

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: - (1934)

Heft: 686

Rubrik: Home news

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: 30.01.2025

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

The central administration of instructional films for the army is confided to the infantry service; the film bureau to be directed by one or several instruction officers and a film specialist.

The duties of the bureau will be:—

- (1) Production of instructional films for all sections of the army.
- (2) Lending of films and material.
- (3) Editing of film texts.
- (4) Instruction courses for officers and non-commissioned officers.

THE BIBLE IN SWITZERLAND.

A movement has been started in Switzerland to put a Bible in every Swiss home. It is sponsored by Mgr. Scheiwiler, Bishop of St. Gall, and an organisation with this end in view is already making amazing progress under the leadership of Herr Benz, of St. Gall diocese. At the inaugural meeting, which was attended by 800 Catholics, Herr Benz said that he had taken as his motto "Keine Katholische Familie ohne die heilige Schrift," "No Catholic family without a Bible."

The idea has been received with enthusiasm by the Swiss clergy, for peasants in out of the way villages are interesting themselves more and more in Bible-reading.

It is hoped that the *Volksverein* of Zurich, a non-political organisation similar to our C.Y.M.S., will lend its support to the project, and a great step will have been taken to combat the alarming growth of Communism which is manifesting itself daily in some of the large towns in Switzerland.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Dr. Heinrich Zangger, Professor of Anatomy at the University of Zurich has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. Professor Zangger received in 1926 the Marcel Benoist prize for his work on "Poisonings."

The police at Zurich have arrested Heinz Neumann, a former member of the "Reichstag," and a member of the Central Committee of the German communist party. Neumann, who is wanted by the German Government, for murder, stayed at Zurich under the assumed name of Bieler. The Federal Dept. of Justice has taken up the case.

A bomb exploded outside the synagogue of the Freigutstrasse in Zurich, with the exception of a few windows broken, no other damage was caused. The authorities have opened an investigation.

BERNE.

Dr. Fritz Lüscher, Professor for ear, nose and throat diseases, at the University of Berne, has died at the age of 72. Professor Lüscher was a specialist of international repute, he was for many years Director of the ear clinic of the "Insel" hospital in Berne.

LES MISERABLES.

Academy Cinema, Oxford Street, W.1.

Many of us will remember how, in our youth, we devoured eagerly those entrancing romantic novels of the middle of the last century, written during that period known as the *Romantic* period such as "Les Misérables" by Victor Hugo, and the "Count of Monte-Christo" by Alexandre Dumas. We were thrilled by the adventures of Jean Valjean, the misfortunes of Fantine, the misery of Cosette, and the villainy of Javert, or by the Odyssey of Edmond Dantès, his escape from the Château d'If, his revenge upon Villefort, and Danglars, the love-story of Albert and Valentine, and the final scene in Monte-Christo's mysterious island.—

The writers of those days were not afraid to write, for did not their novels fill a large book of small type, but in spite of their verbosity, one can read these novels over and over again with renewed pleasure.— Of such length is the story of Jean Valjean that it has been used to make two films of which the first part is now being shown at the Academy Cinema.

The film opens with a close-up representing a huge statue being supported by a man. This man is Jean Valjean a convict. Given his liberty, after having been incarcerated for a number of years in the famous "bagne" at Toulon, of which the buildings can still be seen by visitors to the Arsenal, he makes his way to Digne, where he is given hospitality by an old priest, whom he robs of some silver spoons.

Arrested by the police, he is brought back to the Priest, who sets him free by declaring that the articles have not been stolen but are a gift.

Valjean continues his journey, but is suddenly struck with remorse.

Time passes, and we are shown a ball in Paris at which Fantine is present.

Time passes again and we find ourselves in a village near Paris, and assist at the opening ceremony of a school which has been founded by a

BASLE.

The Swiss Fascist newspaper, "Volksbund," has been banned by the Cantonal Government of Basle for "insults to Jews and the Jewish religion."

BASLE-COUNTY.

After a short illness, Dr. Franz Leuthardt, for 43 years a teacher at the "Bezirksschule" in Liestal, passed away at the age of 73.

NEUCHÂTEL.

The newly elected President of the States Council, M. Ernest Béguin, received a hearty reception on his return from Berne. A military band played at the station, and later on at the "Cercle National," he received an official welcome from the government and town authorities.

GENEVA.

The death is reported from Geneva, of Mme. Chaponnière-Chaix at the age of 84; the deceased was one of the most ardent champions of the movement for the emancipation of Swiss women. Mme. Chaponnière was elected in 1925 a member of the committee of the Swiss Red Cross, and five years later she became Vice-President of this committee; this office she held until 1932, when she was made an honorary Vice-President.

GRISONS.

The late colonel of division Schné has left an amount of 42,000 frs., to various charitable institutions; an amount of 5,000 frs. has been given to the "Liga Romantscha" for the preservation of the romantsch language.

SWISS CONSUL HONOURED.

The Liverpool Geological Society has reached its 75th birthday and celebrated this event by a *Conversazione* at the Geological Department of the University on the 11th December.

Mr. E. Montag, (Consul for Switzerland) has been a member for nearly a quarter of a century, and most of this time has been on the Council serving for a period as Editor of the Society's Proceedings, as Vice-President and as President! He has read many papers, some of these were translations of scientific papers by Prof. Albert Heim, thus making these available in English. He has often conducted excursions in North Wales, where he lives, and given his interest and assistance to others who were conducting investigations there.

The Council of the Liverpool Geological Society decided to recognise his services by awarding him the medal of the Society and this was handed him by the President (Dr. R. G. Wills) at the *Conversazione*.

It will be recalled that the University of Liverpool a few years ago honoured Mr. Montag by conferring on him the degree of "M. Sc. h. c." and this further proof of appreciation must be as gratifying to him as it is to his many friends.

benefactor, Mr. Madeleine, who has been made Mayor of the village and is no other than our friend Valjean.

The Mayor has also started a factory which gives work to the inhabitants of the village.

In this factory we find Fantine, who is now the mother of a little girl Cosette who is in pension with an inn keeper called Thénardier. Thénardier writes to Fantine, saying that the pension is in arrears and threatening to ill treat Cosette if the money is not paid.

Fantine asks the "Directrice" for an advance and is promptly dismissed, being told that it is by order of the Mayor.

She endeavours to raise the money at all costs, and finally miserable, ill and poverty stricken she finds herself in the street on a winter's night. Insulted by a man, she protests and the man calls the police and demands that she shall be arrested. Inspector Javert arrives on the scene and is about to arrest Fantine when the Mayor, who has watched what has happened, intervenes and has her set free.

Now Javert is an ex-warder who had been at Toulon and on account of his strength suspects that the Mayor is no other than Valjean. He hates him for all the good he has done, and plots to denounce him.

Fantine is taken to hospital, where soon she is dying from tuberculosis.

She tells her story to Mr. Madeleine, who explains that he was completely ignorant of her dismissal from his factory and promises to look after Cosette and to bring her to her mother.

On the night before his departure, Javert comes to him, and tells him that a peasant is being tried the next day at Arras and is accused of being Valjean and that undoubtedly he will be sent to prison.

The Mayor spends the night trying to make up his mind what he ought to do and what he should do.

Go to Arras and tell the truth, or keep his promise to Fantine and fetch Cosette. Finally he makes his decision and goes to Arras.

*Vous obtenez les meilleurs
Gâteaux, Bonbons
et Friandises
chez*

Monsieur et Madame
ROHR

(Ancienne Maison Alfred Meyer)

*Spécialités de Chocolats
Confiserie
Pâtisserie*

10, Buckingham Palace
Road, Victoria, S.W. 1

Telephone: VICTORIA 4266

*Spécialités pour Noël
Xmas Puddings, Xmas Cakes,
Mince Pies, Bonbonnières,
en grand choix.*

Commandes livrées à domicile

W. WETTER

Wine Importer.

67, GRAFTON STREET, FITZROY SQ., W.1

BOTTLED IN SWITZERLAND.

	Per Doz.	24/2	Dozaley	Per Doz.
Clos du Mont Valais	...	55/-	61/-	Dôle Red Valais de 59/-
Fendant	...	53/-	59/-	Sion
White Neuchâtel	...	57/-	...	60/-
Red Neuchâtel

As Supplied to Whipnade Zoo (Catering Dept.).

Nett Cash. Carriage paid for London.

COUNTRY ORDERS MUST BE PREPAID.

ALL ORDERS EXECUTED IMMEDIATELY

In open court he reveals his identity.

The peasant is liberated and the real Valjean asks permission to fulfil his promise to Fantine after which he will return and place himself at the disposal of the Court.

Fantine dies, and this brings us to the end of Part I.

I cannot speak too highly of this film. The part of Valjean is taken by Harry Baur, a superb actor whom we saw in "David Golder." The photography is good and several of the scenes are intensely emotional.

For example, the scene between Valjean and the Priest and the moment when the former is struck by remorse and realises that a change has taken place within him and he has become a new man, are a veritable triumph of the actor's art.

Baur's performance is also remarkable in that he may be said to play a triple rôle, that of Valjean whilst still unreformed, that of Madeleine as the benefactor of his village, and finally, the part of Champmathieu the peasant who is falsely accused of being Valjean.

Victor Hugo was a poet and the story of "Les Misérables" is really a poem, whereas Dumas was a writer of novels and although the "Count of Monte Christo" is a most dramatic story, it lacks the psychological element which inspires Victor Hugo's masterpiece.

This difference is very clear when we see the "Count of Monte Christo" now showing at the Pavilion.

Another difference is that "Les Misérables" is a French film, spoken in French and played by French actors, whereas "Monte Christo" is an American film, spoken in English, and played by American actors.

It is perfectly true that with the exception of the final scene which is a mistake, the film keeps very closely to the book, but there is a difference which makes towards a feeling of unreality.

It is almost a pity that the two films are being shown at the same time. Apart from this,