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Learning made easy in Switzerland

Switzerland has a wide and deserved reputation for being the World's Playground, but she might equally be called «The Class-room of Europe». The high standard of education prevailing in this country is not a thing of recent growth, but has been the subject of just pride to the Swiss nation for the



last thousand years. Already in the Middle Ages there existed such a high degree of scholastic achievement, introduced by the various monasteries, especially in St-Gall, that Switzerland

was considered to be the centre of European culture. In the 15th and 16th Centuries, certain cities, notably Basle, possessed brilliant universities to which the youth of surrounding countries



Life is a happy medley of arts and handicrafts

flocked in large numbers. The 17th Century was famous for its architects and painters, beautiful examples of whose work are to be found in St-Gall and Einsiedeln, whilst the 18th Century produced a galaxy of famous scientists,

artists, scholars and writers who laid the foundation for the tremendous cultural movement in the 19th and 20th Centuries, which brought Switzerland to the foremost ranks of cultured peoples. The tradition according to which the «grand tour» of every well-bred young man must include a stay in Switzerland, is not only maintained but developed and amplified. The hundreds of State and private schools which flourish in this country and find their culminating point in the seven fine Universities – one for every 570,000 inhabitants – and two technical Colleges, offer convincing proof that Switzerland, combining all that is best in ancient and modern times, remains true to tradition in an unbroken chain of service to culture.

Owing to the keen competition which exists between the Cantonal schools on the one hand and the State and private schools on the other, educational establishments in Switzerland have attained a remarkably high standard of perfection. Not only are the schools equipped in the

How delightful to rest between lessons in the wonderful Swiss sun!





Schweizerland und Schweizer- schulen

most modern manner, great attention being paid to all that pertains to health and hygiene, but they are also, in most cases, very fine buildings situated on a lovely site, from where the best

view can be obtained, as the Swiss firmly believe in the beneficial influence of natural beauties on the mind of the child. The peculiar composition of the Swiss nation, which comprises

four different races, speaking as many tongues, has resulted in the entire Swiss scholastic system being based on an unity of purpose and a diversity of methods, the elasticity of which renders them particularly valuable for dealing with foreign pupils. There is less rigidity and



Useful accomplishments go with exercise and fun

more understanding than in most other countries, the relations between teaching staff and the pupils being less official and more friendly. The atmosphere in the schools is essentially a happy one. Class rooms are bright and airy, living rooms (in boarding schools) are homelike and gay with chintz and flowers. Games and sport of every kind play a very important role in the curriculum of all the schools. Physical culture is an important item and – in the case of girls' schools – there is every possible modern app'iance for the study of domestic science. The entire system of Swiss education is constructed on thoroughly practical modern lines, the main object pursued being the preparation of the child for a healthy, useful, happy life. There is comfort, but not luxury, good food, invigorating air, beautiful surroundings, every facility to study languages, art, music, embroidery, dress-making, cooking, etc., plenty of work, but also plenty of fun, winter and summer sport, concerts and lectures for the older pupils and above all

the highly specialized – I would almost say inherited-pedagogical talent of the Swiss teaching staff, worthy followers of the great Pestalozzi.

Persis Brooke.

Phot. Dr. Wolff



What a thrill to go for excursions with the electric train