

Swiss sports

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1952)**

Heft 1177

PDF erstellt am: **11.09.2024**

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activity at this kindergarten. The teachers' personal relationship with the children was excellent. She treated them as social equals, though when the individual work started the children were not allowed to go freely to whichever activity attracted them, but the teacher asked for volunteers for painting, chalking, cutting-out, jig-saw puzzles, and so forth, and then picked out a few children for each from those who put up their hands. They were not allowed to change if they got bored, as some did. Others showed surprising concentration and worked keenly and hard.

One table served as a work-bench with pieces of wood, hammers, nails, and a small saw. The teacher said that she did not specially supervise that table, but that the children were taught how to use the tools and there had been no accidents. At another table children were painting. They were thoroughly enjoying themselves, but would have got more satisfaction had they been given larger pieces of paper and thicker brighter paint. Elsewhere little girls were puppet-making, though it was a pity to see that the last constructive work was done by the teacher and the puppet given ready-made to the child.

At another table two children were cutting out flowers in coloured paper and sticking them on sheets of cardboard. When they had finished they cleared up extremely efficiently of their own accord, without any directions being given by the teacher. One child swept the waste paper up while another fetched a sponge, damped it, and wiped over the table where she had been pasting. The teacher said that the children were always expected to clear up after they had been working, and took it as a matter of course.

It is the custom in Swiss kindergartens to hold parents' meetings from time to time. In this kindergarten one had not yet been held, but it was the teacher's intention to call a meeting soon to discuss very simply what the children do in the kindergarten and why, and to give the parents an opportunity for asking questions. But it appeared that they were not particularly interested. The teacher said they they did occasionally come to her to discuss their children, but that there were very few children who were difficult and that it was not, therefore, very necessary.

The really fundamental characteristic, however, of all good kindergartens or nursery schools is the provision by the teacher of an environment in which the children can work and play busily and happily, and this characteristic, generally speaking, is not lacking in Zürich's newest kindergarten.

SWISS SPORTS.

At a recent delegates meeting from the various Swiss Societies in London it was decided to hold this year the Swiss Sports. They will take place on Saturday, June 21st, at the Polytechnic Sports Ground, Chiswick, at 2.15 p.m. Admittance will be free as usual. The Athletic events will comprise the High and Long Jump, the 100 Yards, Half Mile, and Relay Race as well as the popular Veterans Walking Handicap. There will be other numerous, amusing games for children and grown ups.

It is hoped, that the date will be ear-marked by you and your friends to make a success of this, the only open air function of the Swiss Colony.

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