

Odds and ends

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Odds and Ends

On 18th September Switzerland will issue a postage stamp of 20 francs, the highest value ever printed in the country. It is expected to become a collector's item.

* * *

The British Ministry of Works has removed a sign saying *Beware of Pickpockets* from the stairs leading up to the Crown Jewels at the Tower of London.

* * *

Girl of about six, after listening to a conversation between her mother and another woman in a Chelsea cafe:

"Mummie — which of your friends do you not like the most?"

* * *

Estavayer-le-Lac ne fait jamais rien comme tout le monde. D'abord cette exquise petite ville est l'une des plus ensoleillées de Suisse romande, statistiques en mains. Ensuite, les propriétaires de bateaux ont un saint patron, qu'ils fêtent en s'habillant d'un cardigan ivoire, ce qui leur donne une silhouette martiale et chaloupée. Coiffés encore d'un large béret à pompon, ils amènent leurs embarcations au port, pour les faire bénir, en se pressant comme un banc de poissons.

Mais la principale originalité des Staviacois, c'est leur association des Bastians, groupée sous l'égide de saint Sébastien, et qui n'est autre que la société des bons maris. Pourquoi ont-ils choisi ce saint-là? Est-ce parce qu'il était percé de flèches?

* * *

"Are you sure that I shall recover?" an anxious patient asked a London physician. "I've heard that doctors sometimes give wrong diagnoses and have treated people for pneumonia, who have later died of typhoid fever."

"You have been misinformed," replied the physician, indignantly. "If I treat patient for pneumonia, he dies of pneumonia."

* * *

William Holden, the famous American film star who has been living with his family for some time in the Swiss canton of Vaud, in the vicinity of Geneva, disagrees with a hastily made statement by a U.S. radio commentator that American parents, including the Holdens, have withdrawn their children from Swiss schools because of the "anti-American" attitude of some schoolteachers. Mr. Holden, in a letter to the "Tribune de Genève", makes it clear that he has never met the radio commentator and that his two sons continue to go to Swiss schools and will also go to college in Switzerland later on. He adds that he has never heard of "anti-American propaganda" in Swiss schools.

* * *

From a map of the Aletsch Glacier as this huge Alpine ice mass presented itself in September 1957, and from explanatory data compiled by hydrological experts of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, it is obvious that the "gate" to the Aletsch which is the largest and longest glacier in the Alps, was over a mile further downstream ninety years ago and that the place of the present-day end of the glacier then was covered by a 300-yards-wide stream of ice. Preliminary estimates put the loss of volume suffered by the glacier from 1927 to 1957 at some 2,300 million cubic-metres, which would equal a 50-foot-

thick layer of ice spread over the entire 55-square-mile surface of the glacier. A few years ago, the retreating glacier uncovered the roots of a larch forest and thus furnished proof that it must have been even smaller than today for a few centuries before A.D. 1200. In the early 17th century it reached the size which it again increased to in the 19th century. The dwindling of the glacier in the last 100 years has been, above all, the result of milder temperatures. There are symptoms of the climate getting colder again after the climax was reached about ten years ago. It is therefore possible that the glaciers will again increase in size.

Sais Masten Gregory, an American who is considered one of the five top racing drivers in the world: "*English drivers are good drivers, but English roads are bad. The Swiss and Belgians have pretty good roads, but are bad drivers. The Germans drive like the Swiss only they get madder if you pass them.*"

* * *

The maternity-wear department of a large Oxford Street store is currently advertising:

"Clothes to make your heir less apparent."

* * *

QUOTE — from *The New York Daily News*: "*A woman's voice creates more of a lasting impression than the prettiest face, the most shapely figure or the highest style gown. A voice repels or attracts by its tone alone, for the whole mental image of a person is enhanced if the speech is soft and melodious, or that would-be lovely concept is shattered if the voice is unpleasant.*"

* * *

A Swiss paper mill has succeeded in developing a paper of almost limitless resistance from synthetic fibres. A film sequence of the Swiss newsreel shows the following endurance test: A map printed on the miracle paper is run into the muddy ground several times by a heavy tractor and, after being cleaned with a detergent and a birch-brush, presents itself like new. It is then coiled up and used by a crane-driver to hoist a motor-car with four passengers. Even after this dramatic experiment it does not show a trace of damage. It is good to know that even paper can now be made everlasting!

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Notice in a shop window near the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand:

"Ici on parle Français . . ."

"Si parla Italiano . . ."

"Legal gentlemen understood if they speak slowly."

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 31st March 1961. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: W. E. Bion, E. P. Banderet, A. G. T. Luminati, Mrs. H. Chiverton, M. E. Hauwyler, E. Kaeser, J. H. Buechi, Dr. Pfenninger (Basle), C. Mayr, C. H. Willi, W. Walter, P. H. Conrad (Meilen), O. Frei, J. Donat, M. Merian, F. Winkelman, R. Ryf, J. Zimmermann, Mrs. M. Woods, A. Wirz, K. Kuebler, J. Oertli, R. Mathez, Mrs. R. Woodhouse, J. Guggenheim, A. Bussman, E. Winzeler, A. Engelbert (Canada), W. Wagner, F. Magnin, Mr. J. Muggeridge, P. Hatz, A. Baenziger, A. Wegmüller, G. Roesch, E. Kern, P. Jacomelli,