

Switzerland deserted by tourists : a new experience

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WELL DONE PICCARD!

The successful ascent in the stratosphere of our distinguished countryman Prof. Piccard, has evoked great enthusiasm throughout Switzerland. M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation has sent a congratulatory telegram to the great scientist, the government of the canton of Zurich has also sent a message.

With much greater ease than last year, though not without inevitable fatigue, Professor Piccard, has accomplished his expedition into the stratosphere, and has ascended to an even greater height than on his previous voyage. He was at his highest over Samaden in the Engadine at an altitude of nearly ten and a half miles. He was twelve hours in the air, having begun his ascent from Zurich very soon after five o'clock in the morning; and by five o'clock in the afternoon he and his companion were safely on solid earth again, not this time in the dark after sunset on the edge of an Alpine glacier, but on a much more convenient and far warmer landing place at no great distance from Lake Garda. All will remember the mishaps which befell him and his assistant M. Kipfer last year, and the risks they ran when they were unable to descend as they wished; and they will rejoice that he and M. Cosyns have now done so much better. Their voyage was watched with absorbed interest from many points on the not wholly direct route which bore them from Zurich over the Alps into Italy, and all the time they were in wireless communication with the earth. There appear to have been no hitches in their progress, even if the necessity for avoiding the Adriatic caused them to descend earlier than they intended. Their little airtight, many-windowed, aluminium container, only six feet two inches in diameter, conveyed them and their instruments and their oxygen through intense cold which they felt severely, and an atmosphere so thin that exposure to it would cause instant death. They have been up to nearly twice the height of Mount Everest, that eminence on the earth's crust which no earthbound explorer has yet conquered. They shot up steadily and speedily, and were for a large part of the time cruising in a region where, if anything had gone

seriously wrong with their balloon or their spherical chamber, they would have had little hope of coming down alive.

Though we may have to wait for the detailed results of their scientific observations, it is certain that on all other grounds Professor Piccard and his companion have the best reasons to be gratified. For one thing they have beaten their own record for height; but that perhaps to the scientific mind is of less consequence than it may appear to the more vulgar admirers of record-breaking. Nevertheless they hoped to go higher than ever before, and they succeeded. Aesthetically, also, they have had a glorious journey, for the panorama below them must have been incomparable. Indeed to them, as to no other human beings, there has been vouchsafed such a view of the earth in shifting light and shade as Goethe once imagined as open only to archangels. Their object, however, was primarily scientific — to explore certain "inconceivably high works;" and to some extent last year the scientific results were not so encouraging as Professor Piccard hoped they would be. One of their main objects was to study the cosmic rays at a stratum where they have relatively only begun to penetrate the atmosphere. The attempt was not in vain, for definite proof was forthcoming of the greater intensity of those rays in the upper air than on the earth's surface. But whatever the scientific findings on the present occasion, Professor Piccard's achievement in these extremely high altitudes points to the possibility of a series of such ascents in the future. The technique has been mastered; and it has long been proved that the man of science is as ready to face danger as his more spectacular brother the sportsman.

PERSONAL.

The many friends of M. E. Alder, will be sympathising with him in his bereavement, Mr. Alder's father having died at Herisau at the age of 79.

waren noch nicht abgeschlossen, als die beiden Brüder starben, sodass heute ihre Werke in vielen Sammlungen zerstreut sind. Von John-James' Werken ist allgemein bekannt das Bild "Napoleon an Bord des Bellerophon," das der Künstler der Greenwich Gallery schenkte. Von Alfred-Edward sieht man noch häufig Kupferstiche und Lithographien von Künstlern seiner Zeit und das historische Bild "John Knox reproving the ladies of Queen Mary's Court."

Neben diesen glücklichen A.R.A. und M.R.A. sind in der englischen Kunstgeschichte noch eine Reihe von Schweizern unvergessen, *Samuel Hieronimus Grimm* von Burgdorf, ein vortrefflicher Zeichner, der für die "Vestuta Monumenta" der Society of Antiquaries arbeitete, hatte ausgezeichneten Kollegen in der Person des viel zu früh verstorbenen Zürchers *Jakob Schnebelle*. *Salomon Gessner*, der Sohn des Zürcher Idyllendichters, wird in der Memoirenliteratur der Akademiker als Radierer und Maler in London erwähnt. *James Anthony Dassièr*, der bekannteste Vertreter einer ganzen Familie von Genfer Medaillisten und Kupferstechern, war um 1750 Graveur der königlichen Münze. In den Briefen Horace Walpoles spielt der schweizerische Kupferstecher *F. H. Müntz* eine wichtige Rolle. In der Strawberry Hill Press Walpoles probierte er eine Erfindung seines Meisters, ein Ätzverfahren angeblich nach Rezepten des klassischen Altertums. Im ersten Jahre ist der grosse Briefschreiber von dem praktischen Talent seines Schweizerers entzückt. Er findet ihn "bescheiden, dienstfertig, vernünftig, sprachgewandt und welterfahren," dass er seiner nie müde werde. Bald aber häufen sich die Klagen. Der Schweizer ist träge geworden, hat sich eine Dienerin des Hauses zum Weibe genommen und ist schliesslich durchgebrannt, "um im amerikanischen Revolutionskriege sich Ruhm mit Kolbenschlägen statt mit der Palette zu erwerben."

Unter den Architekten sind unvergessen der Waadtländer *Labelie*, der Erbauer der Westminster Brücke in London, und der Neuenburger *Vulliamy*, nach dessen Entwürfen die Schweizerkirche in Endell Street gebaut wurde. Von ihm stammten auch die Pläne von Dorchester House, Westonbirt House und an die zwanzig Kirchen in London.

Mars und den Musen zugleich diente der Schaffhauser *Andreas Schalch* (1776). Für die Landschaft hatte er zwar nichts übrig, nicht einmal ein freundliches Wort, wie *Laurentz Spengler* erklärt, trotzdem er als Kanonen- und Glockengiesser in Woolwich ein riesiges Vermögen erraffte. Sein Andenken ehrt ein von ihm selbst gestiftetes Fenster der Woolwich Arsenal Church. Schalchs Nachkommen stiegen zu hohen Stellen im indischen Dienste empor.

SWITZERLAND DESERTED BY TOURISTS.

A New Experience.
BY GEORGE BUCHANAN.

To be in Switzerland this year of grace may require some justification. If so, it is summed up in the two words "Health" and "Recreation." Health, not of oneself but of a young relative ordered "sunshine at all costs," and Recreation, that true recreation of tired mind and body which all of us try to secure if we can.

And the sun is doing its part right nobly. While we read of rain and thunderstorms in England, here we have daily sunshine. And such sunshine; rich glowing, "pungent" radiance which warms you right through and gladdens the hearts of "islanders" too long denied its health-giving rays.

Off the Beaten Track.

This year we have turned our backs on hotels, tourist shops and bathing pools and sought quiet and rest in a farmhouse miles away from anywhere. It is situated high above a village in the Bernese Oberland, on a plateau overlooking a wide valley. Across the valley are foothills covered with pine, behind these rise in a second tier the higher bare hills that give such strenuous sport to the rock-climber. Then beyond the dip made by a large lake soar the real mountains, giants which range all along the horizon and cut into the blue ether with their jagged snow-covered peaks, incomparably grand and inspiring. Here then, merely sitting in your verandah, you have enough to gaze upon for hours, in mute but glorious enjoyment.

The Activities of the Farm.

But it is a farmhouse, built in that modern architectural combine of Swiss chalet on a concrete base. Much activity goes on which to one coming from a city is recreational in its novelty. You can go out with the "boys" at 5 a.m. and take a hand with the scythe (if you are daring enough to risk it); you can help to tend the cattle or harness the horses or feed the chickens. It is all idyllic and pastoral, very different from the "pastoral" work in which one is normally engaged. And as the advertisements say, it is "something different;" it is not the Switzerland you ever knew before, with its noisy rush of

SOLDATEN.

Mit Wilhelm von Oraniens holländischen Regimentern kamen zahlreiche schweizerische Offiziere und Soldaten nach England. Schon in den Feldzügen in Irland 1689-92 nahmen Angehörige der Familien von *Erlach*, von *Steiger*, von *Bonnstetten*, *de Saussure*, *de Montmolin*, *Desjean*, *Bonnard* und *de la Bastide* teil. *Abraham de Vischer*, der es bis zum Obersten brachte, war ein Waffenkamerad von Roger Sterne, dem Vater von Laurence Sterne, Verfasser des "Tristram Shandy."

Unter Königin Anna finden wir drei Schweizer Hauptleute, *Pachoud*, *Bonnard* und *de la Chauv* bei der Palastwache. Als Gardist diente unter ihnen, vielleicht als Tambourmajor oder Musikdirigent, der Zürcher *Johann Jakob Heidegger*, der "Swiss Count," wie er sich gerne nennen liess. Schon 1709 lobt Richard Steele im "Spectator" seinen guten Geschmack als Leiter der Maskeraden am Hofe. Mit besonderem Eifer trat Heidegger ein für die Produktion guter italienischer und französischer Opern, indem er selbst Texte ins Englische überetzte, Kompositionen abänderte, Subskriptionen veranstaltete und auf eigenes Risiko gute Werke im Haymarket Theatre aufführen liess. 1710 spielt Addison im "Spectator" spottend auf Heideggers riesige Gewinne an; er spricht von 10,000 Lst. in einer Saison. Dass er viele Jahre lang 5,000 Lst. verdient und auch ausgegeben habe: gab Heidegger einem englischen Freunde selber zu, indem er beifügte: "Geh hin nach Zürich und sich, wie es dir dort ergehen wird. Heidegger du kannst nicht soviel verdienen, ja nicht einmal so viel ausgeben!" Pope in der Dunciade spottet über Heideggers Hässlichkeit, die auch in vielen Anekdoten erwähnt und durch Zeichnungen von Hogarth überzeugend belegt wird. Heidegger genoss die besondere Gunst von Georg II. Er leitete den musikalischen Teil der Krönungsfeierlichkeiten von 1727 und war in der Tat, wie ihn die neidischen Witzbolde nannten, "le Surintendant des plaisirs d'Angleterre." Dass diese Vergnügungen nicht immer feiner Art waren, geht aus einer Strafverfügung von 1729 hervor, worin Heidegger als "Hauptförderer des Lasters und der Immoralität" bezeichnet wird. 1728-33 waren Heidegger und der grosse Komponist Händel gemeinsam Leiter des King's Theatre, heute "Her Majesty's." Alle modernen Biographien Händels schätzen den Einfluss des geschäftstüchtigen und bühnenkundigen Zürchers auf den Komponisten als recht günstig ein. Was Heidegger anfasste, gelang fast immer, während Händels Produktionen in jener Zeit zumeist fehl-schlügen.

TO BE CONTINUED.

SCHWEIZER IN ENGLAND

VON DR. A. LATT, ZÜRICH.
Vor der Reformation.

(CONTINUED).

Reprinted from "Schweizer im Ausland"
Publishers: Sadag A. G. Geneva.

Weniger umstritten als Füssli ist der Ruhm seiner Academy Kollegen *Etienne Rigaud* und *Sir Francis Bourgeois*. Rigaud, ein Genfer, malte farbenfrohe Portraits unzähliger Berühmtheiten des XVIII. Jahrhunderts. Seine Bilder gehören heute noch zu den meist bewunderten Werken vieler Gallerien. *Sir Francis Bourgeois'* Name sollte namentlich jedem Schweizer in London geläufig sein; ist doch die von ihm der englischen Nation geschenkte Bildergalerie von Dulwich College eines der schönsten Zeugnisse schweizerischer Dankbarkeit für englische Gastfreundschaft. *Bourgeois'* Leben liest sich heute wie ein zur Wirklichkeit gewordener schöner Traum. Dem Sohne eines schweizerischen Uhrmachers in Kensington hätte wohl niemand an der Wiege die Reichtümer und Titel vorausgesagt, deren er schon als junger Mann teilhaftig wurde. Nach der üblichen Studienreise durch Frankreich, Italien, Holland und Deutschland kam er an den Hof des Königs Stanislaus Poniatowski von Polen, der ihn in den Ritterstand erhob. Für diesen Monarchen kauften *Bourgeois* und sein Freund *Desenfans*, der polnische Konsul in London, eine prachtvolle Sammlung von Bildern älterer Meister, die der Grundstock einer polnischen Nationalgalerie werden sollten. Nach der Teilung Polens und dem Tode *Desenfans* ging die ganze Sammlung in den Besitz *Bourgeois* über, der sie bei seinem Ableben, 1811, samt einem ausreichenden Kapital für den weiten Ausbau und Unterhalt der Sammlung, dem Dulwich College schenkte.

Wäre Hampstead vor 80 Jahren so kunstfreudig gewesen wie heute, könnte es sich einer ähnlichen Bildergalerie rühmen wie sie Dulwich von *Bourgeois* erhalten hat. Die Brüder *John-James* und *Alfred-Edward Chalton* von Genf, beide angesehene Landschaft- und Historienmaler, offerierten der Vorstadt, in welcher sie als Söhne eines erfolgreichen Kaufmannes Jahre ungetrübten Glücks im Dienste der Kunst verlebten, eine Sammlung von mehreren hundert Gemälden zumeist eigene Schöpfungen. Sie waren auch bereit, wie *Bourgeois*, ein Legat zu machen für den Unterhalt der Sammlung, wenn nur die Behörden ein geeignetes Lokal schenken wollten. Diese Bedingung konnte von Hampstead nicht erfüllt werden. Verhandlungen mit der National Gallery, welche auch nicht in der Lage war, die Schenkung ungeteilt zu übernehmen.

tourists, it is the country taken "neat" wherein you can capture the old-time fragrance and this largely because in the great world outside there is a financial crisis.

The Financial Situation.

Talking of finance, the world crisis has not hit Switzerland in its direct financial stability. No, their finance is stable and the exchange altogether against the foreigner. Last year exchange was 25 francs to the pound, this year it is only 17.65, which, of course, makes living here expensive. But the Swiss have suffered terribly in their staple trade, that of catering for the tourist. The other day we went on a whole day excursion covering many miles by motor, steamer and train. We saw only one "G.B." car and met not a single American, German or Englishman! Such a situation in August is unique and it is impossible to estimate its seriousness to this thrifty, hard-working people.

We make it a rule to travel light so a library of books is not included in our impedimenta. A bundle of Hodder and Stoughton's "ninepenny" series provides the light literature and one's Bible has to do duty for all phases of more serious reading. But what a joy to be limited to it and forced back to the sources of the Living Stream instead of sipping at the pools of "devotional" booklets. This time I have been reading the Epistles through again and again, reading them just as if they were (what they are) letters from a friend. The freshness and inspiration are amazing, and when, as here, you lift up your eyes unto the hills, the effect is beyond words. With Moffat's translation to give a running commentary you can beat in interest any volume of letters ever written. And this is the true recreation because when studying at home you are bound to weigh each word and estimate its original significance.

The Moral and Spiritual Problem.

Morally — using the phrase in its widest sense — the Swiss are among the finest types in Europe. They display the solidarity of the Teuton without the self-conscious pugnacity of the German. In the French-speaking areas the romantic touch inseparable from the language is not accompanied by any sense of instability. Down South where they are as Italian as Italy, there is a feeling of integrity in their dealing with foreigners that it is hard to feel in Florence or Milan. But, so far as we can judge, the rising generation is as "twentieth century" in the matter of Sunday as, shall we say, England. The young Swiss — like the young folk everywhere — have a profound belief in the "Mens sana in corpore sano" ideal. So much so that Sunday is devoted to promoting this more than to the worship of God. To generalise is always dangerous, but certain symptoms point the moral. Every Sunday this out-of-the-way village is the Mecca for all the district; hundreds of young men and boys assemble close to this house and spend all Sunday morning at the butts, making a noise that would hinder worship for miles. Again family parties can be seen toiling up the hill to spend the whole day on the mountains, coming back tanned and tired but full of satisfaction, in the evening. It is not for us to judge, but one only wonders where God comes in.

The Church of England Newspaper.

CONFERENCES.

By Switzerland's icy mountains,
On Lake Geneva's strand,
Where Ottawa's soda-fountains
Improve a thirsty land —
In these and other places,
That human types and races
May reconcile their cases,
Pow-wows are often planned.

And in the street outside my flat,
As part of the day's routine,
Each noon there is a lively chat
By the butcher's boy and the baker's brat
And the lad from the grocer's (green).

Calm reigns, and seats provide ease
Where delegates confer;
Upon their *bona fides*
Detractors cast no slur;
I understand they're able
To bar unseemly babel
At the Round or Oblong Table
When conferences occur.

But quips are exchanged and whoops of joy
And practical jokes between
The youths that the tradesmen here employ —
The butcher's lad and the baker's boy
And the brat from the grocer's (green).

For me my heart rejoices
That Man would appear to-day
To prefer the use of voices
To that of the armed affray;
I hold with the nations' bleatings
On armourings and fleetings,
And favour the friendly meetings
Of the R.S.P.C.A.

But, though it may be a foolish fad,
I find I'm not so keen
On the kind of conversations had
By the butcher's brat and the baker's lad
And the boy from the grocer's (green).

C. B.

Punch.

TELEVISION RECORDS.

M. Dussaud, of Geneva, has sent to the French Academy of Science a paper in which he claims to have devised a new system of television. It is based on the principle of registering images electrically on gramophone records and reproducing them by means of ordinary television apparatus.

He states that experiments with his method have already been carried out at Geneva University.

THE ELECTRIC COUNTRY.

The great aim of the Swiss authorities is to make the country the first of all the world in respect of the use of electricity. Every month now witnesses some notable advance in the replacing of fuel or power by that of electricity.

As a result of the recent completion of the conversion of a further section of the Federal railways from steam to electric power, 85 per cent. of the entire railway traffic in Switzerland is now electrically propelled. The railways have spent about £8,000,000 on this work.

The use of electricity for domestic purposes continues to make remarkable progress. In 1931 a total of 119,000 electric heating plants were installed in this country, as compared with 114,000 in 1930. At the present moment there are more than 1,700,000 electric heating plants in use in Switzerland.

The consumption of electric energy in Switzerland last year rose to 3,780,000,000 kilowatt-hours, an increase of about 100,000,000 on the total for 1930. Including the production of the hydro-electric stations of the Swiss railways, the total consumption is brought up to 5,050,000,000 kwh.

The telephone is also finding more and more favour with the Swiss people. Despite the depression in numerous branches of industrial and commercial activity, the telephone traffic increased in 1931 by 11 per cent. for international calls, 8 per cent. for trunk, and 9 per cent. for local conversations.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu le 6 Septembre au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Great Portland Street, W.1. et sera précédée d'un souper à 7 heures (prix 5/-).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

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Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 29, Leonard St. E.C.2 (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, September 3rd, at 8 p.m. — Swiss Y.M.C.A. — Illuminated lecture "Das Grimselwerk" By Mr. Ernst Meier at 15, Upper Bedford Place, Russel Square, W.C.1.

Tuesday, September 6th at 7 o'clock — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting at Pagani's. (See Advert.).

Wednesday, September 7th, at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Monday and Tuesday, September 12th and 13th, from 8 till midnight, concert of the Erste Unterwaldner Bauern Kapelle (Ländler Abend) at the Union Helvetia Club, Gerrard Place, W.1. (Tickets 3/- admitting to concert and dance).

Wednesday, September 14th, at 8.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Monthly Meeting — at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

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L'après-midi, si le temps le permet, culte en plein air à Hadleigh Woods. Rendez-vous: 3.30 p.m. au Foyer Suisse, ou 4 o'clock Kings Cross Station (L.N.E.Rly.) cheap Fare High Barnet (1s. 2d.) The à Barnet.

Pendant les vacances du titulaire, le pasteur Desaulles recevra à l'église le mercredi de 11h à 12.30. S'adresser à lui pour tous renseignements (actes mariage etc.) — Envoyer la correspondance à 102 Hornsey Lane, N.6. Phone: Mountview 3986.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux instructions religieuses, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6. (Téléphone: Archway 1798). — Heure de réception à l'église: Mercredi de 10.30 — 12 h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 28. August 1932.
11 Uhr vorm. Gottesdienst.

Die Abend Gottesdienste beginnen wieder Sonntag den 4. Sept. 7 Uhr abends.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmandentunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Telephon: Chiswick 4156).