

# Letters to the editor

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reached the "Bergschrund", decided to join forces and to descend individually on a fixed double rope.

Once we were clear of this obstacle, our difficulties were at an end, and we now returned to the Refuge over the same route as we had come. The going was now rather slow and strenuous, as the sun had softened the snow, which made us for long stretches sink in up to the knees. We finally got back to the Refuge just after 1 o'clock and in time for lunch. We were easily the first party to be back, and thus another memorable climb had come to an end.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

Dear Madam,

Now that the Susten Pass lies open to tourist traffic, I like to recall an occasion, before that time, of passing a night in the Steinengletcher Hotel, which I approached on foot from Gadmen. I left the following morning with a vivid impression of the wonder and immensity of the alps, stopping half way down the pass in order to dry my wet clothes and get some food.

I remember being told by the kind woman who took me in and cooked an excellent omelette for my lunch, that most of the men of the family had gone off to the States, there being so little opportunity to earn a livelihood at home.

Engineering has brought benefits to all, but the days of the scythe and horse-sleigh had their special relish, and I solace my spare moments by memories of remote valley and pass, glacier and fall, to view which there were then few facilities beyond one's feet.

Yours faithfully,

*E. F. IRVINE.*

Escot,  
Friston,  
Saxmundham,  
Suffolk.  
July 2nd, 1964.

#### SKI-ING AT THERMAL SPAS

There was a time when the French Riviera proudly advertised a spring ski-ing tour combined with swimming under palm trees on the same day. A version of this original recreation is offered today by several Swiss mountain resorts with thermal Springs. After a strenuous excursion, the tourist can experience the pleasure of a hot bath, invigorating to body and mind, in Leukerbad (Valais) or St. Moritz and Bad Ragaz, only to mention a few such resorts. Due to the recently inaugurated aerial cableway of the Corvatsch, which makes ski-ing possible all the year round, the thermal springs of St. Moritz have gained in importance as an enjoyable counterpart to ski-ing. The Corvatsch cableway leads to the snowfields of the Piz Corvatsch, 11,339 feet, one of the most famous peaks in the Engadin region.

[S.N.T.O.]

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