

## EXCURSIONS ON THE BRÜNIG RAILWAY.

A line vying with the St. Gothard in its importance to tourists is that over the Brünig, connecting Lucerne with Interlaken. In describing the short excursions from Lucerne we travelled on this line as far as Alpnachstad, where it enters the beautiful *Canton of Obwalden* and the fertile valley lying between Lake Lucerne and the Brünig Pass.

After passing *Alpnach-Dorf* station we reach **Kerns-Kügiswil**, the starting-place of the diligences and other vehicles conveying visitors to the health-resorts of *Kerns*, *Flüeli*, and the *Melchtal*. Kerns itself (20 minutes) is one of the most thriving villages in Switzerland; it is situated on a fertile plateau 1870 feet above the sea, in the midst of beautiful meadows studded with fruit-trees, and of fragrant fir-woods. A new and convenient road leads from here in 45 minutes, over a bridge 318 feet in height (the highest in Switzerland), across the romantic *Melchaa Ravine*, to the Flüeli, with the beautifully situated new Kurhaus of Nünalpborn. The picturesque district of the Flüeli, with its chapel and its vine-covered parsonage, was formerly the home of the hermit Nicholas von der Flüe, who settled the disputes of the Swiss Confederates after the Burgundian Wars, and is venerated as a saint in the central cantons. Following the course of the road as it penetrates deeper into the romantic valley, we come to the *Ranft*, a deep gorge, where, by the side of a chapel, stands the little wooden cell in which the holy Nicholas lived for close upon twenty years. An extremely interesting path leads in one hour through woods and Alpine pastures to the mountain hamlet and health-resort of **Melchtal**. This place can also be reached from Kerns, along a good carriage-road, by diligence in 1 1/2 hours or on foot in

2 hours. Driving over St. Niklausen along the foaming Melchaa we catch beautiful glimpses of the valley of Ob-



walden and its background. From Melchthal there are two mountain passes, the Storegg and Juchli Pass, leading to the well-known valley of Engelberg. More frequented than these is the Alpine path leading in 3 hours across the fertile foot-hills of Kerns, and past the lake known as the *Melchsee* to the *Frutt*, a delightful summer resort embosomed in the mountains, and famous for the variety and beauty of its Alpine flora. In

2 hours we reach the *Engstlenalp*, lying on the pass between Engelberg and the Bernese Oberland, and in another 3½ hours we can cross the *Joch Pass* to Engelberg.

Next after *Kägiswil* station we reach the little town of **Sarnen**, where the *Landsgemeinde* or Popular Assembly of Obwalden meets on the last Sunday in April. It is situated on the pretty *Lake of Sarnen*, fringed with walnut and maple



Brünig Railway  
near Lungern

trees, and lies at the foot of the historic Landenberg. In the Council House is exhibited a relief map of the Lake of Lucerne and its environs, by X. Imfeld. Magnificent view from the *Römersberg* (½ hour), and from the *Stalden* (1 hour). In two hours we can reach the mineral bath *Schwendi-Kaltbad*.

From Sarnen a delightful excursion can also be made across the *Melchaa*, which here bursts out of a wooded valley, to Kerns (½ hour), along the beautiful shore of the lake to *Wylerbäd*, and good roads also lead from *Sachseln*, the next station on the Brünig Railway, to *Flüeli* and *Ranft*,

Sachseln is a favourite summer resort with a fine church with 22 marble pillars, old paintings, and relics of Nicholas von der Flüe.

After the Brünig Railway has passed the lovely Lake of Sarnen it reaches at Giswil the end of the level part of the valley, and then ascends through beautiful woodlands, in which we obtain charming vistas of the district we have just passed through, to the pretty valley of Lungern, some 650 feet higher. Skirting the little Lake of Lungern, a second ascent brings us to the summit of the Brünig (3395 feet), which affords a prospect of the Bernese Alps.

The summit of the **Brünig**, with its **Hotel and Kurhaus**, is well worth visiting on its own account, but it is also the starting-point for a variety of interesting excursions,—for instance, the ascent of the *Wilerhorn* or *Hochstollen*. We can also strongly recommend the picturesque mountain pathway leading from the heights of the Brünig through the hamlet of *Hohfluh* and Goldern to the *Alpbach*, the torrent descending to Meiringen in four tremendous leaps through a dark rocky gorge. If, instead of making this excursion, we take the train down to Meiringen, we shall have plenty of time, even if we wish to return to Lucerne the same day, for a visit to the *Gorge of the Aare*, or the celebrated *Reichenbachfall*.

The tour Lucerne-Brünig-Meiringen-Grimselroad Rhone Glacier-Furka-Göschenen-St. Gothard Railway-Lucerne, or in the reverse direction, is one of the most popular in Switzerland. It occupies three days.



## THE ENTLEBUCH.

If it were not that the Lake of the Four Cantons, the Rigi, and Pilatus are in the immediate vicinity of Lucerne, so that their fame quite overshadows that of other picturesque places in the neighbourhood of the city, we should hear much more of the valley of Entlebuch, with its beautiful