

A reader recommends the "Hotelplan"

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TOURIST NEWS IN BRIEF

Two new swimming pools have been opened in the Engadine. Bad Scuol-Taraspl-Vulpera, long the leading spa in the Lower Engadine, has gained a heated outdoor pool with an area of 700 sq. metres. This is just part of the large park and athletic area now under construction in the resort, designed to serve the needs of summer and winter guests. The new facilities will include, in addition to the pool, an artificial ice rink, indoor swimming pool, etc. — At Celerina, situated between St. Moritz and Pontresina, the new indoor pool of the Cresta Palace Hotel had added another tourist attraction to the region.

“La Suisse” is the title of a French picture book which recently appeared in the “Monde et Voyages” series by Larousse, Paris. This book gives an excellent picture of Switzerland viewing the country under various aspects as landscape, present and past, traditions, art, literature, music, every-day life and holiday times. The main literary part consists of descriptions, two to three pages long, of all the twenty-two cantons. The black-and-white and colour photographs greatly enhance the effect of the publication which gives the reader a true, concrete picture of Switzerland.

Over 200,000 Rosebushes bloom only 15 miles from Zurich — in the Rafzerfeld where the Rhine marks the border between Switzerland and Germany — from mid-July to the end of September. Visitors to this unique rose garden of Hauenstein have quite a walk to take, but it is more than worthwhile. Added to the natural beauty of the rose fields is an exhibit by a Zurich florist, of bouquets and floral pieces which took thousands of roses to make.

A Monument to the Mule has been inaugurated by the members of a special organisation in the Valais. It was erected with the consent of the authorities at a cross-road in Sion. The idea may appear strange to the outsider, but the history of this mountain valley and its many passes reveals how useful the mule has been throughout the centuries as a carrier of goods to remote points. Today, it is dying out. The sculpture by E. Sandoz was unveiled some time ago.

The Largest Ski Course in the World — in Davos. Preparations are now under way here for the world's biggest ski course, organised and given each year by the Association of Swiss Ski Schools (SSSV), which has its headquarters at Andermatt. This year, the course will take place at Davos, divided into two-week sessions, 3rd-10th and 10th-17th December. To insure that the internationally recognised, high level of instruction is maintained, Karl Gamma, Director of the SSSV, has issued the following four-point programme: 1) Complete ski instruction, given at all levels of proficiency in accordance with the latest techniques, will be divided among five large ski schools. 2) Each course will be under the supervision of knowledgeable, experienced ski-school directors, who will personally recruit the ski-ing instructors from their regions and form them into teams designed to give thorough, trilingual instruction. 3) Davos's excellent ski runs (Parsenn, Strela, Jakobshorn, Brämabüel), with total hourly capacity of 10,000 people, will be supplemented this coming winter by the new Pischahorn cablecar, which will take some of the load off existing facilities; 4) The principles guiding the various courses will be: optimum service, highest quality instruction, and fulfilment of participants' special wishes.

[S.N.T.O.]

A READER RECOMMENDS THE “HOTELPLAN”

We have had a letter from a reader, the well-known mountaineer Mr. W. Stettbacher, telling of his experience in recent years of often having to pay more for hotel accommodation than the official guide stated, even in the off-season, which, Mr. Stettbacher says, can only be called profiteering. He has now found that to spend a holiday with “Hotelplan”, a scheme started in the 'thirties by the late Mr. Duttweiler, provided first-class service, excellent *cuisine* at roughly half the price he and his wife would have had to pay elsewhere.

Mr. Stettbacher also recommends the “Kurahäuser” and restaurants belonging to the Zurich *Frauenverein*, where good food at low prices is to be enjoyed in nice surroundings, and with the added advantage that one does not have to bother about tips.

SPECIAL NUMBER OF WELTWOCH

An apology to those who sent an order

It was announced in the “Swiss Observer” that the “Weltwoche” would send a free copy of their special First of August number to any Swiss abroad who ordered one. The Editor collected the applications and made a bulk order direct to Zurich. Unfortunately, for some inexplicable reason, the order was not received or dealt with, and during her recent stay in Switzerland she made enquiries. It is impossible to get the paper now, and the Editor apologises to those readers who had ordered a copy. Perhaps it is of some consolation to learn that the particular number was not outstanding according to information received from some readers in Switzerland.

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