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numbers 51 (Wahligen) and 52 (Bertiswil) operate from Lucerne Bahnhof. Get off at the Rothenburg Lindau stop which is just opposite the Gasthof. Even on Sundays the combined routes offer a half hourly service. The Chaernsmatt can be relied on for a good lunch and of course ice creams and drinks during the afternoon. The ticket office will sell you single and multi ride tickets - the single tickets are of the traditional Edmondson card type.

You can spend a long time browsing the web site at www.liliputbahn-chaernsmatt.ch which provides a fascinating account of the development of the railway, its engineering and its rolling stock. There are also some very interesting photos of the almost mythical but certainly long gone line owned by the brothers Brast that used to exist near what is now the Lucerne Lido.

TOP: Spreewald' 2-6-0T passes with a full load.

BOTTOM: The railway even has a pub sign.



BABY TREES

Keith Scotland

On your travels in Switzerland, you may have spotted signs with names on them outside people's homes. These are the names of newly arrived babies that have been born to the families living there. Their neighbours club together, get a small tree and attach it to a pole to make it as high as possible, and attach a sign with the baby's name. At some locations there can be several of these "baby trees" depending on the neighbours. In towns, these can be seen attached to the balconies of apartments. It is a charming Swiss custom that could be added to any building on a model layout to give a little interest.

