

The Bernese Oberland

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SWISS MERCANTILE COLLEGE WIN LONDON HOSPITAL SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT.

The students of the Swiss Mercantile Society's College scored their most meritorious victory in thirty years of football when they emerged undefeated, at the first attempt, from the annual six-a-side tournament organised by the London Hospital F.C. at their splendid sports ground at Walthamstow on Saturday, 12th April.

A measure of the Swiss students' success may be gained from the extent of the competition. Forty-three teams were in the draw, the majority of them hospital sides; club football was represented by Finchley F.C.; the Old Boys by such famous clubs as Old Cholmeleians, recent Arthur Dunn Cup winners, Old Mercers, and Old Brentwoods, 1957 winners of this competition; Cambridge colleges by Emmanuel; and various other walks of the amateur football world by Chartered Accountants and Vascogama.

Moreover, the luck of the draw obliged the S.M.S. side to wait until nearly four o'clock for their first match, which meant that the other four, including the final, had to be played within three hours. In this highly entertaining brand of football a goal is rated as 4 points, and a corner is 1 point. The pitch is roughly two-thirds the normal size, and there is no off-side rule.

The power of the Swiss side was shown in the first match, when they disposed of Guy's Hospital I by the decisive score of 20-5, four of their goals being scored by R. Elsener of Aarau. Guy's were one of the favourites for the Cup. Chartered Accountants II went down to the Swiss by 13-0. In the quarter-finals London Hospital I provided the opposition and were defeated by 13-5. Undoubtedly the hardest game was the semi-final against Old Cholmeleians I; at first the Swiss students were taken out of their stride by the Old Boys (of Highgate School), but once they had got used to their opponents' somewhat rugged brand of football they caught up from a 5-0 deficit to win 12-7.

The final was against Old Westminster I, and of two weary teams the Swiss were clearly the wearier. The Old Boys went into the lead with two well-placed long-distance shots which Gafner in goal was obliged to push over the bar for corners. Then the Swiss captain Rico Bachmann of St. Gallen, the pillar of strength in the team, scored a grand goal to put the Swiss 4-2 up. In the second half the Old Westminster nearly pulled the game out of the fire with a header, but Gafner made a fabulous plunge at the ball and saved it. There was no further score, and so the cup and a shield became the property of the S.M.S.

That the Swiss win was a popular one was amply demonstrated at the presentation of the cup, when the team were cheered to the echo by their two-hundred fellow-competitors. And offers of drinks flowed freely in their direction during the big dance that followed, as well as invitations to play matches in the new season.

SWISS MERCANTILE COLLEGE SIX: H. Gafner (Ecole de Commerce La Neuveville); F. Wespi (Young Boys Bern); R. Bachmann (St. Gallen F.C., Captain); H. Sidler (St. Gallen F.C.), R. Elsener (Aarau F.C.), E. Brand (Zürich F.C.).

G.R.C.K.

THE BERNESE OBERLAND.

A new book by Sir Arnold Lunn is always an enjoyable experience. His latest, entitled "The Bernese Oberland", published by Eyre & Spottiswoode, price 25s. net, is no exception. It is the fiftieth book he has written and its publication, on April 10th, coincides with his seventieth birthday.

To our readers Sir Arnold Lunn needs no introduction. He is a great friend of Switzerland and his long experience of the Alps and his deep knowledge of the Swiss way of life qualify him, more than any Englishman, to write about them. Moreover, he is one of those talented writers who have mastered the art of a clear and simple style which looks easy yet is so difficult.

In the opening chapters the author gives a vivid description of the town of Berne with its lovely fountains and the great terrace from which on a fine day a wonderful vision of the distant Alps can be perceived. The town and lake of Thun is described next, and in the following chapters the reader is taken from Gstaad to Spiez, to Interlaken, Murren, Adelboden, Kandersteg, Lauterbrunnen, Wengen, Grindelwald, Meiringen, Rosenlauri and the Grimsel Pass, and introduced to the mighty peaks under whose shadow these places lie. The last chapter deals with the Oberland Glaciers on skis. "There is no corner of this glacier world in which I have not left tracks of my skis", he writes.

But the book is not a mere catalogue of localities and mountain scenery. What makes it such enjoyable reading is the personal note, the human touch, that pervades it. Sir Arnold has spent much of his life in the Swiss mountains; his earliest memory is that of the great fire of Grindelwald in 1892 when, as a child of four, he watched the destruction of the village including his father's chalet. There is scarcely a mountain in the Oberland he has not climbed and the present book, like many of his earlier writings, reflects the impact of these experiences on a cultured and receptive mind.

Besides the descriptions of the mountain splendour there are many historical data and literary associations, interspersed with personal reminiscences and anecdotes. One of the most thrilling passages is an account of the ill-fated attempt on the difficult and

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CHURCH and SERVICES: St. ANN's Catholic Church, Abbey Orchard Street (off Victoria St.), S.W.1.
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dangerous northern face of the Eiger by two Italians and two Germans in August 1957. No Alpine drama, the author writes, since Whymper's ascent of the Matterhorn has created greater or more world-wide interest. One Italian and the two Germans lost their lives; the surviving Italian, Claudio Corti, was rescued after spending nine nights on a rock shelf the size of a table. The rescue party was recruited from five nations and it was a German who, swaying at the end of a 320-metre steel cable, succeeded in bringing the exhausted Corti to the top. Corti's first request was for a cigarette; his rescuer's comment was "Let's hope the cable does not break".

Great as is the enjoyment of reading this book while sitting in an armchair, it has a wider purpose. "This book", says the author, "will have achieved the main purpose for which it was written if it persuades some of my readers to visit the loveliest of all conceivable mountain regions. It will have achieved its secondary purpose if it proves to be a helpful travel companion to lovers of the Oberland".

J.J.F.S.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Every Thursday from 6 to 7.30 p.m. — Discussion Circle in English — Young men specially invited. Tea from 6 to 6.15 p.m. Swiss Y.M.C.A., St. Anne's House, 57, Dean Street, Soho, W.1.
 Every Saturday and Sunday from 8 p.m. to 11 o'clock — "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club) — Dance — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. Open — fully licensed — 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.
 Every Sunday, from 7 to 10.30 p.m. — The Alpenrosen Club — Socials — at Westminster Cathedral School, 48, Great Peter Street, S.W.1.
 Every Thursday, from 8-10.30 p.m. — Unione Ticinese — Corale — at the "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club), 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.
 Sunday, May 4th, 1958, from 5 to 11 p.m. — Unione Ticinese — Tea Dance — at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. (Tickets 17/6 each from Mr. F. A. De Maria, 4 Luxembourg Gardens, W.6. (Phone RIV 1146.)
 Wednesday, May 7th, 1958, at 7 p.m. Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.
 Sunday, May 11th, 1958 — Swiss Rifle Association — Shooting — at Bisley Camp (Siberia Range), Surrey.
 Wednesday, May 14th, 1958, at 7 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting — at 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, followed by showing of Consul E. Ribi's colour slides of Mexico with commentary. (See advertisement.)
 Sunday, May 25th, 1958, Swiss Rifle Association — Shooting — at Bisley Camp (Siberia Range) Surrey.
 Friday, May 30th, 1958 at 7 p.m. — London Swiss Philatelic Society — Monthly Meeting — (France Part IV by Mr. G. Berlemont) at 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.
 Wednesday, June 4th, 1958, at 7 p.m. Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. Street, W.1.
 Wednesday, June 11th, 1958, at 7 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting — at 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, followed by a talk on: — "Free Trade Area and Common Market in Europe" by Dr. R. Faessler, Economic Counsellor, Swiss Embassy.



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