

Beauty at one's finger tips

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appear too snowy and cold to an absolute newcomer. A double page of the alpine panorama from the dark-green Jura over the green-blue Midlands to the icy splendour of the Alps, taken by an aerial photographer, shows a panorama in the true sense of the word. A coloured view of the gabled roofs of Steckborn and one taken over the roofs of the medieval town of Murten stand out in my mind from amongst the coloured pictures.

My personal preference still is for black and white photography. And the book holds its promise in these perhaps even more than in colour. Many aspects of Swiss life are covered — children at play, men at work, sports ranging from boccia in the Ticino, golf in the Grisons to rowing on the Rotsee, "Hornussen", ice-hockey, mountaineering. What a remarkable likeness between the face of a modern ski racer and the ancient mask from Ems on the opposite page! A similar double appears in the ox-drawn farmer's wagon from the Vaud and the Roman floor mosaic depicting the same man and beasts of centuries ago. The swearing of the oath by the herdsmen before driving the cattle up to the summer pastures in Uri is one of the customs and ceremonies shown, the carnival in Basle and the "Schlittedas" in the Grisons are others.

One of the most interesting pictures of a "Landsgemeinde" I have even seen is a double page aerial view of the open air parliament at Hundwil. Many are the photographs of churches inside and out. The quaint picture of the thatched roof cottage in the Wynental of the Aargau is as attractive as the wintry Cathedral Square of Basle in all its quiet dignity. From the Roman amphitheatre of the great military camp of Vindonissa and the St. Urben-bastion in Solothurn, we are taken to a modern car park in Lucerne by night and the CERN building in Geneva. The ancient mule track is shown side by side with the modern pass road, the up-to-date Halen housing estate in Berne contrast with the primitive stone dwellings of the Vergeletto, the eerie picture of an All Souls candle-light service at Buerglen with the efficient hustle of the assembly of locomotives for the Swiss Federal Railways at Oerlikon.

It is inevitable that a book of this kind should include a large number of mountain pictures, most of them out of the ordinary — just to mention one: the Glarus and Uri Alps above the clouds, a magnificent and striking picture.

If criticism I have to offer it would be regarding the captions. They are not always easy to connect with the respective picture; some come in front, some at the back of a photograph and often confuse the reader. If the comments at the back of the volume were printed on the second half of double pages to be pulled out whilst one looks at the pictures, it would eliminate a lot of unnecessary turning of pages from photos to comments and back. If this book is also meant as an introduction to Switzerland, some of the comments should be more explicit; the vitally important Rhine harbour of Basle is represented by a symbolic reproduction of an anchor with a hazy background and given no more than a scanty line or two in the comments. Most of these, however, are extremely informative and an excellent complement to the photographs.

The book has been compiled with great skill and artistry, but also with care and affection. In the Epilogue of "Swiss Panorama", the publisher Bruno Mariacher expresses his hopes that all those who have contributed so splendidly may feel satisfaction at having helped to produce a work of enduring value as a living image of Switzerland of our time.

Mariann.

40 pages of full colour (size 9½" x 12½" = 24.5 x 51.2 cm.), 128 pages of black and white illustrations with captions in English, French, Italian, German and supported by 80 pages text in the four Swiss national languages. "Swiss Panorama" is offered as a special New Year bargain to readers of the "Swiss Observer" for 5 guineas (instead of £6). Please place your order now with

Dr. Erik Wiget,
1 Umbria Street,
Roehampton,
London S.W.15,

or ring Putney 3338.

CHILDREN LEARN TO KNOW WILD ANIMALS

Where does the jaguar live and where is the home of the leopard? What is the difference between a camel and a dromedary? Such and other questions are answered by "Wild Life", a game something like "Monopoly", originated by Peter Ryhiner, the Swiss big game specialist, in co-operation with the publishing house "Edition Carlit". The "World Wildlife Fund" and the director of the Zurich Zoo welcome this new game as a very appropriate means of implanting in the young generation the idea of worldwide protection of nature and wild life. Peter Ryhiner who has supplied a great number of zoos with the rarest of animals also wrote a book on his thrilling profession. Due to the increasing danger of wild life being exterminated by organized safaris, catching wild animals alive has taken on a new and important significance. Today, animals about to be extinct can find a haven in the zoo where they feel quite at home, as has been repeatedly proven, and thus be preserved for future generations.

[S.N.T.O.]

BEAUTY AT ONE'S FINGER TIPS

The human hand is not only the most wonderful tool, it is also a symbol used in a great many expressions: for example, of someone who is generous, we say he is open-handed, just as one who is over-casual is called offhand, while someone who knows anything perfectly has it at his finger tips. The part played by the hand is not limited to manual work, it has social importance too; often enough a person's character is judged by the appearance of his hands. In order to enable all — particularly women — who attach special importance to the appearance of their nails to procure the products required to strengthen and look after them, a manufacturer in Lausanne recently put on the market two complementary liquids, "Dinalon-Lilac" and "Dinalon-Orange". The first strengthens soft, brittle or split nails without any harmful or unaesthetic effects, i.e. without harming or irritating the skin and without stopping the use of nail polish or any similar product. "Dinalon-Orange" is not only an oil for softening the cuticle but also a tonic rapidly penetrating the matrix of the nail to strengthen and revitalize it at the same time stimulating the growth of the nail. It gives the nail new life and combats inflammation and damage to the cuticle. These two products were tested from the point of view of their effectiveness and innocuousness for a long time before being put on the market. With these two new products the preparations required for everyday care of the nails are always "at hand"!

[O.S.E.C.]