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SWISS RECRUITS AND SPORT.

For the first time the Federal authorities have compiled most interesting statistics regarding various kinds of sport amongst our army recruits. Of 29,312 recruits, born in 1918, 27,505 are interested in some kind of sport. 10,748 are members of clubs and associations. Cycling takes pride of place with 25,380. Then follows swimming with 14,247. Skiing with 13,376, Gymnastic 6188, Hiking and Mountaineering 5,792, Football 3,952, Skating 3,380, Light athletic 2,788, Riding 1,492, Rowing 1,343, Handball 1,213, Wrestling 1,008.

Of course it is hardly surprising that cycling and swimming head the sports list, as both kind of sports are pastimes for the majority of young people. Nearly 90% are cycling, 48% swim. Skiing has conquered 45%, while in our old time honoured sport, Gymnastic embraces only 21%.

These statistics will show that 9/10ths of our younger generation do homage to some kind of sport.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN SWITZERLAND.

This dreadful scourge still progresses unabated. On Nov. 21st. 1986 stables were affected, including 27,131 cattle, 19,480 pigs, 202 goats and 762 sheep.

Bern heads the list with 1089 stables, then follows Thurgau with 305 stables, Freiburg with 197, St. Gall 152, Solothurn 99, Schaffhausen 46, Aargau 45, Zurich 16, Luzern 1, Baselstadt, Appenzell A./RH. 3, Tessin 1, Waadt 24.

It is a general belief that fallow deer are responsible for the spreading of this disease, but so far no proof of this has been forthcoming. Sportsmen have been requested to forward parts of shot animals likely to be affected to the pathologist of the veterinary hospital in Zurich for examination.

MURREN.

Nowhere can the wonderful mountain trio of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau be seen to greater advantage than from Mürren, near enough for every detail of their harmonious outlines to be visible, and yet distant enough for a magnificent view of the group as a whole, and of peak upon peak stretching away as far as the eye can reach. The snow-capped mountains and the glaciers which can be seen from every house in the village, are, however, not the only attraction of this resort: picturesque brown chalets dotted here and there, winding paths, meadows covered with flowers, the entire absence of noise, bustle and dust, all lend added charm to the scenery.

Many and varied are the mountain ascents for which Mürren is a good starting point. Certified guides are always at hand, in whose company even the novice need not fear to climb such peaks as the Schilthorn and the Bütlissen. The Gspaltenhorn, however, and others like it are suitable for experts only.

Fragrant fir woods form a cool and pleasant retreat on warm summer days, whilst the melodious tinkling of cowbells on sunny pasture grounds nearby is one of the joys of a summer holiday in the Alps.

Perched on the rock like an eagle's aerie, Mürren overlooks almost the entire length of the Lauterbrunnen Valley through which the White Lutschine can be seen winding its way 2600 feet below. On the narrow rocky ledges of the sinister-looking mountain opposite, fitly named the Black Monk (Schwarze Mönch), herds of chamois may often be observed.

SOME HUMOUR:

A Swiss peasant brought to a chemist two prescriptions : "One is for my wife" he explained, "and the other is for a cow, so please don't mix them up, because it's the best cow I've got."