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by no means as many as is popularly supposed in other countries) earn their living by playing the great national game of feeding and transporting and housing and entertaining the armies of foreign tourists who pour in every year to revel in the country's mountain and lake scenery.

The Swiss do not merely preach democracy; they practice it twenty-four hours every day. They abhor everything savoring of class rule, of inequality or subservience. Out of their basic qualities of common sense and simplicity and ruggedness and independence of character — an enormous help to them in their stubborn upholding of democratic traditions — grow an abruptness, a dislike for conversational frills, an absence of grace and elegance and tact which, to many a foreigner in their midst, often seem like plain rudeness.

In the middle of a talk with you, a Swiss will suddenly poke his hand out, grasp yours, shake it, bark "Good-bye" and disappear around the corner. He does not mean to be impolite, but, having said what he had to say, he cannot see why he should waste more time on you.

Even Swiss hotel keepers, in whose business code politeness to foreign guests is Article I, often give their courtesy an artificial tinge, as if it were something they knew to be necessary but despised in their hearts. And one of the most prominent citizens in a certain Swiss city not only avoids, in business letters, such ornamental phraseology as "My dear sir" and "your esteemed favour received" and "with best wishes, I beg to remain" but curtly requests those to whom he writes to do likewise when they answer him.

The firm belief of the Swiss that all men are equal is plainly shown in the way they refuse to make a fuss over their big officials. The President of the Swiss Confederation is merely one of the members of its Federal Council, with very little power and still less prestige of office, who, like his colleagues, occupies the Presidency for a year at a time.

An American who was in Switzerland recently asked half a dozen natives the name of their President. Four of them frankly answered, "I don't know." The other two, after a moment of uneasy reflection, replied: "Dr. Motta." They were wrong. Motta had been President, but he was no longer. The President at that time was Dr. Baumann. But none of those fellow-citizens of his knew that he was — or cared!

The attitude of the Swiss toward their country's army also proclaims their essential democracy of soul. They take that army very seriously indeed and their military experts have brought it to a high pitch of efficiency. Every able-bodied Swiss must serve in its ranks and afterward belong to its reserve — and tales of adventures in barracks and frontier forts and at manoeuvres crop up constantly in Swiss conversations. But the people of Switzerland have no use for soldiering in itself. To them it is merely a means to an end — the best way of safeguarding their beloved liberties. Viewed from any other angle, it seems to them abhorrent. They are military without being militaristic.*

(To be continued.)

EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

Halbchor Luzern

Lucerne, 30th October, 1938.

The Swiss Observer,

London.

Dear Compatriots,

May I call your attention to a short programme of typical Swiss Folk Songs to be broadcast on Sunday evening, November 6th, from 6.55 to 7.15 (Swiss Time) from the B.B.C. London transmitted from Zurich Studio.

The Halbchor Luzern is an elite male voice choir of specially selected talent and their aim is to study and specialise in pure Swiss Folk Songs and render them in the highest possible standard. The choir can claim to be ranked among the foremost of this type in Switzerland.

We should esteem it an honour if you could make this Concert known to as many compatriots as possible, as we feel confident they will not regret this twenty minutes. I enclose the programme which perhaps you could circularize amongst your members.

Thanking you and assuring you of our heartfelt greetings shortly to be voiced across the sea to all our fellow-countrymen and wellwishers.

Yours respectfully,

on behalf of the Halbchor Luzern,

A. REICH.

Halbchor Luzern.

PROGRAMME.

Switzerland calling!

B. B. C. Concert.

To be transmitted from Switzerland.

Sunday evening, 6th November, 6.55 to 7.15
(Swiss time.)

- 1) O mein Heimatland.
- 2) Waldandacht.
- 3) Das weisse Kreuz im roten Feld.
- 4) Luegt vo Bär und Tal.
- 5) Schweizer Zapfenstreich.

JAHRBUCH DER SCHWEIZERFRAUEN.

Das "Jahrbuch der Schweizerfrauen" bringt diesmal auf 15 Seiten eine reichhaltige Artikelsammlung über Leben und Probleme der Auslandschweizerin. Ein warm gehaltener Aufsatz würdigt Persönlichkeit und Arbeit von Dr. Alice Briod, Sekretärin des Auslandschweizerwerkes in Bern. Mme Kessler-Merz, Bruxelles, schreibt aus ihrer sichern Erfahrung als Mutter einer zahlreichen Kinderschar über die Frage "Wie erwecke und pflege ich in meinen Kindern die Heimatliebe?". Durch vereinzelte Briefstellen hören wir von den erfolgreichen Anstrengungen einer westschweizerischen Erzieherin, die, seit 35 Jahren in Hamburg ansässig, unentwegt im Gastland für ihre Heimat wirbt. Marcelle Béguelin, die Gattin eines Ingenieurs, der zur Zeit des Weltkrieges in Siam wirkte, gibt eine spannende Schilderung ihrer Erlebnisse im Dschungel. Bertha Kunz, die Gattin unseres Mannheimer Konsuls, steuert einen gehaltvollen Aufsatz bei über die "Pflege schweizerischer Wesensart in den Auslandschweizerkolonien." Ein anderes, ungenannt bleibendes Mitglied der Mannheimer Kolonie gibt den Gefühlen der Schweizer, die nach langen Jahren ihr Heimatland wiedersehen, schlichten, ergreifenden Ausdruck. Aus Batavia berichtet uns Dora Weidmann über das Tagewerk einer Schweizerin auf der javanischen Plantage. Nach Japan führt uns ein lebendiger Beitrag von Frau Champoud, der Gattin des Direktors der Nestlé-Gesellschaft in Japan.

Erzählungen und Artikel der verschiedensten Art — darunter eine reizvolle, reich illustrierte Reportage aus einem modernen Säuglings- und Mütterheim —, sorgfältig ausgewählte Bilder und einige Gedichte runden den Band zu einem richtigen Schweizerbuch, einem Weihnachtsgeschenk, das wir besonders auch der Auslandschweizerin in Europa und Uebersee empfehlen möchten. Das "Jahrbuch der Schweizerfrauen" wird vom Verlag K. J. Wyss Erben A.G. in Bern herausgegeben und von Alice von Arx redigiert. Es kann zum Frankopreis von Schweizerfranken 1.80 bezogen werden durch das Auslandschweizerwerk, Sekretariat, Bundesgasse 40, Bern.

WANTED : Trained Swiss Cabinet Maker

Age preferably 25-30, with initiative, able to supervise labour.

Apply : Swiss Mercantile Society, Employment Dept. (Agents), 24, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.2.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, November 9th, at 8 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting — at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, November 12th, at 3 o'clock (only one performance) — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Film Show, at Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C.2.

Thursday, November 17th, at 7 p.m. — Farewell Dinner to Pasteur and Mrs. C. Th. Hahn, at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Friday, November 18th — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting — at Foyer Suisse, 15, Bedford Way, W.C.1. Supper at 6.30 p.m. to be followed by a causerie by Dr. phil. A. W. Bettex, of Cambridge, on Contemporary literature in Allemanic Switzerland.

Friday, November 25th — City Swiss Club — Annual Banquet and Ball at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

Tuesday, November 29th — Unione Ticinese — Concert and Ball in aid of the Fonds de Secours, at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.1.

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Dante. Inferno. C. xxvii.

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Dimanche 6 Novembre 1938 : Fête de la Réformation.

11h. — Culte et Cène. — M. M. Pradervand.

11h. — Ecole du dimanche. — M. M. Pradervand.

6h.30 — Culte et Cène. — M. M. Pradervand.

7h.30 — Répétition du Chœur.

Mardi 8 novembre, à 3h. Réunion de couture au Foyer Suisse.

Pour l'instruction religieuse et les actes pastoraux, prière de s'adresser au pasteur, M. M. Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4. (Téléphone Mountview 5003) Heure de réception à l'église le mercredi de 11-12h.30.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

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

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 6. November 1938. Reformationfest.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst u. Feier des Heilig. Abendmahls.

Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst u. Feier des Heilig. Abendmahls.

BESTATTUNG.

Am 27. Oktober wurde bestattet :

Jakob Friedrich Sterchi von Schalm (Canton Bern) ; geb. am 1.2.1879 — gest. am 21.10.—

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