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A NEW APPOINTMENT.

We have great pleasure in announcing that Mr. O. Ernst has been appointed Manager of the London Agency of the Swiss Federal Railways and Swiss State Travel Bureau.

Mr. O. Ernst was born in 1894 at Altikon (Zurich); after his schooling at Wiesendangen he entered the Railway Section of the "Technikum" in Winterthur and two years later (1912) he started his apprenticeship with the Swiss Federal Railways. After eleven months practical training on various Swiss Federal Railway stations, he was appointed to the permanent staff and worked for some time at the railway stations in Winterthur and Frauenfeld. Later on, in 1915, Mr. Ernst was transferred to Geneva, where he worked for two years in various Departments at the Cornavin station; amongst his duties there was *liaison* work between the International Red Cross and the railways.

In 1919 he entered the London Office of the Swiss Federal Railways, 11b, Regent Street, S.W.1, as a booking clerk, where, thanks to his capability and hard work, he was soon promoted to the post of chief clerk.

We are extending to Mr. Ernst our best wishes for success in his new and responsible position.

THE DESERTER.

1. Zu Strassburg auf der Schanz. (Traditional).

On Strasbourg's bastion wall
I heard a plaintiff call.
It was the Alphorn, and its haunting sound
Urged me to swim the river, homeward bound,
Forgetting all.

Alas, that very night
They brought me, all contrite,
Before the Captain,— it was like a dream;
O God, why did they take me from that stream?
My end's in sight.

Next morning I was sent
To face my regiment.
"Forgive me that my oath I have betrayed,
Full well I know the price that must be paid
And I repent."

"So, brothers all, farewell,
For now you'll break the spell.
The fault lies surely with that shepherd lad
Whose Alphorn moved me so and drove me mad,
Wherefore I fell."

2. Es geht bei gedaempftem Trommel Klang. (Chamisso)

With slow measured step and muffled drum
A long weary way the squad had come.
Oh, were it but over and he at rest,
My heart is nigh breaking within my breast.

None in the world I loved so, indeed,
As him whom now to his death we must lead.
Parade was ordered, with martial display,
There was no escape, I had to obey.

Now for the last time he raised his eyes
To God's brilliant sunshine and bright blue skies,
They blindfolded him while we stood at ease,
May God grant him rest and eternal peace.

Then, nine of us fired, with deaf'ning roar,
Eight bullets swept by, but not one did score;
All trembled with anguish, dreaded their part,
But I, yes I, shot him, straight through the heart.

Translated by J.J.F.S.

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