

**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:** - (1928)

**Heft:** 331

**Rubrik:** Union Helvetia Club

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During the journey through Switzerland the Saurer climbed the Julier Pass at 7,550ft., the most difficult climb of the entire trip. There was never any difficulty in negotiating the bends, and the engine at all times was equal to its task; the steepest gradients were also descended with a good margin of safety. Returning to France, the Petit St. Bernard was crossed at 7,300ft.

For the entire journey, petrol consumption worked out at the rate of 13 m.p.g., giving a cost per head very much lower than that of a light two-seated car. Two punctures marked the journey. One occurred at the front and occasioned no difficulty, but when a rear tyre had to be changed it was found not only difficult to get the jack under the axle, by reason of the body overhang, but practically impossible to raise the vehicle single-handed. Outside assistance was sought. The coach carried two spare wheels.

#### Measuring a Glacier's Speed.

From the *Evening Telegraph and Post, Dundee* (Jan. 10th):—

"Modern science has made many changes in methods of investigating the wonders of the earth. To-day it is possible to record the speed of glaciers in ways undreamed of when glaciology first began, just a century ago.

By an aeroplane flight of about an hour's duration, a scientist can reconnoitre a glacial area that would take a week to cover on foot. And by wonderful instruments he can measure glacial depths and record glacial movements.

The new era in the measurement of glacial depths began in 1926, when the principle of "echo-sounding," which has yielded such remarkable results in marine hydrography, was applied by two investigators in different regions of the Swiss Alps.

On the Hintereisferner, under the direction of H. Mothes, numerous charges of explosives were set off and the echoes sent back from the bed of the glacier were recorded by means of seismographs.

Dr. Mercanton, who conducted experiments on the Lower Grindelwald and neighbouring glaciers in the Swiss Alps, used a geophone to detect the echoes of similar detonations. In both cases a number of plausible measurements were secured.

Dr. Mercanton was less successful in attempting to apply the Langevin system of sounding by so-called "ultra-sounds," in which the acoustic signals consist of very rapid vibrations (about 40,000 per second), but experiments with this process are likely to be continued.

In the near future acoustic methods may furnish detailed information regarding the depths of glaciers in all parts of the world, including the Greenland and Antarctic ice caps.

Under the auspices of the International Glacier Commission and similar national organisations in various countries measurements of the advance and retreat of glaciers have been made regularly for some years.

In Switzerland, reports on fluctuations of this character are published annually for 100 glaciers. Though the movements of the glacier front amount to only a few inches a day, they are measured by means of the "cryocinometer," the dial of which is actuated by a wire attached to the ice of the glacier.

It is a hundred years ago last summer since the scientific investigation of glaciers began. Professor Hugi, a Swiss, built a shelter on an overhanging ledge of granite on the rocky strip of debris in the middle of the Unteraar glacier in the Bernese Alps.

He spent several nights in the hut, and visited it during succeeding summers.

The hut, he found, crept slowly downwards with the general movement of the ice beneath it. In 1830 it had travelled several hundred feet, and by 1836, 2200 feet.

In 1839 Louis Agassiz came accidentally upon the hut while exploring the same glacier, and found it 4400 feet from its original location.

In 1840 Agassiz and his companions built a similar shelter nearby. The slow drift of the glacier destroyed the hut, but at various times relics of it were found.

Five years ago a thorough survey of the region was made by Dr. P. L. Mercanton and several pieces of the original rock were identified and under one of them was discovered some of the straw which served Agassiz and his companions as bedding.

The total distance travelled by the shelter up to that time was found to be a little less than three miles."

#### Tippling.

An interesting correspondence on this subject is published in the *Times* (Jan. 12th). We are told what becomes of the 10% or 15% added to our hotel bills in Switzerland. It has always struck us that the percentage system—which was invented in Germany—simply appropriates as a fixed charge what was originally meant to be a voluntary recognition for personal service. The hotel proprietors are thereby saved the necessity of paying the whole of their staff a decent living wage.

"As one who has spent only too many years in hotels in various countries of Europe, I desire to contribute a few facts to the tippling controversy. Most of your previous correspondents have seemed to me to fail to distinguish between the traveller who stays one or two nights and the person who stays weeks or months. For the former class I am convinced that the percentage charge for "service" is the greatest boon which has been conferred upon travellers since the coming of the electric light. The fact that one can leave the hotel without having to find either the servants whom it is customary to tip, or the necessary change, while feeling that everyone is satisfied, robs travelling of one at least, and that the greatest, of its minor annoyances. Servants whom I have consulted have told me that they prefer the system, because they are sure of getting their tips without having to hang about for them, and no longer suffer either from the non-tipper or from not being on the spot at the exact moment when they are wanted.

The "passing" traveller has little opportunity of getting to know the servants by sight, and still less of making personal friends with them. He sees the hall porter, who is barely conscious of his existence, and the head waiter, who knows nothing about the wine. He may or may not set eyes on the chambermaid. But he knows that they, and still others whom he may not see, expect to be tipped and he is perfectly willing to tip them. By the percentage system he can tip them for their routine services without trouble to himself. In the last 18 hotels in which I have stopped in France the percentage system was in force in all but one, and I left that with the knowledge that I had over-tipped all round.

In Switzerland, where the art of hotel-keeping is well understood, there exists a tariff, drawn up by the servants' trade union, which lays down the proportion of the percentage tips which each servant is to receive from the management. The figures are interesting, and I have never seen them published. The 10 per cent. added to the bill is divided among three departments—the floor, the restaurant and the hall—in the proportions of 37 per cent., 30 per cent., and 33 per cent. respectively. Of the 37 per cent., the chambermaid gets 15 per cent. (out of which she tips the under-chambermaid), the breakfast waiter 11 per cent., and the boots 11 per cent. Of the 30 per cent. allotted to the restaurant, the head waiter gets the lot and out of it is expected to tip the table waiter, if any. Of the 33 per cent. taken by the hall, the day and night porters (and this is noteworthy) each gets the same amount—namely, 8 per cent.—the lift boy 4 per cent., the three boys who hang about the hall, whether by day or night, each 3 per cent., the telephone girl 3 per cent., and the man who meets the trains 1 per cent. The elaborate calculations (easy enough with a decimal coinage) which this distribution involves falls upon the 'Bureau,' and the results are entered in a book, which is open to the servants' inspection. I have never heard any complaint—except from the 'Bureau.' But the union is strong, good servants are scarce, and, after all, the consumer pays.

I have stayed for months, and even for years, in the same hotel under this system. But (and this brings me to the "sojourning" class of traveller) my feeling is that it should be abandoned after a fortnight, or as soon as one has made personal friends with the staff. Even among good servants some are better than others, and it is right that special zeal should be rewarded. The individual tipping need cost no more; one merely adjusts the proportions oneself.

English hotel-keepers, as a whole, have been slow to adopt the percentage system. They prefer individual "good-will" tipping, not only because it saves them trouble, but because "it encourages servants to give satisfaction." They also cherish what appears to me the complete fallacy of thinking that a traveller's tips should be in proportion to his means, instead of in proportion to services rendered. I have stayed in an hotel where millionaires gave the head waiter £5 the first time they saw him; the waiting in that hotel was the worst that I have ever known. On the other hand, I recall no case in which the percentage system has seemed to me to impair the efficiency of the staff."

John Knittel.

From the *Daily Mail* (Jan. 10th):—

"Sidi-bou-Said, the ideal Arab village on the hill behind Carthage, may one day become a tiny Riviera in North Africa, writes a correspondent, who tells me he had tea there with Mr.

Robert Hichens and his fellow-author, Mr. John Knittel, in the Arab villa lent them by Baron d'Erlanger.

They write in simple rooms off a tiled court. For exercise Mr. Hichens is walking, playing tennis, and searching for a pony to ride.

Mr. Knittel is the Swiss born in India who writes in English—his "Into the Abyss," just out, is a rather Zolaesque study of the Swiss peasant—has had a play done in London, won the Swiss golf championship, played in the British one at Hoylake last year, and keeps a flock of sheep on the verge of the desert. He is tri-lingual, did his own translation into German of his new book—it has been welcomed in Switzerland—and has ambitions one day to dig for antiquities on the shores of the Red Sea."

Mr. Knittel is fond of taking his friends by surprise. The other evening he dropped in at the City Swiss Club and we had a very enjoyable game of bridge. He was partnered with the vice-President, who is a wonderful exponent of the "book" whilst the novelist is naturally unconventional; however, they both accepted their doom with rare stoicism. We should like to return the visit and would willingly look after his flock of sheep whilst being dummy!

#### UNION HELVETIA CLUB.\*

The task of the Club Committee has always been a difficult one owing to the fact that the Club is over capitalised, as when it was built the cost by far exceeded the original estimate and large amounts had to be invested by Lucerne, in addition to the share subscription, in the hope that the Club would eventually become a paying concern.

Unfortunately this hope did not materialise at the beginning. In the opening years the Club's balance sheets showed losses which grew until they reached the sum of £2,500. Then, as the Territorial Administration was unable to carry on, they asked Lucerne to take charge of the Club.

In order to remedy the critical state of affairs the G.D. appointed the Club Committee and their own steward in the person of Mr. R. Hasler. They further introduced the 6d. contribution for Society Members and took up Club Members. For a short time this improved the position somewhat, but after a while agitation was raised against the 6d. contribution and also against the Steward, with the result that the 6d. contribution was abolished and the Steward, losing interest in the Club business, caused the undertaking further losses. Eventually he resigned and Mr. Jacques Hasler was appointed in his place by special request of the Territorial Administration supported by the London Branch.

This did not improve matters but rather made them go from bad to worse. It must not, however, be imagined that the Club Committee remained inactive during these adverse periods. It worked its hardest to keep the Club on its feet and managed to do so by affiliating with other Swiss Associations by introducing new Functions with original displays and 'stunts.' Many of these 'stunts' and other productions meant weeks of hard work as they were specially written and produced for the Club.

Although the efforts of the Club Committee helped to make the Club popular in the Swiss Colony and other quarters in London, they were not sufficient to counterbalance the failings of the two above mentioned stewards.

Eventually the 6d. contribution was re-introduced and with the appointment of Mr. Wyss as Steward of the Club business greatly improved and continued to do so through the war period, with the result that the Committee was able to wipe out the £2,500 loss on the balance sheet and also pay back the £400 loan from the Sick Fund to the Territorial Administration. In addition to these payments, and those of interest on capital and shares, substantial amounts were remitted to Lucerne to reduce the Club debt, the total amount so paid being £4,445, and if we add the loss of 2,500, and the £400 Sick Fund loan, plus 350 Debenture Shares bought back in 1925, we get a total amount paid of £7,695, besides the above mentioned interest on capital and shares.

This result has only been achieved by hard work on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Wyss, with the collaboration of the Club Committee. Even if we admit that the war period, which was a prosperous one for undertakings such as ours, helped us it did not make our task much easier, as with the many restrictions we had to face, such as young Swiss being unable to come to England, etc., it was no simple matter to keep things going.

In any case, our good luck during the war turned to our disadvantage when the Society Members heard that we were paying off our debt to Lucerne, and they agitated for the abolition of the 6d. contribution. This they succeeded in bringing about despite the energetic protests of the Club Committee, who knew that the Club would need the 6d. contribution more than ever after the war when trade was bound to decline. But in spite of this, and although Mr. Fred Isler clearly explained the financial position of the Club at a Monthly Meet-

\*Re-printed by kind permission from the "Union Helvetia Revue" of Jan. 19th, 1928.

#### CITY SWISS CLUB.

#### CINDERELLA DANCE

at NEW PRINCE'S RESTAURANT, PICCADILLY, on  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, at 6.30.

Tickets, Gents 12/6, Ladies 10/6 (incl. Supper), may be  
obtained from Members of the Committee.

ing, no consideration was given to the Club Committee and we had to look elsewhere for a subsidy.

This subsidy was found to a certain extent by hiring out the large hall for functions of outside Associations. But even this source of revenue was stopped owing to difficulties with the Police!

Therefore, when one hears these hard facts in mind and also takes into account the very little goodwill shown to the Club Committee by Society Members, is it surprising that our Balance Sheet shows a comparatively small loss instead of a profit? And in view of the circumstances, is it strictly fair to blame the present Committee for such a loss? Would it not be wiser and more just to digest these facts before criticising the Club?

The Committee has been left to struggle on as best it could and found very little support from the other Committees. In spite of this we have always done our best to cultivate friendly relations with them and not to interfere in their affairs. Unfortunately we did not always find the same attitude on their side, especially of late when as regards interference things have come to such a pitch that no self-respecting body of men, conscious of doing their duty to the best of their ability, could possibly remain in office any longer.

This statement is made merely to record facts and not with any malice or ill-feeling, as this would be contrary to the spirit of the Committee, whose actions have always been prompted by good-fellowship and it is in this spirit that they desire to retire from office. Therefore we hope that the new Committee will find less hardship and more goodwill than we have done to help them in their certainly not easy task of bringing the Club into a new era of prosperity.

### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

Mr. Leopold Amacher, Interlaken: "Russian Siberia." Mr. M. H. S. Wehrli, Lausanne: "U.S.A. (First Part)." Mr. James Bauert, Zurich: "Friedrich Nietzsche." Mr. Albert Meier, Bülach: "The Bed, One of Our Most Intimate Friends." Mr. P. Schürpf, Basle: "How, When and Where to Invest Money." Miss Lily Fiehn, Zurich: "Urs Eggenschwyler and His Menagerie." Miss Paula Schnitzler, Locarno: "London, the City of My Dreams." Mr. M. Racine, Bienne: "Something about the Watch Industry." Mr. Walter O. Vögele, Basle: "The Story and the Origin of the Swiss Hotel Industry." Mr. L. W. Pauli, Zurich: "Upper Engadine." Mr. J. Wolf, Küssnacht (Zurich): "Some Personal Philosophy." Miss Marie L. Rosat, Neuchâtel: "The Ascent of Les Diablerets." Mr. A. Honegger, Wald (Zurich): "Purchase." Dr. H. v. Waldkirch, Basle: "The Old and the Modern Theatre." Miss J. Natural, Geneva: "Hypothetics about Origin of Cancer."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Is vivisection justifiable?" Proposer, Dr. R. Brunschwig; Opposer, Dr. Arnold Ith.

"Is a conscriptive army preferable to a voluntary army?" Proposer, A. Lorenzelli, Yverdon; Opposer, L. W. Pauli, Zurich.

On Friday, January 20th, a Lantern Lecture on "The Life of the Bee" was given by Miss M. H. Briggs, B.Sc. This Lecture was much appreciated and the slides were most interesting.

### Ehre den einsamen Toten in der Fremde!

Am 12. dieses Monats wurde ein Landsmann beerdigt in trostloser Einsamkeit. Kein Mensch ausser dem Unterzeichneten und dem Leichenunternehmer und den Totengräbern, aber auch keine Blume. Die Schuld trifft niemanden, denn der liebe Verstorbene war ein einsamer Mann. Hätten wir aber vorher gewusst, dass niemand kommen würde, dann hätten wir jemanden gebeten mit auf den Friedhof zu gehen. Etwas so Trostloses soll sich nicht mehr in unserer Colonie wiederholen, weil wir sowohl in kirchlicher als auch in nationaler Gemeinschaft leben und es sich schlecht macht im Auslande einem Bürger Helvetiens nicht die letzte Ehre zu erweisen. Das Grab wird seinen Blumenschmuck noch erhalten, aber wir möchten, dass sich ums Landsleute zur Verfügung stellen, falls sich wieder ein ähnlicher Fall bieten sollte.

C. Th. Hahn, Pfr.

## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

SWISS HOUSE :: 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1

### LANTERN SLIDE LECTURE

on "Aus dem Leben und Wirken  
unseres Berufsverbandes," by

National Councillor Ph. Schmid-Ruedin,  
Central Secretary and President of the Zurich Section,  
on  
Wednesday, February 1st, at 8.30.

### BÜCHER-BESPRECHUNG.

Die reich illustrierte Schweizer Kunstschrift "Das Werk" Verlag Gebr. Fretz A.G., Zürich 8, bringt in der Dezembernummer 1927 die Kirchenneubauten von Wohlen und Bonaduz, interessante Vorschläge für einen neuen katholischen Kirchentyp, den sympathischen Aufruf zur Erhaltung einer Kappelle in Mendrisiotto. Vom Eidgen. Kupferstichkabinett und seine Winterausstellung berichtet dessen Konservator Dr. R. Bernoulli. Auf Weinachten präsentieren sich eine Reihe schöner Bücher mit Illustrationsproben.

Im zweiten Teil die teils nützlichen und teils angenehmen Notizen über das Wettbewerbswesen; der Sprechsaal, die Chronik, Bücheranzeigen und Hinweise auf besonders interessante Artikel aus verwandten Zeitschriften.

### PUBLICATIONS

of the "Verein für Verbreitung Guter Schriften" and "Lectures Populaires."

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Subscribers ordering back numbers are requested to remit the usual 3d. per copy, provided that those required do not date back more than twelve months; for earlier issues, some of which are out of print, an extra charge is made.

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### CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine

#### Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le MARDI, 7 FÉVRIER au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7 h. (prix 6/6).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C. 2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

#### Ordre du Jour:

Procès-verbal. | Démonstrations.  
Admissions. | Divers.

## Swiss Mercantile Society

The members and friends of the Society are reminded that our

### ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL

will take place on  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1928,**  
at the

**Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras Station, N.W.**

Reception 7 p.m. Dinner 7.15 p.m.  
Dancing from 9.30 to 1 a.m.

TICKETS at 12s. 6d. can be obtained from R. Chappuis, 21, Grove Road, Chiswick Park, S.W.12, from any Member of the Committee, and at the following addresses: 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1 (Tel. Museum 6885) and 24, Queen Victoria St., E.C.4 (Tel. City 7719).

### Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762), 79, Endell St., W.C.2  
(Langue française.)

Dimanche, 29. Janvier, 11h.—"L'admiration de Jésus,"  
Mth. 8, v. 10.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.  
6.30.—Service liturgique et musical.  
7.30.—Répétition du Choeur.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Mountview 1798).  
Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, den 29. Januar 1928, 11 Uhr vorm.: Gottesdienst; 7 Uhr abends: Predigt.  
Dienstag, den 7. Februar, nachm., 3 Uhr: Nähverein im "Foyer Suisse," 15, Upper Bedford Place, Russell Square, W.C.1.

#### KREMATION.

Albert HERSIG, geb. 17. Mai 1886, von Amsoldin gen und La Chaux-de-Fonds. Gestorb. am 14 Januar; kremiert am 20. Januar.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12—1 Uhr in der Kirche.  
Mittwoch, 3—5 Uhr, im Foyer Suisse.  
Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen etc., an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4. Telefon Chiswick 4156.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, Feb. 1st.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOC.: Lantern Slide Lecture. (See advert.)  
Saturday, Feb. 4th.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball at the Midland Grand Hotel, N.W. (See advert.)  
Tuesday, Feb. 7th.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting. (See advert.)  
Wednesday, Feb. 15th, at 7.45 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Monthly Meeting of the Group, followed by a Causerie by Louis Micheli, Esq.  
Wednesday, Feb. 15th, at 8 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual General Meeting.  
Saturday, Feb. 18th.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance. (See advert.)  
Friday, Feb. 24th, at 7.30 p.m.—SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball at First Avenue Hotel, W.C.1.  
Tuesday, March 13th, 1928.—UNIONE TICINESE: Annual Banquet & Ball at Café Monaco, Piccadilly, W.1.

Printed and Published for the Proprietor, P. F. BOEHRINGER, by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO. LTD., at 33 LEONARD ST., LONDON, E.C.2