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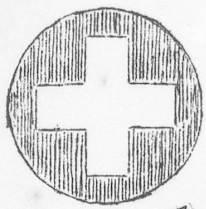
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# HELVETIA

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of the Swiss Benevolent Society,  
in New Zealand.

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## THE TOURIST'S PARADISE.

LUCERNE, the pride of our beloved country, is the gem for tourists; there is no other centre in Switzerland that surpasses it as a holiday playground. The mountains surrounding Lucerne combined with river and lake make a perfect setting for a lovely picture. The rich and poor alike are enchanted with this pearl situated at the foot of the majestic Pilatus. A galaxy of splendid hotels cater for Kings and Princes; fine lake boats, a great fleet of them, ply the waters of the "fourfingered lake"; swift electric railways radiate in all directions, and mountain railways by the half dozen, within easy access, climb gradients of forty-five degrees. One could go "tripping" every day for a month and not repeat. Daily excursions from Lucerne are inexhaustible, you can reach the gorgeous heights of Pilatus, Rigi, Stanserhorn, Bürgenstock and a dozen more by lunchtime and return to your hotel in time for dinner. Chapters could really be written about them; Weggis, Brunnen, the historic Rütli, Tellsplate, Altorf, Axenstrasse and many more, and in the middle of this glamorous picture lies Lucerne; truly a playground of the world.

The Pilatus and the Rigi alike, are undoubtedly the most climbed mountains in existence. Both have approximately 7000 feet railways right to the peaks, in fact the Rigi has two, one ascending from the lake, the other from Arth-Goldau. Personally, I find no mountain-view in all Switzerland quite the equal of the Pilatus view. In all lights and all weathers, except completely enveloping clouds, it is a panorama superb to behold. Pilatus dominates a vast region and yet the closeness of the green earth seems a contradiction to the extensive spread one sees. Serene lakes, seventy villages, and countless millions of glorious pine trees, are spread below you in all directions. Of the incomparable sunrise — or set you have all heard, perhaps some of you have been fortunate enough to see it.

Engelberg, only a score of kilometers from Lucerne, is another of these enchanting spots that seem like the end of a fairy-world. Like Zermatt, or Adelboden, it is situated in a "blind alley" of stupendous glory. You go and come back by the same route. High mountains hem it in and the monarch of these is the famed Titlis. Summer and winter, Engelberg is alive with visitors. The open-air swimming basin and sun baths proclaim it a summer resort; the skating rinks, ski cabins and bob runs give ample proof of its position as a winter resort of the Lucerne region.