

A Swiss guide to London

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A SWISS GUIDE TO LONDON.

A small town in Switzerland is not, somehow, the place in which one would expect to find the compiler of a first-class guide to London. Yet it is in Rapperswil am Zürichsee that such a guide, intended for the use of German speaking readers, has been produced.

The author, Mr. Hans Rathgeb, certainly knows his London. The guide he has compiled is a mine of information. It contains a wealth of interesting and useful detail much of which is probably new to many of us who have spent a lifetime in this great city.

An alphabetically arranged list of London's main features, buildings, monuments, parks and so forth, comprise the bulk of Mr. Rathgeb's guide. Theatres, Cinemas and Concert Halls are catalogued and there is a useful classified table of Hotels and Restaurants. A few pages are devoted to the Swiss Colony and its doings; even the "Swiss Observer" is mentioned.

In its handy pocket size form and shiny cellophane cover, with its clear print and attractive illustrations, the little guide reflects credit on both the author and the publishers Verlag Gasser & Co., Rapperswil. The price, we believe, is 11/6 net.

The guide has found favour in the London Press. "Atticus" of the Sunday Times, writes:

"Anglophilia is to us the most gratifying of tastes, and I have just come across an example of it that deserves a warm salute. A young Swiss journalist, Hans Rathgeb, from the little town of Rapperswil on the Zurichsee, was not long ago

arranging for a group of young people from his home town to visit London; and in so doing he found that the only guide to our city in German was a 1905 Baedeker. He forthwith decided to supply the deficiency himself, and has done so, from his desk in Rapperswil, with remarkable success.

His little guide to London crams more into 150 pages than I should have thought possible, and is most attractively laid out into the bargain.

Travel money, customs, a note on the Thames, and one on the effect of war damage, statistical comparisons between London and New York, are all admirable; public services, and public disservices like the climate are equally well summarised.

The alphabetical guide to places of interest gives bus routes and tube stations, and includes not only the obvious things, but also subtler flavours of our city such as Christies, the Elephant and Castle, and the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art (how many of my readers know where that is?).

"Ich bin kein Cockney, declares Herr Rathgeb, but on the strength of this little book he should be made an honorary one forthwith."

DR. K. E. ECKENSTEIN †

It is with much regret that we learn, as we go to press, of the death of our old friend and collaborator Dr. K. E. Eckenstein on the 23rd August. A full report will appear in our next issue.



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