

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK  
**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom  
**Band:** - (1922)  
**Heft:** 62  
  
**Rubrik:** Here and there

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

**Download PDF:** 16.05.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

ture for the commercial exploitation of his wonderful discovery, and aims at nothing less than the manufacture of his two curative agents, serum and vaccine, so that they may be distributed to rich and poor alike all over the world, and at the cost price of manufacture.

The Spahlinger serum takes anything from one to four years to produce, and, at the present stage of the work, seven horses are required for manufacturing one complete treatment.

The bacteriologist's simple explanation of the serum treatment for consumption is that it resembles the anti-toxin treatment for diphtheria. The serum is painlessly prepared from certain animals stabled near the bacteriologist's germ factory in Geneva.

Medical belief in the serum in this country is summed up in the action of the British Red Cross Society, who are negotiating with Dr. Spahlinger for supplies of vaccine and serum to combat consumption here.

M. Spahlinger is understood to have experimented on his own body with the life-prolonging ferment, which may account for his own extraordinary vigour and youthful appearance."

The universal delight will, no doubt, be shared by the monkeys and the goats, who will enjoy again undisturbed possession of their own glands and whose service to humanity the cocktail will continue to commemorate. The new serum should also prove a stimulating acquisition to the "Brighter London" movement.

\* \* \*

Dr. A. Rollier, of Leysin, the well-known authority on consumption and modern heliotherapy, who attended the recent meeting of the British Medical Association at Glasgow, delivered an illustrated lecture on July 28th at Bradford on "The Share of the Sun in the Treatment and Prevention of Tuberculosis."

\* \* \*

The Canton of Grisons has its own ways in matters which elsewhere are dealt with by acknowledged standards; motor cars are still barred, but the official recognition of a herbal doctor in the person of a friar takes us back to the Middle Ages, when both the spiritual and physical welfare of the people were in the hands of the religious orders. The following is from *The Daily Telegraph* (July 31st):—

"Two years ago a certain Friar Künzle arrived in the Canton of the Grisons, where he attended not merely to the spiritual needs of his flock, but to their physical distresses. True, the studies which had occupied his nearly three-score years had been theological, and not medical, but he professed to have found in the Alpine and sub-Alpine flora of the canton many roots and plants from which much virtue might be extracted, and he prescribed freely for all manner of ills.

The medical profession naturally looked askance at him, but did not directly interfere with him. There was but one way for him to become recognised as a healer by herbal remedies, and that was to induce the people of the canton to vote at one of those local referendums which are so frequent in Switzerland a local law authorising the practice of 'healing by non-poisonous herbs' administered by duly authorised practitioners. The people passed the referendum, and now the cantonal authorities have officially recognised Friar Künzle as authorised to practise the art of healing by 'non-poisonous herbs.' Before putting this law into force the Cantonal Fathers appointed a commission of four, all supposed to have knowledge of herbal remedies and herbal treatment. They wanted a duly qualified practising doctor to sit on the commission, but all declined except one, and he was a man no longer in practice.

The long and short of it is that Friar Künzle is practising as a Dr. med. herbarum by the will of the people, endorsed by the Commission of Four."

\* \* \*

An English translation of W. Oechsli's "History of Switzerland 1499—1914" has been published by the Cambridge University Press (Price 20s. net).

## HERE AND THERE.

By J. H. Corthesy.

Said the elderly colonel triumphantly: "Did you see that girl smile at me?" "That's nothing to worry about," answered his friend of the Brighton Marine Parade, mistaking the colonel's tone, "why, the first time I saw you I laughed out loud, but I soon got used to your face."

A most ungenerous remark, which, however, shows the way the world looks at things when it tries to be funny. And when does it not? Pessimists gloat over the fulfilment of their gloomy predictions and never feel so happy as when they are in the midst of rank misery—especially if it is not their own. The world is viewed by each from his own standpoint and according to his own standard of intelligence or knowledge.

\* \* \*

While *savants*, like Dr. Spahlinger and Dr. Steinach, are doing their best to eradicate the ills that flesh is heir to and prolong life to the reasonable limit of 150 years, with the alluring vision of a renewal of youth to those who have attained the period of senility—that is youth with *all* its attributes, which is a very important point—to the evident detriment and disappointment of *expectant* heirs, all worthy of deep sympathy, we have, on the other hand, experts in science bent on the search for the cheapest process to obliterate our human existence in the shortest space of time. Thomas Edison, who is in the know, gave his reply to a curious Fleet Street journalist's question "if it were true that London could be destroyed in a day?" "No, not in a day, but in *three hours* not a live being would remain."

There is no doubt that all the savants, scientists and researchers are animated with the best of intentions for one purpose or another, and it rests with each of us to decide which is the most advantageous policy to follow.

Now, if within three hours from the beginning of hostilities, of which *no notice* would be given by any government, or, for the matter of that, by any set of enterprising individuals, we all run the risk of being transferred outside the limits of our present conscious state, is it really worth while thinking of such material things as dinners, rent, rates, taxes, or, in fact, of the possibility of extending our shaky hopes until we reach the good age of 150?

Of course, there is the optimistic way of tackling the question, which is shared, at the present moment at least, by the majority of the population and consists in holiday-making. Despite the uncertainty of the weather, cares have been put aside, and, regardless of cost and comfort, there has been a general exodus from London which exceeds all previous records. But what reveals the state of the pockets is the fact reported from the "health" resorts that people do not *spend* with the same freedom as of yore.

\* \* \*

Holiday-taking forms both a physical and a mental exercise of considerable value. With the change of atmosphere and surroundings comes the change of thoughts. The main idea is to benefit by an exposure of oneself to the Sun.

Not all are favoured with the opportunity of returning from the hills or the seashore sands with a sunburnt skin, or to retain this healthy appearance for long. But do not despair. Science again has come to serve a good cause, for henceforth you may laugh at our big sun's little trick of hiding behind the clouds. London may be plunged in gloom, it may be in the grip of a thick black fog—it does not matter. You can have your own sun at home, with its

full rays on day and night. You can get *bronzed*, you can breathe ozone and be penetrated by those mystic ultra-violet rays—a speciality of the Alps—which will keep you in a healthy state, as they even cure consumption. You can get all this by simply turning a switch. As for the treatment, you lie on a couch more comfortably than you would on the sands, only with rather less clothing on, a pair of motor-goggles being all that is required. After ten doses of "quartz" lamp rays, as they are called, you become brown all over. Their effect equals that of an Alpine holiday, says Dr. H. W. Anderschou, of 48, Tavistock Square, W.C.

\* \* \*

I have witnessed new, raw port wine actually grow years older in an hour or two by its exposure to ozone. On entering the "transformation" laboratory, the impression was that of being at sea on a stormy day—not on account of the rolling illusion wine may produce, as demonstrated in the well-known picture of the man who is struck by the sight of the moving furniture and feels for the "poor shailors at sea," but by the smell of electrified air, or ozone, which accomplishes such wonderful changes in both living beings and dead matter.

Dr. Steinach does not use ozone, however. He simply ties off the duct of a certain life-giving gland in an old man's body, so that six months after the operation, which lasts a few minutes with the aid of a local anaesthetic, forty years can be discounted from his age. There is no grafting of other glands in this case, but for women the operation is different and more complicated. But from the moment of the operation "the patient," says the *Sunday Express*, "whether man or woman, visibly grows backwards. White hair turns back to its natural black or brown, wrinkles disappear, and the face fills out and takes on the fresh colour of youth . . . The brain is not only invigorated, but takes the power of early youth combined with the knowledge gained by the experience of a long life."

\* \* \*

It seems to be everybody's business to appear—if not to be— young, whether one wants to or not.

Smooth faces are the order of the day. A few hairs to punctuate the place where a *moustache* might be, are permitted. But the least sign of a beard or whiskers entitles the wearer to the name of "Beaver" by urchins and other *personnes de distinction*, who may follow him and show their disapproval by words or gesture.

This is a new game, and one may wonder what its origin may have been. Is there a conspiracy behind it, for the benefit of barbers or of razor merchants?

A millionaire safety-razor producer, who recently aired his desire of providing the means for the daily suppression of all hair on the male faces of this Earth, has been the cause of many fortunes being realized by his past financiers who fell in with the safety self-shaving scheme, although at its inception its success appeared doubtful.

The "Beaver" game is all to the good of the shaving business. But "have a care," as the American says, a counter game may be started by the "beardy ones" with its cry to all the clean-shaven: "Baby Face!"

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

Mr. Max Piaget, a member of our Swiss Colony, is on a climbing tour in Switzerland and has just succeeded in ascending the Jungfrau.

## L'INITIATIVE CONTRE LE TARIF DOUANIER PROVISOIRE.\*

Il n'en convient pas moins d'examiner sommairement les raisons qui *doivent* engager tout citoyen partisan du régime d'ordre à accepter le tarif douanier provisoire. Ce tarif certes est loin d'être parfait. Il présente ici et là des dispositions inadmissibles et que la future loi douanière — actuellement en élaboration — devra nécessairement écarter. Il n'en demeure pas moins vrai que dans son ensemble, le régime provisoire est acceptable, surtout si on le compare à celui qui est en vigueur dans les autres pays.

Dans un but facile à deviner on a en effet fortement exagéré la portée des nouveaux droits, en s'appliquant notamment à mettre plus spécialement en évidence les taux les plus élevés et en évitant soigneusement d'en mesurer l'influence générale sur le coût de la vie ou le prix de revient des produits manufacturés. Quelques indications puisées à une source officielle démontrent le contraire. Par exemple pour la grande majorité des positions du tarif (prop. de 13 à 15) l'imposition douanière des *matières premières* est inférieure au 1% de la valeur. Les *denrées alimentaires*, d'une importance capitale dans la question qui nous occupe, n'aquittent pas plus du 1% en moyenne. Reconnaissons en outre, que depuis son entrée en vigueur, le nouveau régime provisoire n'a pas empêché la baisse du coût de la vie de se manifester dans une mesure très sensible, qu'ignorent la plupart des pays européens.

Nous constatons donc que le tarif provisoire respecte les principes à la base de notre constitution fédérale qui exigent une faible imposition des matières premières et des denrées alimentaires.

Pour nous rendre compte de la nécessité du relèvement des droits de douanes résultant des arrêtés fédéraux de 1921, considérons les raisons qui inspirèrent nos pouvoirs publics dans leurs décisions.

Le tarif précédant datait de 1912. Or nul ne contestera que la situation générale s'est sensiblement modifiée depuis cette époque où les gouvernements ignoraient encore les graves soucis qui dans le domaine économique et financier les préoccupent aujourd'hui si fortement. Notre système douanier frappant les produits d'après leur poids, les droits de 1912 ne correspondent plus à la valeur actuelle de l'argent qui subit, comme on le sait, une forte dépréciation. D'autre part la guerre et l'après-guerre exigèrent de l'Etat un effort financier extraordinaire, à la suite des obligations nouvelles qui lui incombèrent. Le nouveau tarif fut précisément une adaptation: 1) à la dépréciation monétaire, 2) aux charges nouvelles grevant le budget de la Confédération.

Chacun sait que les gouvernements à court d'argent ont à leur disposition divers moyens de se procurer des ressources, par exemple, la "planche à assignats," l'emprunt, les impôts, les recettes douanières. — Nous ne parlons pas des monopoles, institutions incompatibles avec nos idées sur le rôle de l'état dans une démocratie.

Félicitons-nous certes, de ce que les circonstances, la sagesse et la prudente gestion de notre gouvernement nous ont évité de partager la situation critique de certains pays

\* From an article in the August bulletin of the "Comptoir Suisse" (Lausanne). The continuation of the temporary schedule of import duties now in force has been challenged by an "initiative" and will be submitted to the vote of the people.