

ENGELBERG.

And now for a trip to the lovely little Canton of Unterwalden and the famous Engelberg. Again taking the steamer to **Stansstad**, we reach Engelberg by the new electric railway in 1 hour 40 minutes—unless we prefer to make the distance on foot in 4 hours, or to take a private carriage (3 hours).



Stansstad

The first station after Stansstad is **Stans**, the capital of Nidwalden, which occupies a delightful situation at the foot of the Stanserhorn. As the birth-place of the famous patriot Arnold Winkelried, whose heroic death at Sempach enabled his countrymen to gain a brilliant victory over the Austrians, Stans boasts of two objects of general interest, namely a marble *fountain* adorned with the oldest

existing statue of Winkelried, and the beautiful *monument* to the hero, by Schlöth, erected near the church. In the Rathaus and Arsenal are preserved a number of mementos of the Swiss wars of independence, Winkelried's coat of mail in the arsenal being perhaps the most noteworthy.



Winkelried Monument, Stans

The cable railway to the summit of the Stanserhorn (6233 feet) is described in the preceding chapter.

The Buochserhorn on the left and the Stanserhorn on the right guard the valley of Engelberg, which the road now enters, and enjoying a fine view of the Wallenstöcke and Titlis, rising in the background of the valley,

we pass through *Oberdorf* to *Oberbüren*.

Between Oberdorf and Oberbüren a road branches off to the left to *Büren* and *Niederrickenbach*. The health-resort of the latter name is visible from the road to Engelberg, situated amid pleasant mountain scenery between Engelberg and the Lake of Lucerne. *Niederrickenbach* lies at an elevation of 3828 feet above the sea, and can be reached in 1 1/2 hours.

In five minutes more we reach *Dallenwil*. This village is also the starting-point for a charming tour, namely over the mountain-pass leading past the pretty hamlet of Wisiberg and across the *Grossächerli* to Kerns or Stans.

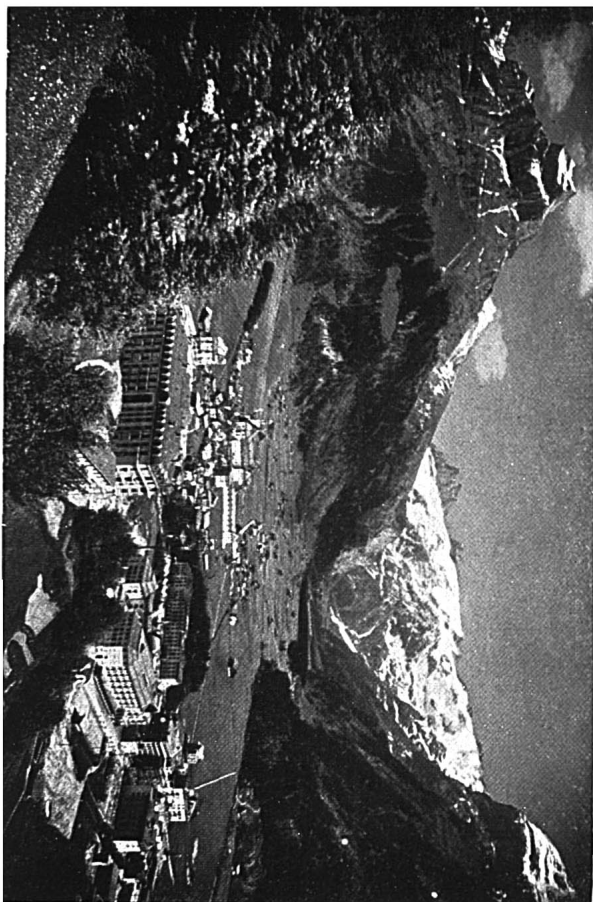
The next station on the road to Engelberg is the pretty village of **Wolfenschlössen**, a favourite summer resort on the mountain-side, above it a chapel stands near the place where Baumgarten killed the bailiff of Wolfenschlössen, as narrated in Schiller's drama. Somewhat higher up the valley, which gradually narrows, we come to **Grafenort**, consisting only of a chapel, an inn, and a house belonging to the convent of Engelberg. The scenery becomes more and more picturesque, and after passing through a beautiful wood we reach the heights, where a prospect opens of the Titlis, the Spannörter and the romantic valley, well watered and surrounded by snow-capped mountains, with the village of



Electric Railway Stansstad-Engelberg

Engelberg at its further end. We soon reach the health-resort, famous for its pure air and its bracing climate, and commanding a wonderful panorama of the mountains. The magnificent phenomenon known as the "alpine glow" is observed here with great frequency and in remarkable splendour.

ENGELBERG



Engelberg enjoys a mild and equable climate, and possesses beautiful promenades and woodland walks, kept in good repair by the indefatigable *Kurverein*. The Convent of Engelberg is well worth inspecting; its library consists of a number of rare old books and manuscripts dating back to the eleventh century. In the church there are some excellent paintings by Wyrsh, Deschwanden, G. Kaiser, and Spiegler. There is also a pretty Protestant church in which English services are held regularly. The village contains plenty of excellent hotels, and experienced guides are obtainable, Engelberg being a well-known starting-point for mountain ascents.

First among them comes the ascent of the Titlis (10,626 feet), which, although it requires 7 hours' hard walking up to the dazzling snowy crest of the mountain, is unattended by danger; practised mountaineers have even ascended the mountain without guides. A start is generally made late in the afternoon, climbing the Pfaffenwand in the evening, passing the night on the *Trübseealp*, in the small inn or in the chalets, and completing the ascent in the early hours of the morning. The spotless snowy summit commands a panorama extending from the Säntis to the Matterhorn, and from Monte Rosa to the Vosges and Black Forest, thus embracing the Swiss Alps, the north of Switzerland, and part of South Germany.

Among the mountain-passes which can be conveniently crossed from Engelberg, the Jochpass (7244 feet), leading across the beautiful *Engstlenalp* and through the *Gental* to the *Haslital*, is the favourite. The tour from Engelberg to Meiringen occupies 10 or 11 hours. The *Surenenpass* (7562 feet), leading in 8½ hours from Engelberg to Altdorf, is crossed less frequently.

