

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1924)
Heft: 156

Artikel: The Sunlight League
Autor: Cortesy, J.H.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690163>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 14.03.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

THE SUNLIGHT LEAGUE.

The two men shook hands and remained in that position, awaiting the magnesium flashlight for the taking of the photograph. This at Carnegie House, Piccadilly, on Wednesday of last week—on the occasion of the second meeting of the newly formed "Sunlight League."

The two men, Dr. Theobald Adrian Palm and Dr. Rollier, of Leysin—the two apostles of the Sun, the two originators of Sun cure, one British, the other Swiss. They shook hands heartily, looking into each other's eyes, under the grateful gaze of a numerous audience of adherents, a good many eminent M.D.'s, and the auspicious look of Dr. C. W. Saleeby, the Chairman of the Council, while outside the sun was shining gloriously, giving assent thereby to all the good that was being said about its violet rays.

The picture was symbolic. The sun of Leysin, of the Alps, joining hands with that of London. These two suns differ, however. Anybody would argue that it is the same sun, after all. That may be so, but as to weights and measures they are not the same at both places. The London sun is accused of not playing the "straight game," of continually playing truant. "It is not my fault, really," says the sun. "London people are doing their utmost to hide my face. They are ashamed of me. They are conservative, anti-freetraders. They have an absolute horror of trading with me. First of all, like all individuals possessed of a bad habit, they prefer to dope themselves with coal smoke. See how they enjoy themselves on a foggy day. By any possible means they will shut out my rays from reaching them. If by luck I can get through the bigger barrage of the smoky atmosphere and reach the individual, there I meet the most obstinate little barrage. By 'civilised' law, all people have to be as much covered as possible by all kinds of materials, viz., to wear clothes, boots, hats, gloves, etc. It is bad form to receive my rays except on some privileged part of the body which is called the face, whatever may be the expense, and ladies will even there 'protect' themselves by a 'barrage' of powder and paint."

The Sun of Leysin, the Sun of the Alps is of another kind. It is full of life. It does its own tailoring, dressmaking, etc. It trades freely, directly with all parts of the human body. It does not bargain, it gives off its best gratuitously. It does not only dress, but it feeds the body with power, with power to resist disease, and it cures all ills of the blood and nerves. It is the most beneficent, the most economic agent in existence.

It is Dr. Rollier who brought out the virtues of the Leysin Sun, virtues which were known centuries, thousands of years ago, but ignored.

These virtues were known here in London also, and the foremost of their pioneers who, for more than thirty years, advocated and administered them, Dr. T. A. Palm, was the elected president of the "Sunlight League," and Dr. Rollier vice-president.

Honneur aux braves! Ils méritent bien de leur patrie!

J. H. CORTHESEY.

SWISS INSTITUTE.

Lecture by Mr. G. P. Gooch, M.A.

(Continued from *Last week's "Swiss Observer."*)

Passing from Roumania to Jugo-Slavia, or Big Serbia, as I often call it, there has been a remarkable change since I spoke here before. A year ago Croatia returned or elected about 70 members of parliament who refused to take their seats at Belgrade. Then and now their leader was Radich. The policy of Radich was the policy of the Irish Home Rulers for so long. He would have preferred to have remained under Austria, or rather to have remained part of the Austrian Empire, though the Croats were never very happy there: but after the Austrian Empire went to pieces, Croatia, through the mouth of Radich, asked for autonomy. Serbia is still being governed by the man who has done more to make Serbia the power that she now is than anybody else, Pasich, the Prime Minister, the Cavour of Serbia, the man who for thirty years dreamed of turning Serbia into Jugo-Slavia, and who has done it, with the aid of the world-war. Now, the policy of Pasich was not only to enlarge Serbia, to triple her size and population, but to govern enlarged Serbia entirely from Belgrade, and that is what he has been doing ever since the end of the war, and that is what he is doing now, and that is the cause of the quarrel between Pasich, the prime minister, and the Croatian leader. Radich thought it desirable, from the point of view of personal safety, to spend last autumn in London, where he and his wife lived for some months in a small hotel, where I had the opportunity of discussing the Croatian situation with him. He told me he would have preferred Austrian rule to Serbian rule, but that, as Croatia was now part of Big Serbia, his policy was to demand autonomy. Since then he has changed, not his policy, but his methods. Last year he advised that the Croatian members should not go to the Parliament to which they had been elected. He has now advised them to go, and they have gone, and now that they have gone, a great struggle is in progress between the Centralists and the Federalists, between the Pasich

party, who desires to rule the whole country from Belgrade, and the Autonomist or Federalist party, who desires that autonomy should be granted to the new portion of the Serbian kingdom, of which Croatia is one and of which Montenegro is another part. My own sympathies, I need hardly say, are on the side of the Autonomists, and I have not a doubt that if the statesmen of Belgrade had the wisdom to grant them autonomy, the political, military and economic progress of Jugo-Slavia would be much more rapid, and the foundations of her prosperity and strength would be much firmer. You are not increasing your strength if you rule over millions of unwilling subjects: that is the great lesson that these young States of Eastern Europe have got to learn. The only foundation of national strength is a contented people, and one of the best tests of statesmanship is the ability of the ruling statesman to make racial minorities feel comfortable and happy in their new surroundings.

As regards Hungary, a great change is in progress. I spoke last year of the recovery of Austria owing to the fact that the League of Nations has taken it over and is looking after its finances. Last summer the condition of Hungarian finances had become so bad that Hungary determined to copy the example of Austria and to ask aid from the League of Nations. The negotiations took many months, and Hungary's request was only finally granted in the opening of this year, when the Prime Minister, Count Bethlen, came to London, and the financial arrangements were made. Austria wanted a loan of 27 millions. Hungary, a far richer country, able to feed itself, wants 10 millions. The Austrian loan was guaranteed by the different Governments where the money was raised, and therefore, of course, there was no difficulty at all in raising the money. The Hungarian loan is not going to be guaranteed by the various Governments, and it has not yet been raised. We expect it will be raised during the present summer, and we expect also that there will be no difficulty in raising it, partly because the sum is smaller, and partly because Hungary is very much richer than Austria.

There have been no internal political changes in Hungary, which is still in the grip of the extreme Right. Hungary is being governed by the same sort of people that governed it before and during the war, namely, the old Hungarian territorial aristocracy, and there is a great deal of criticism in different parts of Europe, including England, as you will see in the columns of "The Times" during the last few days, of the rule of the Right as it is carried on in Budapest at the present time, but I have no doubt that when the loan is raised, Hungary's finances will very quickly come into order under the supervision of an American inspector.

The representative of the League of Nations in Austria is a Dutchman, and the representative of the League in Hungary is an American. I believe one will prove himself as capable as the other. I believe, therefore, that Hungary's worst times will soon be over, and if I speak here next year I expect to be able to tell you that her finances have been improved and her Crown or Krone has been stabilised.

I am glad to be able to report that the progress in Austria has been well maintained. I was giving some lectures in Vienna last autumn, and I had the great pleasure of meeting everybody of importance in public life, and also bankers, social workers, diplomats, civil servants, and of hearing from them and seeing with my own eyes that Austria has now recovered almost completely from her terrible experiences during the years after the war. She is gradually dismissing 100,000 employees of the State, which was the figure given her by the League of Nations as one of the conditions of its help, and she has also increased taxation so much that the outgoings and the incomings of her Treasury almost balance. The budget is expected to balance completely during the present year. It is a new world; you see a new expression in the faces of the people in Vienna. The country districts are not only as prosperous as before the war, but more so, because they have paid off their mortgages, and they found it easy to do that because they paid them off in the depreciated Kroner. A man who owed, say, Kr. 1,000 before the war, £40, owed quite a large sum, but paying off Kr. 1,000 in depreciated currency was no more difficult than parting with a pear or an apple out of his back garden. As a matter of fact, you pay more than Kr. 1,000 now for a good-sized pear in Vienna, and Kr. 1,000 at the present time is a little over 3d. So you can imagine that the country people are doing very well. They are getting high prices for their goods, and they have relieved themselves from their debts. Austria will never be rich, but she has certainly got a future: not, indeed, a political future, but a future position in Europe as the centre of business and finance and education, culture, and, above all, of music. Hungary remains a country filled with political ambition, dominated by the determination once more to play an active part in the political life of Europe. Austria, on the other hand, as I said last year, has turned her back on politics, has reconciled herself to the minor part which she will

play in future on the European stage, and is satisfied to lead a quiet life in the enjoyment of art and of culture.

Going north from Austria, I come to Czecho-Slovakia, Big Bohemia. Big Bohemia, in my opinion, is the strongest and most promising of all the new states in Central and Eastern Europe. I said so last year—I say so again. She has her financial troubles, but they are nothing like so great as the troubles of Poland or Roumania. She is still lucky enough to possess in her President, Mazaryk, perhaps the wisest ruler in Europe, and she possesses in Dr. Benes a man whom many people regard as the cleverest foreign minister in Europe. Dr. Benes is the creator of the Little Entente, consisting of Czecho-Slovakia, Roumania and Jugo-Slavia, and the object of the Little Entente was and is to keep Hungary in her place, to prevent a Hapsburg restoration, and to maintain the frontiers of the three members of the Little Entente against attack from without. In addition to maintaining the Little Entente, during the last year Dr. Benes has improved the relations of Czecho-Slovakia with Poland and with other countries. The most important piece of history in Czecho-Slovakia since last year has been the conclusion of an alliance with France. This alliance was greeted in Europe with a great deal of criticism. We and France, as you know very well, have taken different views of the German problem, and we were not pleased to see such a notable accession of strength to France as was involved in the entrance of Czecho-Slovakia into what we would call the orbit of French influence. But Dr. Benes came over here in January and explained to our Government that there was nothing dangerous or mysterious about the treaty: that it was public, that there were no secret clauses, that it was simply a treaty for the maintenance of the *status quo*, and that he would be glad to form a similar treaty with any other power. He did not regard it as in any sense a surrender of the independence of Czecho-Slovakia, but merely as an additional guarantee of her frontiers and of her position in the new Europe.

In passing to Italy, I have to record the fact that Mussolini, who seized power when he only had about 30 Members of Parliament supporting him, has now won an election and has obtained a parliamentary majority. That election was very interesting, because it showed that although he had a large majority, there was also a large number of people and parties who cast their votes against him. For the present, however, Mussolini is the Dictator of Italy, and his rule is helped by the fact that the prosperity of Italy is increasing. Her budget does not at present balance, but her expenses are being reduced and the taxes are being increased.

Since I saw you, the bombardment of Corfu created a great deal of indignation in this country and elsewhere, and the compromise that was reached, partly by the aid of the League of Nations and partly by the final decision of what we used to call "the Allies of the Great War," the great powers, was not altogether satisfactory from the point of view of Greece. Italy is a member of the League of Nations, but her heart is not in it. I hope she may one day realise the importance of carrying out its ideals a little more fully than she has done hitherto. At present she is content, as far as we can see, with the old gospel of Nationalism, and in that she is not alone. Under Mussolini's rule Italy has grown in self-confidence. She has now determined to play a leading part in the decision of all European questions, and the main thing I want to say about Italy is that we must reckon with her more seriously as a great power than we ever used to do in the days before the war.

As regard France, you know very well that last year was the year of the Ruhr invasion and of the encouragement of the Separatist movement in the Rhineland and the Palatinate. You know that the view of the Bonar Law Government and the Baldwin Government was that that invasion was illegal, contrary to the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, and we thought it was not only illegal, but extremely unwise. The protests of Baldwin, Lord Curzon and others had no effect. On the other hand, when at the end of last year there was no sign of any large sum of money flowing out of the Ruhr into France, M. Poincaré consented to allow French representatives to take part in an enquiry by financial experts into the capacity of Germany to pay, and the Dawes Committee was appointed, and reported a few weeks ago. England, as you know, has accepted that report. The present German Government has accepted the report, and Italy has accepted the report. M. Poincaré has said that he is willing to accept the report on certain conditions, and that is how the controversy stands at the present moment. The French elections have now taken place, and resulted in a sweeping majority for the Left. In a few days M. Poincaré will cease to be prime minister, and his place will perhaps be taken by M. Herriot, the leader of the Left, who made his name as the mayor of Lyons, and we shall have for the first time for ten years a ministry of the Left in France. I hope that the first action of that ministry will be to co-operate with the other members of what used to be the Grand Alliance in accepting the