

# Switzerland remembers the sick

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something too ready-made about the atmosphere, which seems to be provided in a hygienic container like instant coffee or processed cheese, though the overcrowding in the foyer during the interval makes one think of sardines. There is also competition from a newly opened *Keller-theater*, where Miss Maria von Ostfelden is offering Fernand Berset's *Le Pont des Gentils* and Edward Albee's *Zoo Story*; and here the atmosphere is more that of the *rive gauche*. This *Studio im Keller* in the Spiegelgasse is stealing the thunder of the Theater am Hechtplatz partly because, not being an approved theatre "for sanitary reasons" it is not allowed to buy advertising space, and this ban has resulted in a lot of free and unsolicited publicity of a kind calculated to attract just the kind of enthusiastic off-beat audience that is needed to give life to an experimental theatre.

(By courtesy, "The Times", 21st February 1963.)

### SWITZERLAND REMEMBERS THE SICK

On the first Sunday in March, Switzerland remembers the sick. This year the special remembrance day fell on 3rd March. Federal Councillor Von Moos, Vice-President of the Confederation, appealed to the population over the radio. Whilst appreciating the splendid work doctors and nurses were doing, he considered that much more could be done and many more nurses were needed. The Federal Councillor also had some encouraging words for the sick. What they needed most, he said, was love.

A special appeal was issued by the working committee of the "Day of the Sick". It was written by the well-known author, Maurice Zermatten, and signed by the President, Prof. Dr. med. O.Gsell, Director of the Medical Clinic at the University of Basle. Many well-known public personalities from Church and politics supported it. This appeal did not ask for any specific help, but simply to remember the sick and their suffering, as well as the unselfish work done by the doctors and nurses. When we are well we are apt to push the thought of sickness away, but as soon as illness strikes us we realise that health is the most precious property. I am not one in favour of special days on which we remember our mother, our father or the blind or the lame or anybody else and then forget about them for the rest of the year. Remembering those less fortunate than ourselves should be part of our lives. But, alas, we are too busy and we get involved in too many activities, and so, perhaps, a special day of remembrance once a year may be better than no remembering at all.

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