

**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:** - (1936)  
**Heft:** 771

**Artikel:** Leysin, the Swiss sun resort  
**Autor:** G.K.  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-694858>

### **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:** 01.04.2025

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

**BASLE.**

The death has occurred in Basle of M. Adolf Hottinger-Bélat, for many years a partner of the banking firm Lüscher and Cie., at the age of 71.

\* \* \*

The members of the Swiss Olympic team, on their return from Berlin, received a hearty welcome on their arrival in Basle.

Dr. Zweifel, President of the cantonal government addressed the members of the team, and later on a dinner was offered to them at the "Safran" guild.

\* \* \*

Professor Gerlach, of the University of Basle, a German citizen, has been removed from his post by a decision of the Basle cantonal government. It is stated that he has been working in favour of the National Socialist movement in a way which is incompatible with his duties at the University.

**ST. GALLEN.**

The Commercial Court of the Canton of St. Gall has prolonged the moratorium on the liabilities of the Schweizerische Genossenschaftsbank by three months — that is, until 20th November.

The original moratorium was granted to the bank on 20th February of this year for a period of six months.

There will be a hearing at St. Gall on 8th September, when a plan for putting the bank on a sound basis will be discussed.

\* \* \*

The Protestant church at Heiden was completely destroyed by fire, the damage caused is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 150,000 frs. A collection of great historical value was burnt. The same church was already burnt down nearly a hundred years ago (1838).

**GENEVA.**

Geneva staged, last Monday, another of its "consumers' strikes." From 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. nearly all the shops and cafés in the town were closed, and a procession of about 6,000 people paraded the streets as a protest against the high level of the rents charged to commercial undertakings and to small artisans by the house agents of Geneva.

The utmost good humour prevailed throughout, and there were no incidents of any kind. The demonstrators were cheered on their way by bands at the head and tail of the procession. One or two of the lakeside cafés were allowed to remain open for the convenience of tourists.

Some three weeks ago a motorists' strike was organised against the high price of petrol, due to the recent Federal petrol tax.

**TICINO.**

Mlle. Minara, from Bellinzona, was killed when descending from the Lucomagno, her companion, a young lady from the same town, was injured.

**AARGAU.**

A fire destroyed the buildings of the "Kartofabrik" Knoblauch at Muhen, causing damage of over 150,000 frs.

**URI.**

A landslide, by far the largest in recent years in Switzerland, took place in the Canton of Uri, when over 500,000 cubic yards of rock came crashing down into the valley from the Alps.

The landslide stopped within a short distance of the village of Silenen, and surprisingly no lives were lost. The authorities, however, have ordered the evacuation of the farms and chalets in the path of the landslide, for a further movement of the rock is expected.

edif  
grollenberg, 1936.

**LEYSIN, THE SWISS SUN RESORT.**

Situated some 5,000 feet above sea-level, in the Swiss Alps there is a mountain village devoted entirely to the cure of illness by sun-bathing. The name of this village is Leysin and it is surely one of the most amazing places in the world. Some 35 years ago this village was almost unknown; it had a small population of hard working peasants housed in the wooden chalets, seen everywhere in this mountain hamlet; a population which gained a bare livelihood by scratching the shallow soil and working on the alpine pasturages close at hand. To-day this village has a floating population of some 7,000 souls, people of every conceivable nationality who have come from all corners of the globe in search of health from the mountain sunshine.

It was in 1903 that Dr. Rollier, a Swiss doctor, settled at Leysin and applied, after developing it to absolute perfection, a method of treatment which had previously only been tentatively utilised; it consisted in the application of helio-therapy in cases of so-called Surgical Tuberculosis. Firmly convinced of the importance of the curative properties contained in the

light and air of high altitudes, he applied helio-therapeutic methods, not merely to the part of the organism affected by the disease, but also to the entire body. In direct contradiction to the then generally accepted theory that surgical tuberculosis was a purely local disease, he proved, that the constitution of the patient and his power of resistance played a role of primary importance and that in treating a generalised disease general therapeutic treatment was indicated. His first experiments were made with children at a small chalet nursing-home; this little clinic thus became the cradle of helio-therapy. Is it necessary to recall the result? Twenty-eight years have proved the excellence of the treatment and the superiority of the climate of Leysin while always increasing the reputation of Dr. Rollier. Leysin still remains his favourite station and around his two principal clinics numerous smaller clinics have been constructed which provide accommodation for 1,200 patients. In 1915 Dr. Rollier opened near Leysin what is known as "the School in the Sun." This was the starting point of the great movement for the employment of preventive helio-therapy which is to-day in general use in every part of the globe. Side by side with the larger sanatoria, nursing-homes and clinics for the accommodation of those possessed of adequate financial resources, other institutions destined for the treatment of those less favoured by fortune were founded. The first was known as the "Leysin Refuge." The same year also saw the foundation of a children's sanatorium which was intimately connected with the adult organisation. Modest in its beginnings, it rapidly developed and soon ranked amongst the most important institutions of the station. As a result of special efforts the clinic "Belmont" was soon opened and the so-called "work-colony" permitted convalescent patients who were capable of working to continue their stay at Leysin occupying themselves in remunerative activity.

Such was the aspect which Leysin presented in the first half of 1914 and if war had not intervened, no one can say to what extent it would have developed. Switzerland was increasingly shut off from the rest of the world by the extension of the conflict, nevertheless the allied governments selected Leysin for the treatment of prisoners who had become tubercular during their captivity in Germany. In 1919, when the armistice restored these soldier-patients to their homes, the station was three parts empty, but its fame was wide-spread and patients soon flocked to the town, so that in proportion as the general equilibrium was re-established Leysin regained its former animation. At the same time as the sanatoria regained their prosperity, the public sanatoria also received an influx of patients.

In 1920 the canton of Neuchâtel acquired the spacious and handsome edifice known as the "Beausite-Sanatorium." It then became the Neuchâtel public sanatorium with 110 beds. Later on an establishment for the accommodation of ladies and young girls was opened by a body of French nuns. Another institution for young girls of protestant persuasion was created by the generosity of a French philanthropist. And so one huge building after the other has grown up; Leysin is, as before mentioned, able to give accommodation to 1,200 patients to-day.

Owing to the rigorous control exercised by the Public Health Authorities the sanitary services function irreproachably. The obligatory disinfection of premises used for human habitation is held to be of such importance, that a special department of the municipality has been created for this purpose. The bye-laws dealing with questions of public health are enforced most strictly. Cases of contagious disease, although rare, have naturally been provided for. As a result of the activity of the Public Health Committee, an Isolation Hospital has been constructed.

These details show that the Authorities are fully aware of the responsibility by the presence of vast sanatoria and a large population of foreign patients. Finally it is not possible to pass over in silence one of the most marvellous beauties of Leysin, namely its panorama. The little town, with its Sanatoria and clinics, is situated on a gentle slope amidst meadows, which are carpeted with flowers in Summer and become fields of dazzling white in Winter. It is backed by the "Tours d'Al" and "Mayen" with their lower spurs from which it is separated by forests of firs; the whole forming an impenetrable barrier to the northerly and Easterly winds. The massiveness of the Dent du Midi is to be seen through an opening in which one sees the summit of Mont-Blanc and finally the mountains which border the French bank of the Lake of Geneva. In an hour the pedestrian can reach several famous view points from which one looks down on the lake of Geneva and over the canton of Vaud to the distant Jura-mountains; the silver riband of the Rhone, with vines at one's feet from St. Maurice in the Valais to its point of entry into the Lake of Geneva.

G.K.

**SENSATIONNELLE LISTE D'ENGAGES AU GRAND PRIX DE SUISSE.**

Les déssont jetés. Déjà avant la clôture des engagements, on pouvait prévoir que le 3ème Grand Prix de Suisse, le 23 août prochain nous apporterait un combat acharné pour la suprématie en Europe. Aujourd'hui, cette clôture vient changer l'attente en certitude. On peut constater même que les trois grandes équipes qui tiennent la tête du lot ont encore complété leurs rangs pour aller à la lutte avec leurs meilleures armes et si des abandons se produisaient, posséder suffisamment de réserves en course. De fait, Mercedes, Auto-Union et l'écurie Ferrari ont inscrit chacune 4 voitures. A ces équipes d'usines vient se joindre définitivement désormais Jean-Pierre Wimille, vainqueur dimanche du Grand Prix du Comminges, comme poulain de la maison de Molsheim. Il pilotera donc la nouvelle Bugatti 1936 que tant de mystère entoure encore. Et voici de plus l'écurie florentine Maremmana, formée récemment par le Suisse De Rham, établi en Italie, et à la tête de laquelle se trouve le remarquable Biondetti (nouveau recordman des Rangiers) sur Siata-Maserati ainsi que notre compatriote le Bernois bien connu Hans Stuber sur Alfa Romeo monoplace. Quant à l'écurie Ferrari elle se réserve toujours encore la désignation de ses coureurs. Toutefois, on peut considérer comme certain le départ des trois pilotes ci-dessous désignés. Comme 4ème, nous aurons ou le marquis Antonio Brivio Sforza, ou Tadini, ou encore Pintaucuda. A ces 15 coureurs engagés par les fabriques se joignent 5 indépendants, ce qui assurera au Grand Prix de Suisse le 23 août prochain un lot de 20 coureurs d'élite.

En voici la liste :

**A. Equipes.**

- Auto-Union A. G., Zwickau :**  
Ernest von Delius, Zwickau, sur Auto-Union 1936, 16 cyl., compr.  
Bernard Rosemeyer, Berlin, sur Auto-Union 1936, 16 cyl., compr.  
Hans Stuck, Kempfenhausen, sur Auto-Union 1936, 16 cyl., compr.  
Achille Varzi, Milan, sur Auto-Union 1936, 16 cyl., compr.
  - Daimler-Benz A. G., Stuttgart :**  
Manfred von Brauchitsch, Berlin, sur Mercedes-Benz, 1934/36, 8 cyl., compresseur.  
Rudolf Caracciola, Lugano, sur Mercedes-Benz 1934/36, 8 cyl., compresseur.  
Luigi Fagioli, Gubbio, sur Mercedes-Benz 1934/36, 8 cyl., compresseur.  
Herrmann Lang, Stuttgart, sur Mercedes-Benz 1934/36, 8 cyl., compresseur.  
Pilote de réserve : Louis Chiron, Nice.
  - Ettore Bugatti, Molsheim :**  
Jean-Pierre Wimille, Paris, sur Bugatti 1936, compresseur.
  - S. A. Ecurie Ferrari, Modène.**  
René Dreyfus, Paris, sur Alfa Romeo 1936, 12 cyl., compresseur.  
Dr. Giuseppe Farina, sur Alfa Romeo 1936, 12 cyl., compresseur.  
Tazio Nuvolari, sur Alfa Romeo 1936, 12 cyl., compresseur.  
X ..... sur Alfa Romeo 1936, 12 cyl., compresseur.
  - Ecurie Maremmana, Florence :**  
Cesare Biondetti, Bologne, sur Siata-Maserati 1936, compr.  
Hans Stuber, Berne, sur Alfa Romeo 1635, compresseur.
- B. Coureurs individuels :**  
Philippe Etancelin, Rouen, sur Maserati, compresseur.  
Raymond Sommer, Paris, sur Alfa Romeo, Earl Howe, Londres, sur Bugatti, compresseur.  
C. F. C. Martin, Byfleet, sur Alfa Romeo, compresseur.  
Hans Ruesch, Zürich, sur Maserati, compresseur.

Au total donc 5 nations représentées : Allemagne, Italie, France, Angleterre et Suisse. Notre public sera particulièrement heureux de voir deux Suisses en course : Hans Ruesch, un habitué désormais des grandes compétitions internationales et Hans Stuber qui fut longtemps un des spécialistes de la côte les plus réputés en Europe et qui a fait aussi ses preuves en circuit, à commencer par le Grand Prix de Monaco.

Bref, une liste de start de tout premier choix. La course dont le départ sera donné dimanche 23 août à 13h.30 se déroulera, comme on sait, sur 70 tours du circuit du Bremgarten de 2,280 km. dont le virage des tribunes comme celui de la carrière ont été sensiblement relevés pour permettre des vitesses plus élevées encore.

**PERSONAL.**

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. E. Ulmann, of 5/6, Carey Lane, E.C.2, will sympathise with them in their loss, Mr. Ulmann's father having died in Zurich, after a long illness.