

The electric country

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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:

Procès-verbal. | Démissions.
Admissions. | Divers.

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).

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

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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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Dimanche, le 28 Août — 11h. — Culte — M. R. Desaulles.

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).