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Geneva is a delightful city to wander about in. When you are tired of monuments and relics (and don't forget those of Rousseau in the University Library) you have the market and the fine shops to fall back on. The second-hand bookshops near the Hôtel de Ville are more fatally alluring than those of Edinburgh. The cafés are cosmopolitan in their ranges of beverages; a lyric mood is induced by the iced beer and the coffee ices. A lazy hour can be spent in feeding the deer and waterfowl in the beautiful Arian Park. And there is always the Rhone. On a hot day you can pass into a Yoga state by leaning on the quay rail and gazing at the intense living blue of the light shining through the water at the weir. There is endless fascination, too, in the stream of motors and foot-passengers on the Pont de Mont Blanc. Every race is represented. The League and the International Labour Office are the centres of a circle of school and conferences that fills the whole year. Americans flock to Geneva, drawn perhaps by the same impulse that draws moths to the candle or flies to a spider's web. The inspection of the parlour is doing much to dispel the bogeys raised by untravelled politicians in the Middle West.

Geneva is honeycombed with international bureaux of all kinds. In many of these our countrymen play a foremost part. There are several Scots names in the Geneva telephone directory. That is in accordance with old tradition. Geneva was the Rome of Calvinism, and Scotland was its Spain. It was the battle-front of democratic Protestantism against the egregious Dukes of Savoy. Calvin set up his Genevan theocracy in 1541. Knox joined him in 1554, and until 1559 acted as English pastor in the Auditoire which still stands beside the Cathedral. Knox is one of the four gigantic figures—the others are Calvin, Farel and Bèze—in the centre of the great Reformation Monument stretching for 100 yards along the high wall facing across the gardens to the University; and one of the subjects represented in the low-relief panels is Knox preaching in St. Giles.

The Reformation Monument (erected in 1917), with the strip of clear water beneath it, the balustrade above, and the continuation of the composition along the sides of the garden steps in front, is the most beautiful and the most interesting object in Geneva. I make bold to say that it is the finest monument of its kind in the world. Its vital artistry has been inspired by appreciation of the inner soul of this unique city, where the rich beauty of the plains is chastened and enhanced by the spiritual strength of the mountains, and where every human instinct finds a response in nature. The Geneva of Farel and Calvin was the nucleus of the modern world. It was the organisation of human will and purpose, under divine aegis, against feudalism, ignorance, squalor, sensuality, and brainless or cynical subservience. It was an attempt to establish the City of God on earth. It failed because the social and mental discipline involved by the conflict was inconsistent with true freedom. But the ideal remained. It manifested itself in the passionate rhapsodies of Geneva's greatest son, Rousseau, whose squalid existence only deepened his yearning for purity, love and pastoral peace. Rousseau's dynamic force gave a Utopian direction to the cynical genius of Voltaire, who in his later years created a model village beside his chateau at Ferney, four miles from Geneva. On the lakeside, eight miles from Ferney and ten from Geneva, is Coppet, once the residence of Louis XVI's Finance Minister, the Genevese Necker, who married Gibbon's old flame, Suzanne Curchod. Their daughter, Madame de Staël, carried on the tradition of Geneva by making Italy and Germany known to France and pleading for intellectual co-operation among the nations. In 1864 a Genevese citizen, who had been moved by the plight of the wounded on the battlefield of Solferino, founded the Red Cross Society, whose headquarters are at Geneva, and which may be regarded as the precursor of the League of Nations.

From 1798 to 1814 Geneva was the capital of a French département. In the latter year it joined the Swiss Federation. The decision was momentous. It saved Geneva from withering into dull provincialism in the shadow of Paris, and reserved it as an independent centre of French culture, a culture simpler than that of Paris, but breathing "an ampler ether, a diviner air." The "Revue de Genève" has a broadly international outlook that is conspicuously lacking in any of the Paris magazines. As a member of the Swiss Federation, also, Geneva was providentially reserved for the great part it was to play as a centre of the efforts towards international peace and co-operation. The augustness of its destiny was made apparent in November, 1920, when the Assembly of the League of Nations held its first meeting in the Salle de la Réformation, a plain old building which recalls the first meeting-place of the Free Church of Scotland.

On the outside of the front wall of the present

Palais des Nations is a monument which is as impressive in its own way as the Monument de la Réformation. It is a large plain slab erected by the citizens of Geneva in memory of an American who inherited Scottish blood and the Calvinist tradition—President Wilson, "Fondateur de la Société des Nations." The English-speaking world has not been kept in ignorance regarding Wilson's shortcomings. He was dictatorial, pedantic, often clumsy, and while he was almost too impartial in his judgment of Britain, he failed to bring the domestic politics of his own country into the big perspective in which he viewed world affairs. He had great faults. So had Calvin, and Rousseau, and Heine. The contrast between a great spiritual aim and its human means and agents is always rather pitiful. But, in virtue of his steadfast adherence to the one thing needful, Wilson was a bigger man than any of his associates. He hitched his wagon to a star, and held on even when to many eyes the star seemed a failing one. He does not count yet for much in Zenith, but in the city of Calvin and Rousseau he has been assigned a foremost place among those who in good or evil fortune remained faithful to their social interpretation of the prayer, "Thy will be done on earth." Wilson may yet be a greater name than Washington. The city that has honoured him has more "magnificent distances" than can yet be glimpsed from the American Capitol: for its lines go out to the ends of the earth. To-day, as in the sixteenth century, the hope of the world lies in Geneva.

The Summer Season.

A short resumé is given in the *Morning Post* (Sept. 8th) with the results of the chief sporting events. The season has not been as lucrative as the hotel proprietors fondly expected, and efforts are being made to prolong it with the assistance of the Swiss Federal Railways, who are urged to give special travelling facilities, i.e., reduce the cost of travelling. However, from what I hear, the boot seems to be on the other foot: the tariffs of many hotels may be a matter of indifference to Maharajahs and belated war-profiteers, but money is not flowing so freely now, and people like to see their *quid pro quo*.

The summer season in Switzerland, taken as a whole, was good, but rather disappointing. This was chiefly due to the unsettled weather, which made climbing almost out of the question in the early weeks of the season. In consequence of this, too, there were a good many accidents and some fatalities.

Lucerne, Interlaken and many of the lower centres did best, while the higher resorts suffered in comparison with last year. The attractions offered everywhere, in the shape of golf and tennis tournaments, boating and bathing, excursions and, above all, dancing, were numerous and varied enough, but unless the weather is fine these are not sufficient to keep all the hotels full for very long.

Golf and tennis were more popular than ever. The open golf championship was decided at Lausanne and fell to A. Ross, a Scottish professional attached to the Geneva Golf Club, while the amateur championships were played on the 18-hole course at Lucerne, that for men being won by Captain T. D. Richardson, the well-known skater, who acts as Hon. Secretary to the Engelberg Golf Club, and the ladies' championship by Mlle. Marietta Beck, of Budapest.

The lawn tennis championships were decided at Champéry, but few well-known British players competed, though the title has often been held by them in former years.

One of the events of the summer was the unveiling of a memorial tablet at Zermatt to Edward Whymper, for the pioneer work he did in climbing in the Swiss Alps in the Sixties and Seventies.

The postal motor-cars carried many more passengers than ever before, and the motor coach is multiplying fast: where, two or three years ago, there was one, there are now fifteen or twenty, but under this heading there are fortunately no accidents to record. Hundreds of private cars toured the country with family parties, and advantage was taken of the reopening of the main roads in the Engadine. In all probability this former "Bluebeard's Chamber" will remain permanently open in the future.

Although the summer season is practically over, many people are staying on through September, which is one of the most delightful months of the year in Switzerland. The mountain resorts, however, are being deserted for lakeside spots, such as Montreux, Lucerne, Geneva, Ouchy, Zurich, Lugano and Locarno, as well as the northern bank of the Lake of Thun, which lies facing the great peaks of the Oberland.

Blessing the Mountains.

Here is a picturesque description of a quaint old ceremony still observed in some districts of the canton of Valais. It is probably unknown to many of our readers; the article is culled from the *Catholic Herald* (Sept. 5th):—

In the month of July, when the cattle are ready to be driven to the high pastures, the

parish priest announces the expected ceremony, and the word is carried over the mountains from house to house. This is a signal for vigorous house-cleaning. The women don their holiday attire, flags are raised, and the children bring in armfuls of rhododendrons for decoration. There is no hope for fine weather, or a good harvest, until the blessing has been imparted.

On the morning of the great day, when the first streak of dawn appears, the priest, knapsack on his back, and accompanied by a Capuchin and a boy, leaves the church, crosses the mountain torrent, and starts his ascent of the mountain. For hours and hours he climbs, on his way to the upper pastures, up steep paths and rocky trails, bordered at this season with a profusion of wild flowers and fragrant mountain mint.

At each house the mother and children stand in line before the door to welcome him. The priest blesses the water and the salt, then the house.

Then comes the most impressive ceremony of all, the blessing of the mountain. By contrast with the mightiness of the snow-clad peaks, the blessing is given with a branch of rhododendron, used as a hyssop, the pearly blossoms of which throw the holy water high into the air toward the lofty summits, while the priest pronounces the words which are intended to ward off storms and avalanches.

The people, kneeling, murmur prayers all the while. Ten and twelve times a day the ceremony is repeated. At nightfall the priest, weary from his strenuous labours, pauses to hear confessions. The penitents, who have finished their day's work and brought home their herds, go to the priest during the night and wait, praying all the while for the Mass which is celebrated at dawn.

The Divine Sacrifice is celebrated in the open, on the mountain side, under the blue canopy of the sky, with the mountain torrents thundering a majestic hymn of praise. Nothing, says "La Liberté," is more impressive than the sight of these mountaineers kneeling to receive their God in this mighty Alpine basilica.

LA SIXIEME SESSION DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS A GENEVE.

Ces "Messieurs" siègent à nouveau et ils sont venus à Genève avec toute leur pompe ordinaire. On a revu les Persans au bonnet d'astrakan, les "Jaunes" à la face arondie et souriante, et même le décoratif Maharajah au turban bleu et à la fortune colossale qui fait l'admiration des foules. Y a-t-il à part ces "curiosités" d'autres choses au d'autres personnes à citer? Un malin et sans doute méchant homme me murmurerait hier à l'oreille que si l'on supprimait ce décorum il ne resterait pas grand chose de cette réunion d'hommes importants. Il exagérerait sans doute, toujours est-il que l'on reste quelque peu surpris à entendre le flot de discours, de paroles qui pleut chaque jour sur ces hommes éminents si l'on compare ces préambules aux résultats finaux. Puis lorsqu'on a causé avec les "grands" de ce monde et lorsqu'on a pesé la réelle valeur de leurs déclarations on se demande s'ils se sont moqués de vous ou bien si eux-mêmes ne sont pas les jouets de leurs propres déclarations et s'ils ne subissent pas une sorte d'auto-suggestion qui leur fait prendre au sérieux des mots qui n'en ont pas.

La grave question du Protocole de Genève semble diviser l'Assemblée et les mots ne couvrent jamais les points de vue totalement opposés. Pour ne pas déplaire à la "plus" Grande Nation du monde on a donc enterré avec toute la douceur nécessaire ce Pacte qui l'année dernière avait soulevé l'enthousiasme des foules. Pour qui se souvient des heures d'ivresse de Septembre 1924 où dans une même pensée tous les peuples fraternisaient déjà dans le sentiment d'une paix définitivement assurée, et lorsqu'on compare cela à la douche versée par le Représentant Britannique sur l'Assemblée de cette année on se demande comment ces "Messieurs" ont le courage de recommencer un essai de conciliation générale.

Et cela vous amène à vous demander si les travaux annuels de Genève valent vraiment ce que la Presse leur accorde comme importance, et si les grandes Chancelleries s'occupent seulement de ce qui se passe à Genève ou si la réunion de ces hommes éminents n'est qu'une suprême habileté pour faire croire aux peuples assoiffés de paix que l'on s'occupe réellement de la leur donner alors qu'en réalité on joue simplement une fine et délicate comédie à laquelle on n'ajoute pas la moindre importance.

Voyez le splendide discours prononcé par Monsieur Paul Boncour! Quel mouvement, quelle allure, quelle puissance, et ajoutez vous quel résultat? Eh bien non! aucun résultat. Après avoir affirmé la foi de la France envers le Protocole; après en avoir montré les avantages et les beautés, on attendait une conclusion. On! mais voilà cette conclusion aurait mis le feu aux poudres et après avoir brillamment expliqué son point de vue l'honorable délégué a conclu en... sens inverse. Il n'est pas le seul et il ne faut pas lui en vouloir. Il paraît

que la politique est faite de nécessités semblables et de reniements analogues. Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de l'Empire Britannique n'a-t-il pas lui-même reconnu que la meilleure politique (celle de son pays naturellement) repose sur l'empirisme le plus complet. Dès lors il n'y a plus qu'à laisser causer en attendant que cette rage oratoire désormais annuelle ne disparaisse d'elle-même.

Il y a pourtant des délégations qui sont sincères et qui voudraient donner aux réunions de Genève leur véritable signification. Mais à celles-là on ferme la bouche en la bourrant de fleurs si belles et si odorantes que les pauvres délégués se laissent étouffer presque avec plaisir!

Ne croyez pas cependant que ces "Messieurs" soient inoccupés! Il leur est réservé mille délicats amusements qui chantent toute la gamme depuis l'étude d'un texte juridique jusqu'à la dégustation d'un plantureux banquet. Et si vous pouviez dénombrer ces agapes fraternelles vous comprendriez que ces Messieurs ne soient plus en forme pour fournir le lendemain matin un travail d'arrachepied. Aussi lorsqu'on est venu une année à Genève, l'on cherche toujours à y revenir, et l'on y revient toujours avec plaisir.

Si vous me demandez maintenant quel avantage les pauvres contribuables du monde... presqu'entier, ont à soutenir de leur porte-monnaies les effusions de ces Messieurs, je vous répondrai que le monde vit d'illusions et que celle de croire que la Paix — avec un grand "P" — leur sera bientôt garantie est la plus puissante peut-être. Des lors à quoi bon ôter aux pantins que nous sommes une illusion aussi honnête et pourquoi déchaîner un nouveau torrent de paroles haineuses à l'égard de ceux qui ont déjà tant de peines à nous diriger? Et pour conclure vous finirez par penser comme moi que cette grave Institution à tout de même du bon puisqu'elle donne satisfaction à tous ceux — et ils représentent près de 99% — qui ne s'en sont jamais occupés ni de près ni de loin. Nous vivons sur des habitudes, nous en avons pris une nouvelle, à quoi bon chercher à la changer, soumettons nous sans murmurer!

"UN SUISSE QUELCONQUE."

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. (Communicated.)

The first Monthly Meeting after the summer holidays was held on the 9th inst. at the Union Helvetia.

The President, Mr. A. C. Stahelin, opened the meeting at 8.30 p.m. and called upon the Hon. Secretary to read the minutes of the last Monthly Meeting, which were unanimously approved and passed.

The Acting Secretary reported 6 applications for membership and 16 resignations. A proposal to make it compulsory for every applicant to be present at the meeting when his application was to be dealt with did not find favour with some members. It appeared, however, that there was a strong feeling amongst the majority of those present that ways and means should be found, without resorting to such drastic measures, to ensure the attendance of the applicants. Arguments *pro* and *con* were not lacking, but finally it was decided that a letter should be written to everyone who signifies his or her intention to become a member, asking them to endeavour to be present at the meeting at which they were going to be elected.

The arrangements which had to be made with regard to the Cinderella Dances and the Annual Banquet occupied the attention of the meeting for some considerable time. The alteration in the financial year of the Society had necessarily to be followed by a similar alteration in the date of the Annual Banquet. The President on this occasion indulged in a tale of woe regarding the task they imposed on him at the last General Meeting, asking him to report on the Societies activities and progress after having been elected only a short time before. One could almost imagine that Mr. Stahelin entertains "hopes" if one hears such a lot about "successor" etc., but we hope that in spite of this he will find himself "not out" next February. Anyhow, it was decided to have Cinderella Dances on the first Saturday in November, December, January and March, and the Annual Banquet and Ball on the first Saturday in February at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, as usual.

Unfortunately, Mr. Chas. Strubbin, President of the Entertainment Committee, found it necessary to give in his resignation owing to business reasons. Members and friends of the S.M.S. will miss him with regret at the dances, but we sincerely hope he will find it possible to favour us with an occasional visit at the Midland Hotel. The President, seconded by Mr. Carlo Chappuis (whom we had the pleasure to welcome at the meeting) proposed Mr. R. Chappuis to fill the vacancy. There is no doubt that the Committee is to be congratulated and has been very fortunate to get Mr. R. Chappuis to undertake the duties of President of the Entertainment Committee, for the success of the Cinderella Dances largely depends upon him. With Mr. R. Chappuis at the head we can safely look for a continuance of the past successes of the social side of the activities of the S.M.S.

Another resignation from his office as Assistant Chef de Cours was received from Mr. W. Wyss, who left for Liverpool. There was obviously no alternative left to the meeting than to accept this resignation, though with regret. The Committee proposed not to fill this vacancy pending the election at the next General Meeting.

A letter from the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Faravacini, with regard to the collection in favour of Bosco and Sùs was read, and another received from Mr. Senn on behalf of the Swiss Sports concerning the George Dimier Fund. In view of the keen interest which the late Mr. G. Dimier took in the Society's affairs, and in particular in the Education Department of the S.M.S., it was decided to contribute 25 guineas towards this fund as a token of appreciation and gratitude.

An animated discussion ensued on the Club-house question, and also with regard to the Debating Society; a decision on the latter was deferred for the time being.

The meeting closed at 11.15 p.m.

PERSONAL.

The engagement is announced of the Rev. Carl Th. Hahn, of the "Schweizerkirche" in London, to Mademoiselle Lily Meyrat, of Zurich.

HENRY BRUNNER †

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Henry Brunner, who passed away at the age of 62 last Tuesday evening, Sept 15, at his residence, 25, Willow Rd., Hampstead, N.W.

The deceased, who has been in failing health for some considerable time, was well known to the older members of the Swiss Colony, and though his retiring disposition prevented him from taking an active part in our social gatherings, he never failed to liberally contribute to any appeals in the cause of charity.

Mr. Brunner came from Zurich, and for the last twenty years has been connected with Messrs. George Johnson & Sons, of 9, Wilson Street, E.C.2.

The burial took place yesterday (Friday) at the Hampstead Cemetery.

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Sonntag, 20. Sept.—Eidg. Dank-, Buss- und Bettag.
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Die Abendgottesdienste beginnen am 27. September 6.30 Abends.

Anmeldungen für den Confirmationunterricht nimmt der Pfarrer in den Sprechstunden entgegen.

Das "Schweizerchränzli" kommt an den Mittwochen im "Foyer Suisse", 15, Upper Bedford Place, um 4 Uhr Nachm. zusammen.

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GETAUFT:

Carl Eugen WEBER, geb. 11. März 1925, Sohn des Karl Eugen, von Menziken (Aargau), und der Marietta Helfer, von Murten (Freiburg)—getauft am 10. August 1925.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag, 12—1 Uhr, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2 (St. Anne's Church);

Mittwoch, 12—2 Uhr, 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1. Pf. C. Th. Hahn.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, Oct. 6th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Pagan's Restaurant, W.1.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—Shooting Practice every Saturday and Sunday at Hendon (opposite Old Welsh Harp).

SWISS GYMNASIUM SOCIETY.—Exercise Evenings: Wednesdays at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. Fridays at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

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