

Personal

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The S.C.V.I., as last year, has a Continental detachment of its peaceful army already at work in Brynmawr, one of the distressed mining towns of Wales. Another group are working at Rhos, near Wrexham, where men and women students of Leeds University are assisting in the building of a recreation ground out of a piece of waste land.

The Women's Tasks.

The women are up as early as 5.30 to prepare breakfast for the volunteer navvies, who include young men from Lithuania, Bulgaria, Spain, and Latvia, as well as from Germany, France, and America.

The women darn and mend, wash and cook, and in the evening there are rambles and sing-songs, socials with the townspeople, and endless talks.

Perhaps it is in these many-nation discussions of young people that the peace of tomorrow is being built up.

Surely, all these efforts on an international basis must in time bear fruit. Surely all these people, working together, playing together, aiming at a common object, must themselves first learn to appreciate each other, irrespective of nationality, and their example and their accumulated experiences must descend from them, quite naturally, to others. By and by, there will be a larger, a fast growing multitude of people in all lands who have learnt the lesson of true internationalism, which, at the same time is true Christianity or rather true brotherhood of mankind and their teachings in turn must affect those that come after them. The number of such people, I say, is growing. It must grow steadily until we get nearer to the goal, until those who know that in order to be a good patriot, one must of necessity be a good internationalist first, are superior in numbers to the old narrow-minded local parochialists.

We SWISS in general and We SWISS ABROAD in particular have a lofty mission, the mission to preach international understanding! Never forget that, Reader!

NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

SWISS "LAENDLER" ABEND

AT THE UNION HELVETIA.

We are informed that Stocker Sepp's Erste Unterwaldner Bauern Kapelle of Zurich, will give two concerts at the above address, namely on next Monday and Tuesday evening. (September 12th and 13th from 8.30 p.m.)

To many, this famous Kapelle is undoubtedly known, having heard them on gramophone records, (Columbia and His Master's Voice) or in Switzerland, where they are very popular. Their stay in London is a very short one, but they will, if arrangements can be completed in time, visit the Headquarters of the B.B.C. in order to broadcast some of their famous songs and yodels. This, however, should not deter any member of the Colony from paying a visit, either on Monday or Tuesday, at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1., to see and hear our compatriots, and we feel sure that they will spend an enjoyable evening.

After the concerts an informal dance will be held, as a matter of fact, it is intended to give the whole character of a "Burehillbi," and those who are the lucky owners of a Swiss national costume, are requested to don it for this occasion.

We should specially recommend these two evenings to all those, who, for some reason or another could not visit our country this year, they will hear familiar songs and tunes, and in thoughts at least, they will be back home again. We are convinced that the Union Helvetia has left nothing undone in order to make these two concerts a great success, and we hope that our readers will give them their support, we have no doubt that they will spend happy and enjoyable hours.

PERSONAL.

We are greatly delighted to inform our readers that our friend and collaborator, ck, has been blessed with the arrival of a little ck'lett, on Saturday last, otherwise that Mme. ck had a daughter, and we are glad to hear, that both are doing well. We extend to M. and Mme. ck our heartiest congratulations on this happy event.

The wedding of Mlle. Doris Barbezat, daughter of M. and Mme. Ch. A. Barbezat, The White House, Devonshire Avenue, Sutton, Surrey, is taking place to-day (Saturday) at Christ Church, Sutton, at 2.30 p.m.

We understand, that M. Barbezat, the father of M. Ch. A. Barbezat, and grand-father of the bride, has arrived by the Imperial Airways from Switzerland, accompanied by his daughter, in order to be present at this happy event. We are extending to the newly to be married couple, our best wishes for a happy and bright future.

CK's CORNER.

Every time that something is brought into being which changes or modifies the habits or tenor of our lives, somebody will be found to rise up in pious enthusiasm to explain at much length with arguments more or less convincing, more or less fallacious, that as a result, the world in general and the country to which they happen to belong, in particular, is fast falling into decay or relapsing into a state of barbarity and wickedness.

So it was when the locomotive was invented, so it was in the early days of the automobile, and so now the outcry is raised with regard to the Cinema.

We are told that our morals are being debased, that our respect for law and order is being broken, that the seven deadly sins are being flaunted and condoned, and finally, with the introduction of the sound film, that our language is being perverted.

This last point, of course, is chiefly applicable to anglosaxon countries and is attributed to the effect of the American language, but the other evil results mentioned heretofore are common to all peoples of the world.

Is the picture really as black as some would paint it? Undoubtedly there are some nasty films, but the reality is nothing when compared to the possibilities. So are there nasty pictures, nasty books and even nasty people. However, one is not obliged to frequent them and in this corner I want to point out the possibilities on the credit side.

In my opinion, the great value of the cinema is that it can bring before the eyes of people unable to travel, events which are taking place in other parts of the world. "News pictures" today are generally to be found in most programmes. Up to the present the language difficulty has been the great stumbling block, but the possibilities for education with regard to languages are immense. All nations are not so favoured in this respect as the Swiss, who generally possess two or more languages and lack of this gift is especially marked in this country on account of its geographical position.

The difficulty has been partially got over, either by showing descriptive captions at intervals or by the introduction of interludes in which certain characters are made to explain the story in the language of the country in which the film is being shown.

This latter method was successfully used with great artfulness in "Le Million."

For obvious reasons, the foreign product which predominates in this country comes from America.

Columns have been written on the bad effects of the "English" in these films, but nevertheless the language used is "American" and not "English" and is as much a part of the story as "French" or "German" in a French or German film.

Within the last few months a larger number of foreign films, other than American, have been shown here and the vogue started or, at any rate, received a definite impulse from "Le Million," which was one of the best of its category made up to the present time. It was remarkable for the quality of its comedy and for the delicacy with which the sentimental parts were treated. As an instance of what I mean, at the end of the story, when the two principal characters are left alone, the final scene is taken with these two standing at the back of the scene instead of the usual close up and long embrace of the American film.

It is to be hoped that as many foreign films as possible will be shown in the future. One or two theatres make a special feature of such productions and among them may be mentioned the "Academy" a Cinema theatre in Oxford Street opposite Waring and Gillow. This theatre has shown several German and Russian films and I strongly recommend readers to watch the programme.

Westfront 1918, Mädchen in Uniform, and Kameradschaft in German, and Russian films such as Earth, Blue Express, Turk-Sib, and stories dealing with the new conditions in the country have been shown. The Russian films are interesting not only from the point of psychology, but on account of their technique which differs from that employed elsewhere. This was well brought out by comparing "Shanghai Express" with "Blue Express." Both had practically the same theme, but in the one there was a strong love interest with Marlene Dietrich, whilst the other kept strictly to describing events which were supposed to have taken place during the Chinese revolution. Generally speaking, each country would appear to have a special technique which is characteristic.

The Academy also makes a feature of old films, but I shall have more to say about this later.

Other theatres, from time to time, have shown foreign films such as "The Doomed Battalion" at the Empire, "M" at the Cambridge, "Sons les toits de Paris" and "Le plaisir d'aimer" at the Rialto, etc., but I think there is something

to be said in favour of the plan of devoting the programme to this category.

Apart from the educational value of a film containing national characteristics, scenery, habits, acting the help afforded in becoming familiar with another language is great.

The action helps the audience to understand the words and gradual progress is made. It might be of greater assistance, if further assistance was given either by means of a printed explanation with translation or by the extension of some other explanatory method, or by the use of captions.

Everyone who has been on the Continent must have seen films which would be worth showing here, and I remember seeing one last year at Interlaken "Zwei Herzen in drei Viertel Takt" which I am sure would be a great success here.

As I have said, some theatres have shown old films and it is extremely interesting to note the advances made in technique, and it would be curious to compare such productions as Zigomar or the Clutching Hand which appeared just before the War, and were the forerunners of the modern "Gangster" film with the latest effort such as "Scarface."

I venture to think that the next great advance will be in the direction of giving perspective to the picture.

At the present time, everything is seen on one plane and the result of this is specially marked when attempts are made to reproduce objects moving rapidly towards or away from the spectator, such as swings or roundabouts.

Distortion is also very marked when one is sitting near the screen and at the side.

Progress in this direction will probably be found in some technique which will produce a stereoscopic effect in the pictures. This would have the advantage of increasing the cost of many "fake" effects and might even render some impossible, but it would be of great value in travel or scenery films such as that showing views of Switzerland which was recently shown in London.

Do not let us therefore be too critical of the modern drama films. In the course of time, they will find their level. Let us rather reflect on the great educational value to the people of pictures such as travel films or of those nature films, for example the evolution of the butterfly, which explain the processes of nature which to many would otherwise remain a closed book.

HEIMATBILDER.

Auf dem Zürichsee.

Zwei schöne Erlebnisse, die mir in jüngster Zeit unser See schenkte, stehen mir vor Augen: die Nachtfahrt vom ersten August und eine Längsfahrt von Zürich bis Rapperswil und zurück.

Der erste August: Ein Tag wie im April. Man weiss nicht, was noch kommen wird, Wolken und Winde kämpfen einen hinterlistigen Kampf. Aber gegen Abend wird der blaue Himmel Meister. Der See leuchtet auf, die Ufer lachen sonntäglich. Nein, es ist kein Tag wie alle andern. Wir feiern Geburtstag im Schweizerland. Ein Fünkeln Freude blitzt in unsere trübe Zeit. Bewegte Vergangenheit ragt in bewegte Gegenwart. Aber Halt! Wir wollen nicht philosophieren. Freuen wollen wir uns am leuchtenden Heute, und weil wir in einem so wohlgeordneten Staatswesen zu Hause sind, Sein Aeusseres verrät schon, wie gut gefügt die Mauern und Balken noch stehen.

Wir fahren den Ufern entlang. Ein warmes Lüftchen weht. Die Dämmerung sinkt herab. Die Glocken fangen an zu läuten. Manche Augustfeier habe ich in den Bündner —, Walliser — und Berner Bergen mitgemacht. Aber diesen Abend, den ich sozusagen daheim am angestammten See verbringe, zählt zu den unvergesslichsten.

Feuerwerk flammt auf, Kirchen tauchen aus dem Dunkel, bunte Fontänen sprühen empor. Jedes Dorf feiert auf seine Weise. Turner bauen Pyramiden, Scharen wimmeln am See. Der See selber ist ein venezianisches Traumland geworden. Musik gaukelt über die Wasser zu uns. Musik haben wir selber an Bord. Dazwischen fliegen die Gedanken jubelnd im Kreis: An diesem Abend hat sich unser Glaube neu gestärkt an alle guten Kräfte, die noch wirksam treiben und wirksam bleiben werden in unserm schönen Vaterland.

Und die andere Fahrt, an einem Werktag von Stadt zu Stadt. Die sommerliche Zeit ist angebrochen. In den Bädern seauft und ab wimmelt's von Volk. Die Büsche und Bäume prangen. Die wohlgepflegten Weinberge verheissen einen guten Herbst. Unererschöpflich sind die Ufer.

Wenn man auf Deck hinhorcht, erwinnt man meist einheimische Laute. Die Fremden sind heuer nicht zahlreich. Leider! Um so mehr erfreuen sich die Schweizer und besonders auch die Zürcher unter ihnen unentwegt am zauber-vollen Wechsel aller Bilder und an der immer noch nicht genug gewürdigten und bekannten Tatsache: Unser See zählt zu den Juwelen unter den landschaftlichen Schätzen, die dieiseits und jenseits der Grenzen zu finden sind.

Ernst Eschmann.