

THE SEETAL RAILWAY.

The "Lake Valley" railway affords an opportunity for excursions into the Swiss hill country, the pleasant, fertile and prosperous *Seetal*, which derives its name from the pretty lakes of *Baldegg* and *Hallwil*. Branching off from the main line to Basle near *Emmenbrücke* station, and passing the old convent of *Rathausen*, on the *Reuss*, the railway leads



Panorama of the Alps from Gelfingen, Lake of Baldegg

through *Eschenbach* and *Ballwil* to the trim and pleasantly situated village of *Hochdorf*. The *Hohenrain* (2014 feet), a much frequented point of view, can be ascended from here in half an hour. The castle, an ancient stronghold of the Knights of St. John, is now the Deaf and Dumb Asylum. In another hour and a half we reach the health-resort of *Horben*, commanding a fine view; on the way we pass the picturesque ruins of *Hünegg*. An excursion on the west side, towards

Römerswil, is no less interesting, particularly from Eschenbach through Klöpfen and Sonnenfels to Rothenburg. The next stations are *Baldegg* and *Gelfingen*, situated on the pretty little Lake of Baldegg, beyond which lies the Castle of Heidegg. We now quickly reach Hitzkirch-Richensee station and the large and trim village of *Hitzkirch*, with its prebend, built by the Teutonic Order, lying pleasantly at the foot of the elongated Lindenberg. Then follow Ermensee, Mosen and the handsome and flourishing *Beinwil*, high above the shores of the Lake of Hallwil. From Beinwil a branch of the Seetal Railway leads to the large, neat, and populous villages of *Reinach* and *Menziken*, as well as to the village of *Münster* with its venerable old convent of Beromünster and its "Schloss," in which the first Swiss printing-press was erected. From Beinwil a good path leads in three-



Castle of Hallwil

quarters of an hour to the *Homberg*, the summit of which commands not only a fine view of the Seetal but also a magnificent panorama of the Alps.

A prospect not inferior in beauty is afforded by the *Eichberg*, which may be reached in 1¼ hours by the road leading past *Hallwil Castle*, and we can descend either to Beinwil or by a somewhat longer road to the town of

Lenzburg, Homberg and Eichberg are favourite resorts not only of the inhabitants of the district but also of visitors from Lucerne.

Passing the pretty little town of **Lenzburg**, with its romantically situated castle, of ancient date but still in good preservation, the railway leads to Wildegg, where it connects with the Zürich and Berne line. An interesting excursion may be made by steamer or rowing-boat across the lake to the old castle of Hallwil or to the health-resort of *Brestenberg*.



ZUG, ITS LAKE AND ENVIRONS.

Last, though not least attractive among the excursions from Lucerne, comes a trip to the neighbouring town of **Zug**, which may be reached either by rail via Rothkreuz and Cham, or by steamboat via Küsnacht and Immensee. The pleasant situation of Zug, on its blue lake, in full view of the Rigi and Pilatus, no less than the neat and trim appearance of the town, renders it deserving of a visit. In spite of modern improvements, Zug still retains, thanks to the numerous towers of its ancient fortifications, the antique appearance which has led to its being designated the Nuremberg of Switzerland.

Among the sights of the cheerful little town we may give the first place to the ancient *Rathaus*, a massive building containing the *Historical and Antiquarian Museum*. In the church of *St. Oswald* the paintings by Deschwanden in the choir, and the old and valuable ecclesiastical vestments and altar plate, are worthy of notice, as are also the altar-pieces in the *Capuchin Church*, while the large collection of weapons and flags in the *Arsenal* testifies to the warlike prowess of the men of Zug in the olden time.