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EDITOR'S POSTBAG.

London, June 4th, 1955.

The Editor,
Swiss Observer,
23, Leonard Street,
E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

In your last issue you published a communication from a Mrs. F. L. Daly, concerning incidents which occurred at the recent "Fête Suisse". Having been present at the Central Hall, I agree to a certain degree, both with her and ST with regard to the ill manners of some of the visitors, especially the younger ones, and I hope that the organisers will find a way of improving the catering arrangements in future, so as to avoid unpleasant happenings.

She then relates an experience she encountered at a cinema in Zurich, which no doubt, was unpleasant, and goes on to say that she had "experienced it all too often in Switzerland when boarding trams and trains".

I admit that unfortunately the useful habit of forming queues, a custom in this country, has not been followed by Switzerland; but with all due respect to your correspondent, who I surmise is of British nationality, has grossly exaggerated the situation. I have often witnessed, that women and elderly people in my country were treated with due consideration when boarding trains and buses.

In her closing paragraph she praises the "self-discipline of the English forming orderly little queues for the lake steamers"; that might be so, but I have also witnessed cases where the "self-discipline" of her country-men was not in evidence.

To pick out only one or two examples of many, I wish to inform your correspondent, that when travelling on a lake steamer from Thoune to Interlaken, a party of English tourists, evidently from the North behaved in a most undignified and "vulgar" way by throwing empty bottles and litter all over the deck, and some of them were so intoxicated that they had to be taken "down below".

A further not very "dignified" incident happened when I was staying at a well-known holiday resort in the Engadine, when a party of Mrs. Daly's countrymen entered one of the smart tea-rooms, and ordered refreshments consisting of glasses of milk, into which some of the men poured rum from pocket flasks. Other members of the party put their feet up on the nicely upholstered chairs and even on the tables, singing "Roll Out The Barrel". I am sure Mrs. Daley will agree that this was "vulgar" too, and far from "dignified".

I do not wish to make excuses for ill manners either of Swiss or British, or any other nationals, but to brand my countrymen in general as ruffians is taking things too far, it is always dangerous to generalise, and your correspondent should know that.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) S. Felix.

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