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inevitable. In order to raise the money for it the 74-year-old, on 16th September 1926, went on his last balloon trip aboard the "Zurich", starting from the Zurich suburb of Schlieren and taking along three passengers.

The trip ended with an emergency landing on the rocky walls of Mount Oferl in the Vorarlberg Alps. No one was hurt. Blindness soon befell Spelterini, and he passed his last years in complete darkness and solitude. He died on 16th June 1931. He was later declared Europe's No. 1 Promoter of Air Tourism, and is was certainly his merit that the Swiss became "balloon-conscious". Up to this day, balloon flying has been a popular sport in Switzerland, and there is hardly a popular festival without at least one balloon start. Captain Spelterini, in the forty-three years of his activity, undertook 570 balloon flights with a total of 1,237 passengers. Recorded flights took place from thirty-one cities and towns in Switzerland as well as from places in Egypt, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, England, France, Greece, Italy, Austria, Poland, Russia, Romania, South Africa, Turkey and Hungary. Legend has it that he also visited India where he started from Bombay. Within three decades he gave more than 600 lectures in four different languages, from Stockholm to Cape Town.

F.B.

Translated and condensed from Dr. Erich Tilgenkamp's "Schweizer Luftfahrt", published in 1941/42 by Aero Verlag, Zurich, under the auspices of the Aero Club of Switzerland.

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By courtesy S.N.T.O.

ACROSS THE ALPS BY BALLOON

The Week of Ballooning, which will be held for the fourth time at Mürren during the last half of August, seems particularly appropriate in this Year of the Alps. In addition to the balloon pilots and their passengers, who will be there for the competition flight across the Alps, there will be other pilots, ground-crew personnel, and meteorologists from all over the world, assembled at Mürren as spectators of the exciting event. The week's program will include an attempt on the World Record for Accuracy of Pilot Flight Reporting, as well as courses on Alpine ballooning, meteorology and navigation.

[S.N.T.O.]

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