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"The Music Center"

Rambles Abroad

By Valona Brewer

Editor's Note: Herewith the third of a series of letters written exclusively for WINNETKA TALK by Mrs. Valona Brewer, well-known Winnetka violinist, who is engaged upon a tour of European countries. Other letters will appear at frequent intervals. They represent the impressions of a keen observer and promise delightful reading. Don't miss the "Rambles Abroad" feature.

SWITZERLAND

Interlaken, July 25.

Having seen the rest of the party off for Italy, I went on into Switzerland. It turned out to be a wise choice, for a more bedraggled, flea-bitten, used up lot of people I have never seen than those folks, after their three weeks of wandering through the dirt and heat of the Italian cities. Italy is doubtless very attractive in winter; in summer it is a good place to avoid, apparently.

I came here from Geneva after a hot, terribly uncomfortable journey from Paris. Some things we do much better at home. Running railroads is one of them.

Geneva is a smug little town, chiefly interesting to Americans on account of the League of Nations palace. I stayed there over Sunday in company with two American school teachers who had been fellow sufferers on the train. But our pension was altogether too much like a Chicago apartment,

with perhaps even a few more cooking smells in the halls.

We spent the day in looking over the town and trying to see Mount Blanc, who however, chose to remain in royal seclusion behind the fog. Not once did we catch a glimpse of his snowy crown—to our great disappointment. Altogether, I was glad to take the little steamer next day, around the lake to Montreaux—then a train for Interlaken. The entire journey was a joy every minute of it. The lake itself is most beautiful, surrounded by the wonderful mountains. We stopped every few minutes at some town, at one place taking on a band of Swiss singers, evidently out for a holiday. It was great fun, watching and listening to them. There was a delicious dinner served on the boat at a very moderate price. As soon as you enter Switzerland, you feel the cleanliness which grows more pronounced, as you penetrate further into the country. The people are so wholesome, too, and you feel that they are clean all through—not just on the surface—as you often suspect in France.

Views Jungfrau

At the present moment, I am seated on a fallen log on top of a mountain, gazing every few moments at the Jungfrau, just across the valley. Looking down, I can see Interlaken, and the little lake. It took half an hour to make the ascent on a little electric railway, and as the mountain is steep, I must be rather high up in the world. They packed up a delicious looking bit of luncheon for me at the hotel, which I am going to open shortly.

When you come to Switzerland for the first time, you understand why people use up all the superlatives in the dictionary, trying to describe these mountains, and then don't come within miles of the reality. I remember hearing that experienced and famous traveler, Elmendorf, say that of all vacation spots on earth he would choose Switzerland because, combined with its gorgeous beauty and healthful air, you find just about everything needful for a thoroughly delightful time, and at a moderate price. I agree with him.

Hears Splendid Concert

Next door to the hotel is the Kur-saal, a sort of outdoor concert-hall, reminding one of Ravinia; only you sit at a table and drink beer while the music is going on. Everyone comes here in the evening to listen to the excellent orchestra, and to dance afterwards. Last night a German girl from Cologne played the Beethoven Violin-Concerto very beautifully. It was interesting to see the large audience—mostly German—respond with intelligence and appreciation. It sounds attractive, doesn't it? And it is. How sorry I shall be to leave these mountains next week, when we start down the Rhine for Holland.

—Valona Brewer.

Mrs. William Salmen, 964 Spruce street, and her two daughters, Edna and Frieda, returned last Tuesday from a week's motor trip through northern Wisconsin. They visited friends in Crandon, Wis. for several days.

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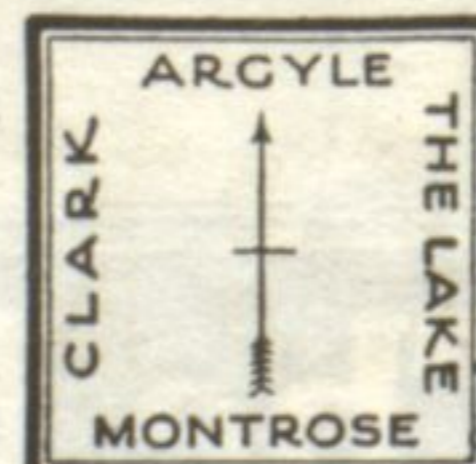


Since we're discussing shopping generally, do you like excellent cheese? Or Bar-le-Duc? Local connoisseurs are making a shrine of a certain Uptown food shop. Others praise a certain dealer's ability to offer rare bargains in rare rugs. No shoes, say some, compare with those in a bootery here. And so it goes. This is a shops district, you see, unique and worth knowing. Come up, come often, learn the secrets of convenient Uptown Chicago!

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