

Personal

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THE HISTORY OF SWITZERLAND.

When, in 1941, Switzerland celebrated the 650th anniversary of its foundation as a federated State, an enterprising publishing firm, the Verkehr's Verlag, S.A. Zurich, produced a most attractive illustrated volume entitled "650 Ans d'Histoire Suisse" the French text of which was written by Dr. G. Castello, Professor of History at the University of Fribourg.

Recently the N.S.H. has made the work available to the Swiss residing abroad at a reduced price. It is in consequence of this offer that the book came to our notice.

Dr. Castello is a well-known historian. He is the joint author with Dr. L. Suter of a popular history of Switzerland which has become an educational standard book.

In the present volume, Dr. Castello traces, in eleven chapters, the history of Switzerland from its origin to the present day. He does so with all the competence and authority of the eminent scholar he is, and brings out with great literary skill and in a polished style the events which have shaped the destiny and the development of the Swiss people. Our familiarity with these historical events does not lessen the thrill we experience whenever we read again accounts of the struggles against great odds which were the portion of the early Swiss. Did Disraeli have the Swiss in mind when he wrote "All the great things have been done by the little nations"?

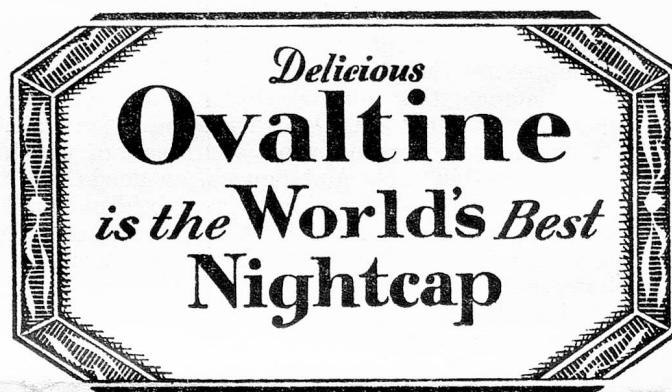
The appeal of the book does not, however, lie in the text alone. Its great attractions are the illustrations and coloured plates which adorn it and make it a most pleasing book to browse in long after we have

absorbed the narrative. Some of the plates are rather trite and lack artistry, but the many drawings and especially the miniatures reproduced from old chronicles, such as for instance Disbold Schilling's, are delightful. Among the modern drawings, those by Ch. P'Epplattenier, if somewhat idealized, are full of vigour and of perfect draftsmanship.

Altogether a fine production of its kind.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Ralph Lawrence, who has been well-known in the Travel trade for many years, recently joined ALL TRAVEL SERVICES, (the Travel branch of the ALLTRANSPORT organisation), as Manager of their City Office at Alltransport Building, Little Trinity Lane, in place of Mr. F. O. Sommer, who has assumed the management of ALL TRAVEL SERVICES' new West End Office in the Burlington Arcade, Piccadilly.



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