

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: - (1925)

Heft: 229

Rubrik: Publications

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: 15.03.2025

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

it looks and feels as if the skates which were so hurriedly imported from Switzerland last week might soon justify their existence. Therefore, this being Christmas week, I need not write about tariffs, foreign policy and suchlike controversial questions, and, to produce that local atmosphere at a time when our thoughts travel to the homeland more often than usual perhaps, the following article from *The Spectator* of 28th Nov. is quite appropriate:—

The first fact about Switzerland in the winter which breathes its peculiar spell on us is that you find a climate there which allows you to bask in the sun with twenty degrees of frost asserting themselves around. Undeniable frost! Genial sparkling sunshine! I remember hearing how some lusty young fellow at one of these pleasure-resorts was sitting in the sun after a bout of lawn-tennis, and remembered that he had secreted a tumbler of water under his chair; and thinking he would have a drink he picked it up and found inside it a solid block of ice! The tumbler had been placed in the shade, and that sort of thing teaches you in that region the difference between sun and shadow.

That reminiscence suggests a question very pertinent to those who may be contemplating a winter visit to Mürren or Pontresina. Does father Sol always shine? Supposing he sulks for a day or two; would young men be seen sitting on chairs, talking amiabilities with a fair fellow-gamster in their shirt-sleeves? Not they. They would be seen involved in a thick sweater and fur-coat to boot, tramping or more likely trotting up and down the road, trying to keep warm; and not infrequently failing; that is, if there is any wind moving while the sun hides his face. For when this occurs the nip of the wind playing upon the extremity of the nose or ear is far from being a joke. Indeed, I have walked as fast as I could against a light breeze at Pontresina, clad in a huge fur-coat, and felt that for purposes of warmth the effort was abortive.

The fact is that the advice uttered by our admirable Foreign Secretary on his departure for Locarno is very much to the point: "Don't expect too much." Human beings are perpetually being taught by sharp experience that there is no such thing as an earthly Paradise; and yet we go on planning, toiling, saving, risking in order to find the locality of our dreams. To hear some people talk you would suppose it is the simplest thing in the world to pack up your traps and land yourself into perpetual golden sunshine, 6,000 feet up in the dead of winter. It may come off. I remember some thirteen years ago revelling in nine hours of such sunshine daily for seventeen days. Subsequent ventures have revealed the sinister element of gambling which, as a rule, attaches itself as a warning to all optimistic hopes. Not infrequently a delightful mild spell of weather reigns from Christmas to about January 10th; delicious for the septuagenarian visitor who can add to his curling some most pleasant walks, made possible by the absence of snow. But the last fact spells tragedy for the youths and maidens who yearn to ski. The expression round the mouths of some young men is not to be forgotten. The poor fellows had come all the way out laden with skis, ski-boots, ski-sticks, and bubbling with anticipation. After four days of grumbling at the sun—for the merriment of the venerable curlers was no compensation for them—they succumbed to a pretty sharp attack of 'flu, lay in bed for ten days and decamped homewards with their heavy paraphernalia diminished and brought low. For this plunge into pleasure they had to pay a not inconsiderable bill.

And so on. That is the most tragic event of which I have any knowledge. The moral is, be prepared for the best-laid plans going "aft agley." If they don't there is no time like it for learning the use of a new faculty in a joyous company. The motions of the party get to be more and more untrammelled as their skill in coping with slopes increases; and though they dance to an almost insane degree, they may return to their native shores considerably "bucked up," as the elegant phrase goes, in general health.

By way of providing against untoward happenings it would be well to acquire beforehand a taste for reading good books. Nothing really tragic can overtake anyone who can browse on such sobering leisurely novels as de Morgan's, or Mrs. Gaskell's. To be of any use against too much or too little frost the 'novel' I maintain should be long and interesting, without being too exciting. Some are so exciting that you can't put them down, and then you may be late for your ski-ing expedition or for the whist-drive, or even—just fancy!—for dinner; and I much doubt the staying powers of the modern detective story, useful though it be for a temporary emergency. There must be something wrong with narratives one forgets wholly in a fortnight.

There are aspects of human life revealed to those who keep their eyes and ears open, as is the case in a minor degree in most hotels. But on these I may not descant further.

EUROPEAN & GENERAL EXPRESS CO. LTD.

(Managing Directors: H. Siegmund and E. Schneider-Hall)

The Oldest Swiss Forwarding Agency in England,
15, POLAND STREET, LONDON, W.1.

Forward through us to and from Switzerland your Household Furniture (in our own Lift Vans),
Luggage, Private Effects, Merchandise.

UMZÜGE — GEPÄCK holen wir überall ab.
Aufmerksame Bedienung. Mässige Preise.

DEMÉNAGEMENTS — BAGGAGES enlevés et expédiés partout Service attentionné.
Prix raisonnables.

And Now . . .

You all know the story of the parson who made an appeal and made it touching enough to stimulate a particularly close-fisted parishioner of his to take half-a-crown out of his pocket. But that parson made the mistake of delivering his appeal before his sermon, and by the time the plate was handed round, after the sermon, the parishioner's charitable mood had ebbed away, and instead of the half-a-crown, he put a threepenny bit in the plate.

Now, dear readers, "Kiburg" thought he would not perpetrate a similar error. That is why I have given you first of all a nice homely picture, meant to produce a bit of Christmasy feeling in your bosom. Secondly, I skilfully led your thoughts away again, made you think of our dear homeland and Keller's beautiful song which always brings a lump into the exile's throat . . . and only now, when I hope you are sufficiently prepared, do I remind you that

The Swiss Churches in London have issued a United Appeal for Christmas Gifts. Old Clothes, Old Toys, etc., etc., to be sent to 79, Endell Street, London, W.C.2.

Dear reader, I am not asking for cigars, whiskeys, liqueurs, etc., to be sent to me, as a token of the many hours of more or less pleasant reading it has been my privilege to provide you with. *But I do ask you*, if my story at the beginning has any meaning at all for you at this festive time of the year, if you are one of the fortunate ones who can look back on a happy childhood, full of sweet memories, if you have kiddies of your own and are able to treat them to a beautiful Christmas, *if you can manage it, even if doing so means a sacrifice, please send something to the Swiss Churches NOW*, so that as many as possible may know that the Spirit of Christmas—le bon père Noël—'s Christ-Child—is still about!

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL
is the wish of "KYBURG."

PUBLICATIONS

of the "Verein für Verbreitung Guter Schriften" and "Lectures Populaires."

- No. 136. Jakob Rämmelis schwere Wahl, von F. G. Birnstiel 4d.
- No. 137. Das Abenteuer im Wald, von I. C. Heer 4d.
- No. 144. Ein Verdingkind, von Konrad Rüg 4d.
- No. 145. Der Sohn, von Ida Frohnmeier 5d.
- No. 137 (BE). Erinnerungen einer Grossmutter an ihre Jugend- und Dienstjahre, von E. B. 5d.
- No. 146. Porzellanpeter, von Anders Heyster 5d.
- No. 138. Die Verlobung in St. Domingo, von Heinrich von Kleist 5d.
- No. 139. Der Schuss von der Kanzel, von C. F. Meyer 5d.
- No. 138 (BE). Das Amulett, von C. F. Meyer 6d.
- No. 147. Josepha—Stephan, von Johannes Jegerlehner 5d.
- No. 140. Balmbergfriedli, von Josef Reinhart 5d.
- Serie 1/1. Sous la Terre, par A. de Vigny 1/-
- Serie 1/2. La Femme en Gris, par H. Sudermann 1/-
- Serie 1/3. L'Incendie, par Edouard Rod 1/-
- Serie 1/4. La Tulipe Noire, par Alex. Dumas 1/-
- Serie 1/5. Jeunesse de Jean Jacques Rousseau (Extraits des Confessions) 1/-
- Serie 2/1. Le Légionnaire Héroïque, par B. Vallotton 6d.
- Serie 2/2. Contes Extraordinaires, par Edgar Poë 6d.
- Serie 2/3. Un Véritable Amour, par Masson-Forestier 6d.
- Serie 2/4. La Boutique de l'Ancien, par L. Favre 6d.
- Serie 2/5. Souvenirs de Captivité et d'Evasion, par Robert d'Harcourt 6d.

Prices include postage; in ordering, simply state number or series, remitting respective amount (preferably in ½d. stamps) to Publishers, *The Swiss Observer*, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

Pestalozzi Kalenders

(ILLUSTRATED)

- French Edition ... post free 2/9
- Italian Edition 2/9
- German Edition with "Schatzkästlein" .. 2/10

To be obtained against remittance from
Swiss Observer, LEONARD STREET, E.C.2.

Pension Suisse 20 Palmeira Avenue, WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA.

Highly recommended. Every comfort. Continental cuisine. Billiards. Sea front.
Phone: Southend-on-Sea 1132 Proprietress: Mrs. Albrocht-Meneghelli

RÜHMANN'S

DELIKATESSEN
32, TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, W.1

THE HOUSE FOR SWISS AND CONTINENTAL CUISINE

GREAT CHRISTMAS DISPLAY of Basler Leckerli, Nürnberg Lebkuchen, Lübeck and Königsberg Marzipan, Chocolates, etc. in all their different varieties.

RENOWNED FOR QUALITY SINCE 1887.
Telephone: MUSEUM 1622.

TO KEEP MERRY AND FIT

W. WETTER, 67, Grafton Street, Fitzroy Sq., W.1.

- White Neuchâtel ... 46/- doz. Valais Fendant ... 49/- doz.
- Red ... 54/- .. Johannisberg ... 50/- ..
- Dezaley ... 48/- .. Dole red Valais ... 57/- ..

Terms: Net Cash. Carriage paid London. Orders immediately executed.

The Knightsbridge Fur Stores

A. UNDEN,
45, KNIGHTSBRIDGE,
S.W. 1.



Fur Coats, Evening Cloaks, Wraps, Fur Ties, Tailored Coats, Gowns and Hats of every description, at all prices.

Every kind of Fur made and re-made to latest fashions at moderate charges.

FURS CLEANED

Workrooms & Wholesale Showrooms:
19, WARDOUR STREET,
LEICESTER SQUARE.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

Not exceeding 3 lines.—Per insertion, 2/6; three insertions, 5/-
Postage extra on replies addressed c/o Swiss Observer

SWISS People, with excellent and healthy home, would take care of one or two Infants; best references; moderate terms.—Write, L.44, c/o Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.

WANTED, SWISS HOUSEMAID, to commence duties 1st Jan. 1926, for a period of 3 months.—Call, Madame Sigerist, 11, Belsize Crescent, Hampstead, N.W.3.

PRIVATE Family (Swiss) offer City Gentleman comfortable Home in choice residence; rooms as desired; breakfast, late dinner and week-ends; lovely grounds; 10 min. station, half-hour to City.—The Laurels, College Road, Cheshunt.