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Odds and Ends

At the western extremity of the Oberland, on the linguistic frontier between French- and German-speaking Switzerland, we come to Gstaad. This forward-looking resort is much influenced by French culture, though its inhabitants speak German. With its dozen hotels, the village enjoys the pastoral peace of the mountains, yet during the season visitors from all over the world impart to it something of the cosmopolitan atmosphere of St. Moritz and Monte-Carlo. The Palace Hotel deserves its renown. The annual International Fencing Tournament is held there on 8th-9th July.

Among other attractions at Gstaad there are the Swiss Tennis Championships with international participation. This tournament is held on 17th-23rd July and is attended by most of the Wimbledon stars.

The foremost folklore event is perhaps the famous Gstaader-Chilbi, scheduled for 23rd August.

The cultural season this year will be memorable on account of the Yehudi Menuhin Festival Weeks, during which seven major concerts will be spread over the period 18th-30th August. Several famous soloists besides Menuhin will be appearing.

And if you want to see Swiss peasants enjoying themselves in a truly Swiss way, go to one of the two mountain fêtes held on 30th July; these take place on each side of the valley — one on the Windspillen, the other on the Plani.

* * *

After the physician had checked the patient over, he asked:

"Have you been leading a normal life?"

"Yes, doctor."

"Well," the doctor replied, "you'll have to cut it out for a while."

* * *

The Swiss Institute of Transport and Communications is the most-visited museum in Switzerland and at the same time is seen by more visitors than any other transport museum in Europe. Its unique situation near the town's lido on the Lake of Lucerne also gives it the distinction of being scenically the most attractive place of its kind. Open to the public only since 1st July 1959, the Institute will soon be welcoming its 500,000th visitor. The latest attraction, which has been operating for some time in the Institute grounds, is a "Leva Car", a wheelless experimental vehicle on the air cushion principle which reaches a speed of 500 m.p.h.

* * *

Did you hear about the poor fellow who went to the race track without any money? He made a mental bet and lost his mind.

* * *

Psychiatrist to despondent cannibal: "The trouble with you is you are fed up with humans."

* * *

Murren lies amid alpine pastures. To get there you first take the cableway from Lauterbrunnen to the Gruetsch Alp (4,875 ft.) where you change into the mountain-railway with its panoramic windows. At Murren another cableway takes you to the Allmendhubel, an ideal starting point for rambles. Easy paths lead from here to the Suppen Alp, via the Schiltgrat to the Schilt Alp and thence via the Spielboden Alp to the Sefinen Alp up into the country of the chamois and beyond to the Busen Alp, home

of local legends. These — some of them distinctly ghoulish — figure in an anthology by Hans Michel (1888-1957), entitled "Kratten voll Lauterbrunner Sagen". They are still told around the hearth in mountain huts. There is nothing mythical, however, in tales about the almost legendary freedom of local cattle. Peacefully chewing their cud wherever they wish, they wander at their pleasure like the sacred cows of India and often interrupt rail traffic between the Gruetsch and Murren.

* * *

The little boy was telling his teacher about his dog, and she asked what kind of a dog it was. "Oh, he's a mixed-up kind — sort of a cocker scandal."

* * *

The policeman ordered the motorist to pull up at the curb and produce his driving licence. "I don't understand this, officer," the motorist protested, "I haven't done anything wrong." "I know," replied the officer, "but you were driving so carefully, I thought you might not have your driving licence."

* * *

QUOTE — from *The Wall Street Journal*: "South America is covered with a network of small airline companies, some of which don't always use the best equipment. In one capital city, an American businessman bound for a small out-of-the-way spot in the interior was getting settled in his seat on the plane when the pilot came out of the cockpit to announce that he would not fly the ship unless one of the engines was changed. The passengers all disembarked, but several minutes later they were told to board the plane again.

"I thought we were going to get another plane", said the American.

"No", said the airline manager.

"Then did they change the engine?" persisted the American.

"Oh, no", came the reply, "We changed the pilot."

* * *

Successful door-to-door salesman to housewife: "I'd like to show you a little item your neighbours said you couldn't afford."

* * *

For the city of Geneva the "Port Noir" is an historic spot of special significance. It was here that ships carrying Confederate troops put in on 1st June 1814, and were received with acclamation, as they were heralds of the union of Geneva with Switzerland. This anniversary was celebrated in Geneva on 1st June this year.

THE SWISS SHORTWAVE SERVICE, BERNE

have approached the Swiss Embassy in the following matter:

Applications are invited for a post in the English Service. Applicants should be young men of English mother-tongue with a good knowledge of German and French and some experience of journalism and radio. Preference will be given to a young Swiss. The appointment will probably be for one year in the first instance. The successful candidate will join the regular staff after a period of training. The possibility exists for a more experienced applicant to be appointed Head of the English Service after a satisfactory trial period.

Applications should be sent to the Cultural Counsellor of the Swiss Embassy, who will forward them to the Swiss Broadcasting Company. (A representative will probably visit London in the near future.)