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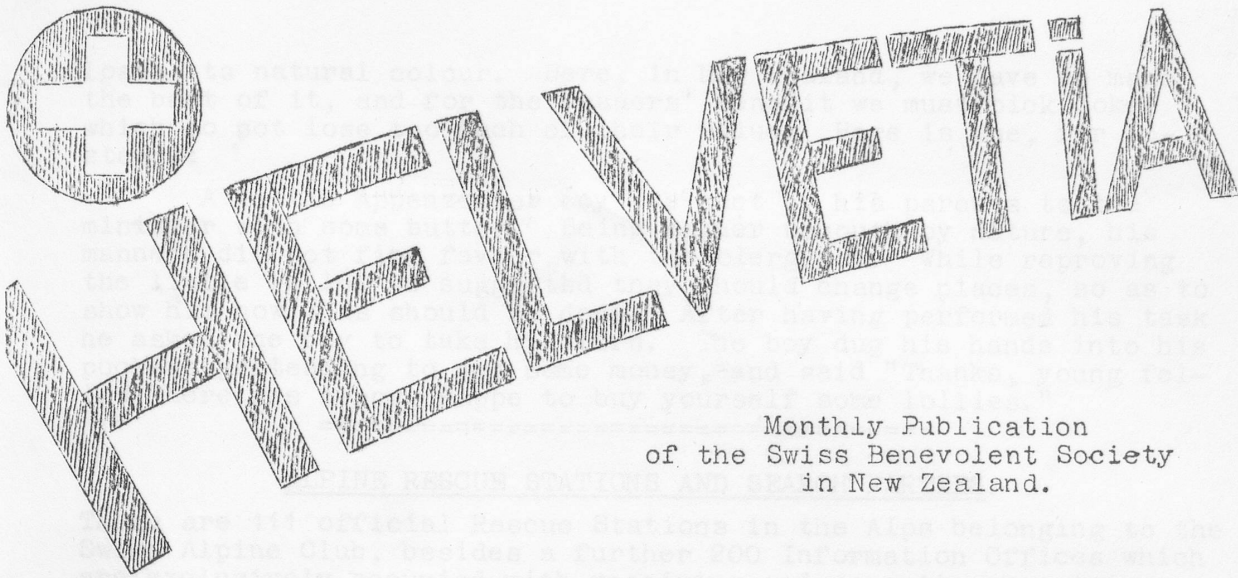
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AUCKLAND, 1st June, 1936.

No. 9.

AMALGAMATION OF TWO CANTONS.

All Switzerland awaited with intense interest the plebiscite of the two half-cantons Baselland and Baselstadt, to accept or decline the long proposed amalgamation. A solid majority in favour of the initiative was a certainty in the City, but the Country was a very doubtful issue. The result shows the following figures:

	<u>Ayes.</u>	<u>Noes.</u>
Baselland	12,722	10,823
Baselstadt	20,171	7,450

It is interesting to follow how the country provinces misfavoured the scheme, the further away from the city they are situated:

	<u>Ayes.</u>	<u>Noes.</u>
Bezirk Arlesheim	8,875	2,098
" Liestal	2,002	3,444
" Sissach	1,200	3,388
" Waldenburg	645	1,893

Arlesheim is the Bezirk immediately surrounding the City and comprised of people mostly gainfully occupied in the industrial centre of Basle. The referendum taken, however, is not decisive but only a preliminary test.

T O M E M B E R S

INDUCE YOUR COUNTRY-MEN TO JOIN THE
SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY IN NEW ZEALAND.

"APPENZELLER WITZ".

The dry and ever-ready, but always unaffected humour which characterizes the Appenzeller, is well known all over Switzerland. Being an Appenzeller myself, I do not intend to boast about it, but as the people of every Canton have peculiarities of their own, I may be excused for enlarging on this subject to a certain extent.

Always there appear new jokes of Appenzeller origin. The two Appenzeller Calendars publish new ones every year. Good, indifferent, or even bad, they never lack sarcasm or cynicism.

Alfred Tobler of Heiden made it a study of years, and compiled from Almanacks, over 100 years old, a most interesting book of "Wit and Humour", called Appenzeller Witz, which teems with fun. Of course, a joke repeated in any other dialect but its own soon

loses its natural colour. Here, in New Zealand, we have to make the best of it, and for the readers' benefit we must pick jokes which do not lose too much of their value. Here is one, for instance:

A little Appenzeller boy was sent by his parents to the minister with some butter. Being rather uncouth by nature, his manners did not find favour with the clergyman. While reproving the little fellow he suggested they should change places, so as to show him how this should be done. After having performed his task he asked the boy to take his turn. The boy dug his hands into his pockets pretending to get some money, and said "Thanks, young fellow, here are zwenzg Rappe to buy yourself some lollies."

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ALPINE RESCUE STATIONS AND SEARCH PARTIES.

There are 111 official Rescue Stations in the Alps belonging to the Swiss Alpine Club, besides a further 200 Information Offices which are exclusively occupied with receiving and reporting mountain accidents in Switzerland. Each of the numerous Club Huts contains implements for the rescue of climbers in summer or winter. A complete list of all these stations and their leaders - who are mountain guides - can be obtained from the Committee of the Swiss Alpine Club, Baden (Aargau). These Rescue Stations are regularly controlled, so that there should be nothing lacking, also equipped with ambulance material.

The leader of a Rescue Station is obliged, immediately on receiving news of a mountain accident, to form Search Parties. These consist of guides, porters and other natives, who are well acquainted with the Alps in their vicinity. At the same time the leader has to report the accident to the Cantonal Police, before the Search Party starts off. If it is necessary, and possible, the Search Party is aided by an aeroplane, that can be demanded by the leader or a member of the Central Committee of the S.A.C. The latter Committee supervises all rescue work.

The expenses incurred by such work have to be paid by the rescued person or his heirs, as the Swiss Alpine Club is financially so engaged by its organisations, that it cannot undertake further obligations. For the salvage of corpses, which is often carried out with tremendous risk of life, the responsibilities are fixed by Cantonal Law.

Those desiring to climb the Alps, should first make sure that they are fit and competent, and well-guided. The weather is of supreme importance, too. The Alps only reveal their grandeur and beauty to those who approach them with reverence, while they will rebuff the haughty without mercy.

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T O M E M B E R S.

CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES AND NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THIS PUBLICATION.

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HAY-FEVER OASES IN SWITZERLAND.

As everyone knows, the inhabitants of the lowlands who suffer from hay-fever are only at their ease in wet weather, during summer at least, and all the creams and powders, that have been invented as a remedy, give only small relief. But there are places where no hay-fever can exist!

There are two such Oases in Switzerland, well-known the world over. They are Pontresina and Kleine Scheidegg. While Pontresina can boast of a regular Hay-fever Club with medical advice, the Kleine Scheidegg does not even need that. Here we are above the tree-line, that is above all vegetation, so that there is no possibility of the pollen, discharged by flowers and blossoms, reaching the patients. In both places the glacier winds also prevent pollen from surviving if any should by chance reach such heights.

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