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“BERNE — PORTRAIT OF A TOWN

“Berne differs from all other cities claiming to be the loveliest in the world in that it *is* the loveliest”. With these words by Guido Schmezer, the English description of the Swiss Federal Capital in a new book published by Paul Haupt is introduced to the reader. In some fourteen pages, Berne's history as the town of the Zähringer and its importance as capital of the Confederation is unfolded. Its praises as the quaint city of arcades are sung. Its merits are depicted. If the reader knows the town, he finds his high opinion confirmed. If he has the pleasure of discovering Berne still to come, the text compiled by Dr. Werner Juker is designed to make him impatient to get on with the job. But it is not only to the Englishman or the Bernese in Great Britain that the book is addressed — the first part is in French, an adaptation by Charles Junod. The English version, incidentally, is by Elaine Rubli.

And then, after nearly two score pages of text, come the illustrations, 144 pages of them. But what a pedestrian word for such magnificent photographs! There are some fascinating aerial views, both in colour and black-and-white. If the historic town with its romantic picturesqueness gets a good mention, the modern parts are by no means neglected. The photos show not only brick and mortar, water, trees and monuments. There is life, the activities of the people of Berne at work and at play — factories, hospitals, Parliament and places of education. And the pictures were taken in snow and fog as well as in sunshine, at night and in daytime. Nothing seems to have been left out — they are all there, the inn signs, coats of arms, arcades and fountains, the bears in the pit and the “Zybelemärit”, the cheese cellar and the “Kornhaus-

keller”, the patrician houses and the Cathedral in their magnificence — a complete portrait in the true sense of the word.

The book is beautifully produced by Paul Haupt, Falkenplatz 14, Berne. It is cloth-bound and extremely good value at Fr.45.—. The selection of photos and graphic form is by Werner Mühlemann. There are seven coloured and 149 black and white photographs and the book is the second edition, but completely revised and altered. For any friend of Berne's a lovely present — for any Bernese and his family a “must”.

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OUR NEXT ISSUE

The “Swiss Observer” is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 8th October. We shall be glad to receive reports and articles not later than Wednesday, 29th September. Short news items only can be accepted later.

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