Those who have had to cross Basle from the German station to the Swiss know to their cost how far the two lie apart, and the hospital stands even farther out than the German station. This is happy indeed for its patients, for the fresh air comes straight into the wards from the fields and meadows, and the distant hills can be seen from their balconies. The hospital was built two years ago when the old building was vacated, and, most fortunately, the site was one previously occupied by a wealthy owner who had laid out his grounds with fine trees and pleasant flower beds. The house which he occupied is still standing, and is used as a home for the staff, who are religious sisters of the Order of the Holy Cross of Ingenbohl (Brunnen). It is a fairly recent Order, but has spread rapidly over Europe, and there are also convents in North and South America. The home is separated from the new building by a wide, shady lawn. Swiss, French and German patients are admitted and are taken in three classes. The first class pays from eighteen to twenty francs a week, which in English money is from 15s. to 18s., the second class from ten to fifteen, and the third class whatever it can afford, as in England.

There are two great features of the hospital which every English visitor must at once notice: the first is the excellent provision made for the private patient of the professional classes, as in many other Continental hospitals, which is of a far superior kind to any provided in England, and the second, the insistence made upon quiet and restful surroundings. In many ways the English hospital is second to none, her nurses cannot be surpassed by those of any other country, but we might indeed learn much in these two respects from our friends on the Continent. The first-class rooms are beautiful, perfect in appointment, restful in colouring, and completely sound-proof. They are large rooms, the walls of a sunshine colour, with blue couches, high white enamelled bedsteads with blue eiderdowns, white bedtables and yellow silk screens. In winter they are centrally heated. Attached to each room is a private bathroom and lavatory of a most luxurious nature, white tiled, with a white porcelain bath of the most moderate pattern, built low and set in the tiles. In addition each patient has a tiled balcony as large as his room, facing south, covered for rain, and with striped sunblinds for very hot weather, for Basle has more than its share of sunshine. These balconies all overlook the garden, only the administrative quarters being in the front of the hospital, and there was a lovely view over the lawns with their chestnuts in full flower.

The second-class rooms are not quite so large or so luxurious, and two rooms share a bathroom; in the third-class three or four patients share a ward and a balcony, but never more than five. Every ward has double doors, which open on to wide corridors with thick rubber flooring. The colour scheme of these corridors is most lovely. In the centre the walls are of apricot and cream; in the side corridors, for the hospital is in three blocks, of spring green and cream. The lighting is by means of subdued conical-shaped clusters of lamps, with a special light to each ward, which hangs in the centre of the corridor. When the patient wants his nurse, he presses the button at his bedside or over his bath, and the globe outside his door shows a red light! This is done to obviate noise and the ringing of bells. The patients are well provided with sitting rooms for each class, in which are easy chairs and large book-cases. Visitors are allowed three times a week in the second and third classes and twice a day in the first class, from 10 to 11 and 1 to 5.

The children have their own little ward with six cots, the white walls being decorated with bambinos in blue and gilt. They were busy at tea on the afternoon of my visit, and one of the lay nurses who assist the nuns was cutting up fruit and cake.

Basle has, of course, its own fever and maternity hospitals, but every other kind of case is taken at the St. Clara Spital. There are several large theatres; one main one, with a second attached for emergency work, special casualty theatres, eye theatres, and so on. The apparatus is all most modern and costly, from the beautiful new microscope to the mirrored lamps over the operation tables; from the very point on the walls to the X-ray apparatus. Downstairs in the basement is the most complete bath department I have ever seen. On each side of the corridor are white doors which lead into white tiled bathrooms. There are all kinds of electrical

baths for the feet and the hands; Fango baths with the latest Pilz treatment for diseases of the skin; steam baths, sitz baths, Turkish baths, "Hohersonne" and "Bergsluft" baths, giving the ultra-violet light and mountain air treatment to the citizens which the peasants enjoy for nothing on the mountain side. A new apparatus for use in cases of obstinate indigestion had just been installed. The patient holds the two ends of a tube in his mouth while the apparatus draws a chart of his digestive processes. A series of comfortable rest rooms with sofas and magazines ensure against the patient going home overtired and too hot after his treatments. The sisters are extremely interested in these treatments, and they struck me as being very well up in the mysteries of their many new apparatuses.

Before leaving I was shown the new chapel, where several of the patients' friends who had come for visiting day were spending a quiet few minutes before going home. The vault of the roof has been turned into a sky of pale blue with golden stars and moons and suns, and boughs of scented mimosa made the air fragrant.

Downstairs in the kitchen, which is not quite large enough for the many people it serves, we found everyone very busy clearing up. Many modern labour-saving machines are in use—coffee grinders, vegetable peelers, and so on. The food is sent up in dishes filled with hot water, one for each patient. The store cupboard was a marvellous place, for in its cool, dark interior we found literally thousands of bottles of preserved fruit and vegetables. Not only are plums, gooseberries, and such fruits preserved, but also sliced apples and pears, pulped tomatoes, and carrots. These fruits are served once each day to the patients, in addition to fresh vegetables and the usual salad.

I was not surprised, and neither I think will our readers be, to learn that there is never a vacant bed at the St. Clara Spital!

The Nursing Mirror.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

We are informed that a course of three lectures on "Popular German Poetry" will be given at University College, London (Gower Street, W.C.1.), by Professor Dr. Friedrich von der Leyen (Professor of German Philology in the University of Cologne), at 5.30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, October 27th, 28th and 30th, 1930.

SYLLABUS.

LECTURE I.—Introduction: What is popular poetry? The relations of popular German poetry with German literature, especially with the Romantic movement. Old and new Germanic and German incantations—History of the Riddle in Germany—Origins of German fairy tales.

LECTURE II.—German fairy and funny tales (Märchen und Schwänke)—The "Volksbuch" (especially Tristan, Faust, Eulenspiegel)—German folk tales ("Volkssagen")—German mediæval legends.

LECTURE III.—From Eastern and Christmas plays of the X and XI centuries to Oberammergau—Old and new folk songs in Germany (das deutsche Volkslied).

SOPHIE WYSS.



We reproduce above a recent photograph of Sophie Wyss, the well-known Swiss soprano, of whom, alas, we hear far too little on the concert platform. She will be broadcasting from London Regional on Sunday afternoon next.

Miss Wyss will sing songs of Campra, Weckerlin, Duparc, and our own Pierre Maurice. We hope that our readers will tune in their sets in time so as not to miss a great treat.