

Here and there

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was an "equal-first." Among the others were cooks, flower-girls, boy-scouts, bakers and confectioners, etc., representing different societies in the district. Among side-cars an enormous ladies' shoe, all of pink roses, was the prettiest. Some children's scooters were most ingeniously decorated.

Then came the gun which announced the opening of the battle of flowers and confetti. After that the fun waxed fast and furious until, with but a short respite for dinner, the illuminations and fireworks brought everyone to the lakeside. The Venetian Fête was as charming as may be expected where the natural surroundings adapt themselves so perfectly as they do at this lovely hill-encircled town on the edge of the lake. No more need be said than that. Special steamers and numberless little boats crowded the nearer waters, while the town and hills were ablaze with coloured fires and fairy lights. The end came with a fine display of fireworks. Fêtes de Nuit at the Kursaal and the Pavillon des Sports of the Montreux Palace concluded the evening's and began the night's entertainments.

There was not a hitch in the proceedings from start to finish; even the weather, which looked threatening at times, had the decency to do what was expected of it.

Many English were present, but most of them seemed unaccustomed to this form of continental rejoicing, and a long "confab" was held among one or two families as to whether it would be decorous to throw confetti on Whitsun Day. "Just a few," said Father. But it was not long before they became infected with the general abandon, and Mother was soon an unrecognisable mass of coloured spots tied up in a bundle by "serpentin" ribbons.

("English Herald Abroad," Montreux.)

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Das Bärndütsch-Fest am Samstag und Sonntag gestaltete sich zu einer grossartigen buntfarbigen Veranstaltung, die unzählige Menschenmassen anlockte.

Eine Reitergruppe und die Metallharmonie an der Spitze eröffneten am Samstag kurz nach 2 Uhr den Zug. Gruppe um Gruppe marschierte auf, jede mit frohem Stolz die Schönheit ihrer Tracht oder eine schucke Probe ihrer traditionellen Tätigkeit vorweisend. Zuerst das Oberland mit den Töchtern aus Meiringen, den Burschen und Meitschen aus Grindelwald und den Sennen aus Saanen, alles farbig sehr wirksame Gruppen; die Guggisberger schickten ein Fähnlein Reizege aus der Grasburger Herrschaft voran und folgten dann mit einer ganzen Spinnstube, mit Rossen und sogar mit einem richtigen Schafschädel, der lebhaft jubelt wurde. Eine anmutige Kindergruppe aus Bern mit Blumenschmuck schloss sich den Fahnen-delegationen der Berner Turnerschaften und der im Vollwuchs aufmarschierenden Studentenschaft an. Stramm und jugendfrisch folgten die Thuner Armbrustschützen. Dann das Emmemental mit einem frohbegrüßten Hochzeitszug und der währschaftlichen Käseerei in der Vefreude; ihm schloss sich der Frauenchor Worb an. Das Seeland kam mit drei Gruppen: Ins mit Anker, der das Erdbeerimarelli abkonterfeite, mit einem Wagen voll Flachsbau und einer Spinnerinnenschar samt deren Schutzheiligen, der guten Königin Berta; Twann mit einer originellen und detaillierten Darstellung des Weinbaues vom Rebenschössling bis zum Lagerfass; endlich Ligerz mit dem Fischereigerwerbe, humoristisch und viel beklatscht. Das Schmockerli mit seinen Gesellen vom Heimatschutztheater bildete die farbige Nachhut des Zuges.

Das Treiben und Leben auf der Plattform am Samstag und Sonntag anlässlich der verschiedenartigen Veranstaltungen war ugelungen. Das unaufdringliche Sammeln hatte jedenfalls guten klingenden Erfolg, dank dem erfreulichen Zusammenwirken von Stadt und Land.

Die Roheinnahmen aus Festzug, Eintrittsgeldern, Verkauf bei den Ständen, Tanzgeldern und Budenbetrieb betragen rund 57,000 Franken. Der Wirtschaftsbetrieb ist dabei nicht eingerechnet und dürfte noch eine hübsche Summe ergeben.

("Oberländisches Volksblatt," Interlaken.)

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Exotische Fische.—Wie dem "Olt. Tagbl." geschrieben wird, hat ein eifriger Sportfischer in Aarburg einen seltenen Fang gemacht. Zu seinem nicht geringen Erstaunen fand er im eingezogenen Netz ein eigenartig Fischlein, das durch sein schillerndes Blau, mit roten Tupfen vermergt, auffiel. Es handelt sich um den sogenannten Sonnenfisch (Eupomotus aurens). Sein Reich sind die Gewässer von Amerika. Er ist ein kleiner Percide, der vor Jahren nach Europa gebracht wurde, um als Zierfisch gehalten zu werden. Dass diese Fischart auch in unsern Gewässern gedeiht, dürfte allgemein interessieren.

("Neue Aargauer Zeitung.")

HERE AND THERE.

By J. H. Cortesey.

The "silly season" is approaching. There is no news yet of the Sea Serpent, the weather having been too unfavourable to encourage his leaving the depths of ocean and take his annual trip to the seaside resorts. That tired, lazy feeling which creates the desire to look on and do nothing, and which is one of the season's telling symptoms, seems to have reached its culmination. It may not be mainly due to general overwork—our benevolent legislation having seen to that—but it appears to be strongly prevalent all the same. The only subjects a reader can appreciate at such a period are those that—unlike the abstruse ones—demand no effort of mind whatever, and these you cannot get exactly as and when you want them.

Governmental affairs, for instance, on the whole offer dry and indigestible reading matter. However, "here and there" an incident may arise to brighten the political horizon. The serious *Times* to-day provides a "dessert" which is served up by its correspondent at Baghdad and might form the theme of a "desert" brigand's story.

It appears that the desert sheikhs have accepted a lump sum of money to restrain their tribes from raiding the service of motor omnibuses now working between Baghdad and Aleppo.

"Hold ups" may thus be prevented for the comfort of prospective passengers, "and," says the *Times*, "the morality of the arrangement is perhaps less conspicuous than its humour. The prosaic West would probably call it compounding a felony by anticipation, and, having regard to the fact that a motor omnibus company, like other corporations, has neither a soul to be saved nor a body to be kicked, would mulct it in fines. Not so the romantic, philosophic, fatalist East. There the permanent facts of life, including the ancient and respectable profession of desert raiding, are recognized, and allowance is made for the cost thereof in reckoning the overhead charges of the service. But what if even one sheikh should prove unable to restrain his tribe? It is a five days' journey between Baghdad and Aleppo, a long line of communication to protect. It seems desirable to add a fidelity guarantee policy to cover all the sheikhs and their retainers. We may smile at this characteristically Oriental bargain, but our enjoyment is not without a touch of regret, even of jealousy. The spirit of romance is not dead, even among the myriads who travel in safety every day by motor-omnibus between the Bank and Hammersmith. There are some who, like the hero of Lord Dunsany's play, 'If,' would be ready for the adventure of the gorgeous East, if only it would come their way."

There may not, however, be so much difference, except the colouring, in the ways between the East and the West as things appear at first sight. For one thing, we have read of clever forgers being paid for their *not* practising their art. And, if we look a little further, we may find that the same thing is done under other names and circumstances.

In a way we, too, are fatalists!

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Our moods are as variable as the sky in this changeful climate. A sense of elation possesses us, and we are fain to caper like children. Again, a feeling of tender sadness steals over our spirits like a grey cloud. This may be followed by a mood of mutiny against—everything.

And we are not alone. Animals share the same feelings.

The "Zoo" elephant who, in a fit of slothfulness that lasted for a period as long as her body is large, went on "strike" owing to that moody impulse. She was not vicious, but in the spring she suddenly declined to carry any more children for rides.

An elephant trainer, brought over from Assam—a gentle mahout—is coaxing her back to obedience by talking pleasantly in her ear: "I am told that you eat your food and will not work. It is wrong. Allah enjoins on us all that we must work if we would eat. You are cheating your masters, and it is most unworthy of you."

Indarini, the elephant, understands the Hindustani language and now obeys every order—which is evidence of her good intentions, her memory and reasoning powers.

In this case kindness was the effective method employed. But when an elephant is mutinous, as recently happened in the case of one attached to a field gun battery at Hyderabad, flogging is applied by two "police" elephants—not with an ordinary whip, but with a long iron chain. In this instance the sentence of the court martial was read to him: "Military Elephant Suleiman, No. 37! You have in a fit of wicked temper slain your kind mahout . . . thus causing grief to his family, loss to the state . . . For this sin . . . you are sentenced . . ." After enduring ten of the best, meanwhile shaking the neighbourhood with his screams, the culprit was led away.

The elephant who is "paraded and flogged"—shamed—rarely repeats the offence.

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Other animals, other ways. It is said Eve was tempted by the serpent. Yet you do not feel impelled to pat the head of a snake as you would that of a dog or cat; at least this was my impression when one day I had an interview with an exhibitor of snakes. The room was full of them. They were of all sizes and nationalities. He was calmly sitting, smoking his pipe, while his wife was apparently washing or brushing one that looked like a python. "Please, be seated," he said; and, as he saw I was hesitating, "Do not be afraid. They will not hurt you." They did not; but after half-an-hour of their society I was rather glad to say "good-bye" to them.

Really, these snakes were well-behaved and charming fellows compared with the cobras which the Prince of Wales has presented to the Zoological Gardens. If pythons may go a whole year without feeding, not so the king cobras. They want a meal once a month at least, and what a meal! They do not hesitate to absorb their own brother and sister serpents. They are cannibals.

When the "lunch" wriggles into the cage, the king cobra may tolerate it for a while, but there is no question as to what happens and who wins. The head rears up, the hood opens out like the ace of spades, a flashing stroke, and the "lunch" is paralyzed by the cobra's venom, thus becoming "cooked and ready."

The "Zoo" has found it healthier for the other serpents that they should be guarded from the company of the cobra, as its presence was the cause of many having gone the "same way home."

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Every day sees the birth of new kinds of aeroplane—some of speeds varying between 100 to 240 miles an hour. Ordinary defects, such as cause losses due to air resistance, are one after another being eliminated. It becomes more and more difficult to know what is the best 'plane, and

what is coming out next. So the buyers are hesitating and—waiting.

Anyway, air travel has its cow story now to form a "pendant" to the railway one of George Stephenson, who, when questioned as to what would happen to a cow getting in the way of his locomotive, answered: "It would be the worse for the cow!"

The air cow is a Newcastle one. She was struck by one of the fleet of R.A.F. machines when landing after a flight. She stood the impact well, and is none the "worse" for it.

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Why look stern to appear *sérieux*? The idea is condemned as based on wrong principles, and a resolution has been passed at the Conference of School Managers, which reads:—"That in view of the high medical value of laughter to the child and to the nation, more attention should be given to the humorous side of life in elementary schools."

Mr. W. Pett Ridge, who deals with the subject in the *Evening News*, concludes thus:—

"Schooldays should create agreeable memories, and they need not be depressing experiences. As it is, the London child, in the hard-up districts, is often disposed to regard Saturday and Sunday as the only days worth living, in that they bring relief from strict authority, rigid decorum. Soap and water, for example, can then be used sparingly. A boy arrived at the gates of his school, by a misunderstanding, on an afternoon when there was no need for attendance.

'Closed,' announced the schoolkeeper. 'Half holiday.'

'Dash it!' exclaimed the boy, vehemently. 'And I've been and washed my face and hands!'"

OFFICE CENTRAL INTERUNIVERSITAIRE SUISSE

Notice sur les Universités Suisses.

(Communicated by the Swiss Legation.)

La Suisse est un *Etat fédératif*, ce qui se traduit, au point de vue universitaire, par un régime à part. La *Confédération*, ainsi qu'un certain nombre de *Cantons* entretiennent des universités, qui toutes ont le caractère *d'établissements de l'Etat*. La Confédération, toutefois, n'entretient qu'une Ecole polytechnique fédérale, tandis qu'il existe 7 universités cantonales.

I. LES UNIVERSITES CANTONALES.

A. Généralités.

Les cantons étant souverains en matière d'enseignement supérieur sont libres d'organiser leurs universités comme bon leur semble, sans être aucunement liés par des règles communes. En réalité, il existe toutefois entre les universités une entente sur les points les plus importants, de sorte qu'il est possible d'émettre à leur sujet un certain nombre de généralités: Il convient néanmoins de retenir qu'il n'existe aucune prescription uniforme, mais seulement des dispositions particulières, présentant, quant à leur contenu de nombreux points de contact.

Quiconque désire être renseigné très exactement sur les prescriptions en vigueur dans une université doit se procurer les règlements édictés par elle.

Les 7 universités cantonales de Bâle, Berne, Fribourg, Genève, Neuchâtel, Lausanne et Zurich possèdent, dans la règle, les facultés suivantes:

1. Théologie.
2. Droit et sciences politiques.
3. Médecine.
4. Lettres (philosophie, philologie, histoire).
5. Sciences (mathématiques et sciences naturelles).