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Great St. Bernhard in 1800 with some 40,000 men.)

Then, by the mid-20th century, there were already railway lines leading over or through the great mountain chain, followed—only a few years ago—by road tunnels.

Man thus has known the mountains for a long, long time. At first he feared them and talked of monsters and vicious dwarfs living in their wildest parts, and tales of bears, wolves and lynxes were still common even a hundred years ago. But then, slowly and at first falteringly, he began to admire the beauty and grandeur of this majestic, silent world. Soon, he longed to climb the peaks and rocky walls, to explore the ice-fields and to pit his strength and endurance against them, to conquer their world or at least to become part of it, if only for a short while. The reasons behind this were — and still are — manifold and the question: "Why does man want to climb mountains?" has been asked and answered many times. At first, mountain-climbers — chiefly naturalists like Konrod Gesner, the Meyer family of Aarau, von Haller of Berne, Rohrdorf, Hugi, Saussure, and many others — gave scientific reasons and conducted studies and experiments once they reached the summits, or when they did not were likely to be called "crazy". But later, when mountaineering as we know it today began, this was no longer necessary and a man could admit that he climbed mountains "because they were there", "for the love of them", "for their beauty and stillness", "for his own personal satisfaction" or for whatever reason he wanted to give.

And today, when the word "impossible" no longer exists in mountaineering, thanks to ever newer and better equipment and techniques in rock and ice climbing, each of those daring specialists probably still has his or her own answer to the question, even though he or she may not be able to put it into so many words. But one thing they all have in common, even with those who "only" hike in the lower regions of the mountains, or those who make use of the many mechanical contraptions designed to whisk them to the summits: they find relaxation and peace from the stress of the hectic life in the cities.

They find "themselves" again, forget their small troubles and worries among the grandeur of the peaks of that great mountain chain, the Alps, that curve from the Gulf of Genoa to the Valley of the Danube at the gates of Vienna.

F.W.

Swiss Plant for the Foodstuffs and Chemical Industries

A machinery factory at Rheinfelden (Schaffhausen—Switzerland) has designed a new plant for the manufacture of viscous or thick liquids for the pharmaceutical, cosmetics and foodstuffs industries; this plant is ideal, for example, for the preparation of emulsions, creams, ointments, toothpaste, mayonnaise, sauces, etc. The perfectly homogenous and deaerated finished product is ready for processing. The new feature

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of this plant lies in the fact that it groups, in one and the same machine, a homogenizer, a disperser, a scraping-mixing system and a deaeration plant. This combination has the advantage of achieving a considerable saving in production time and ensuring a powerful grinding of the powder and active substances to the required degree of granulation as well as completely removing all air from the product. The operations of mixing, stirring, grinding, mulsification, dispersion, homogenization and deaeration are all carried out in the tank either simultaneously or one after the other. It is also possible to heat or cool the product by filling the double wall of the container with water or steam. All operations can be carried out automatically. The plant is available with a fixed or reversible tank (capacity from 6 to 2000 litres), or mounted on rollers, that is to say exchangeable. The Swiss firm also supplies special versions such as sterilizable plant for the pharmaceutical industry.—(SODT).

★ HEDY'S CORNER

“FLOWER LANGUAGE”

With Christmas approaching you might like to brush-up this subtle language—whether you are a male or female.

CARNATIONS mean tenderness. Although every “Tom, Dick and Harry” sports a carnation in his buttonhole at one time or another, a bunch of pure red carnations will unfailingly give the message.

DAFFODILS say: You are too stubborn for me. As a caution add perhaps a red rose or two.

ORCHIDS mean passion. Alas, not every would-be giver has the funds for these expensive flowers.

RED ROSES are understandable to all females. Be sure the recipient is free to enjoy them without a bad conscience. Otherwise play safe with yellow roses meaning friendship.

MARGARITES (Daisies): Let's only pretend.

VIOLETS must always be accompanied by a few words otherwise you might break your girl's heart. The violets may mean: “This is only between you and me” or “we shall never meet again.”

PRIMROSES give the total message: I cannot wait for you any longer.”

YELLOW TULIPS are acceptable to any age—they are just a token of giving pleasure. However red tulips mean a definite obligation to you.

LILY OF THE VALLEY says to the recipient “I cannot get you out of my head.”

Well, girls and ladies, memorise this flower language and then read the message when you get flowers. Good luck!