

# Round an about

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his first booklet during the war. It was called "Stille Soldaten" and gave a number of sidelights on the life of the Swiss militia at the frontier. Curious images and an exquisite style which one felt to be the expression of a refined, tender, yet very definitely built personality, drew one's attention immediately to the writer. Much love of nature was in the book. Its quiet, dispassionate verses only saw the good in comradeship and walking through lanes and woods. The poet has ever since kept in touch with Nature. He has even become more static than Siegfried Lang. In the three collections of verse which he has published since his first essay he conveys a great number of fine impressions, but also a number of poems in which his gradual estrangement from the commerce of men expresses itself very bluntly. He keeps on preaching to himself and the world that complete introspection is the only valuable thing, that to rely on oneself alone matters, that the inner light only will enable one to lead the "right life" as one of his latest books is called. With all that his power of expression has ripened. The philosophical or mystical trend has become somewhat tiresome of late, as a state of absolute quietude seems to be reached now and then. Nobody, however, can deny the harmony of his vision, nor entirely escape its peculiar, sweet and lovable spell.

(To be concluded.)

## ROUND AND ABOUT.

In these days of tropic heat it becomes a herculean task to sit down and write on the doings of the colony, all the more so when there is practically nothing to report upon. One correspondent writes to me that the last issue was as dry and as void of stimulating influence as the printing advertisement which was inserted as a filler; to judge by the result of the latter, I certainly agree with my critic. Another has sent me a cutting from a Sunday paper dealing with the divorce case of a compatriot; he thinks that it would make interesting reading, especially as from the absence of such news in our paper it would appear that the Swiss are immune from these domestic cataclysms.

There was not a big crowd at the monthly dinner of the City Swiss Club last Tuesday, but those stalwarts who sacrificed their physical comfort for a rare treat in many respects. Applications for membership there were none; I could not imagine anyone wishing to join a social club in the heart of the West-End at this time of the year. There was never a more unanimous resolution than when it was decided to have the next meeting at Kingston again, on the 11th of September; a special "whip" will be sent out to all the members. Mr. J. Geilinger gave a detailed report of his Swiss trip, the first in 45 years. He was very enthusiastic about what he had seen and did not think Paradise could be an improvement. He was struck by the many villas and palatial residences which Swiss manufacturers were able to build out of their reputed trading losses. Of all the towns he thought Berne was the only one with an essentially Swiss cachet.—Mr. Louis Chapuis, who has just returned from an extended business trip in America, gave us the benefit of his impressions; they showed that dexterity and resourcefulness, added to a strong dose of *baksheesh*, generally enables human nature to get through the barriers which a paternal Government has erected for the supposed welfare of mankind. His exposure of some of the secrets of the bootlegging fraternity created as much amusement as astonishment, especially when he stated that the prohibitionist movement was, to a very large extent, financially supported by the illicit trading interests. It has been suggested to me that his observations might be the subject of a most interesting article in the *S.O.*, but probably he would not care to see in print some of his critical references. I should like to ask him here to consider seriously this suggestion; he is always so exceedingly obliging, and it is thanks to him that I became possessed of the traditional pipe which his firm so generously offers to the club on the occasion of the monthly meetings.—These two reports were enjoyed very much by those present, and it seems to me they ought to become a feature of our gatherings, as lectures are in other societies. There are many members who travel about a good deal, and their individual impressions and observations should prove a valuable source of instruction and enlightenment to those who are kept near their own hearth.

Writing about prohibition, and knowing that there are not many of this persuasion amongst our compatriots, reminds me of a great discovery. I am always delighted when I come across a first-

class English restaurant that goes to the trouble of stocking Swiss wines: the "Coventry," in Raper Street, W., is one of them, and those who like to drop in will be surprised to meet an old friend there in the person of the manager, Mr. L. Blesson. He used to be with Gatti's, in the Strand, where, after the dinners of the C.S.C., he was the recipient of those presidential compliments of which Mr. P. Chatelanat was such a past-master.

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It comes in pat that I have just sampled a "Swiss Sparkling Apple Juice" which is being sold in this country by the Waterloo Bottling Co., Ltd. It is a most refreshing champagne-like non-alcoholic beverage at a reasonable price, particularly welcome during the present hot spell.

\*\*\*

I hear that Madame Raoul de Cintra has just presented her husband with a new pledge of their mutual affection; mother and "daughter" are both doing well.



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Dimanche, 19 Août, 11 h.—M. J. Ramseyer.  
6.30.—Pfr. U. Wildbolz.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Nuthall's Restaurant, Kingston-on-Thames.

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