

and Cham with the extensive works of the well-known *Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company*.

A charming excursion may be made across the **Lake of Zug** by steamboat, past Oberwil, Walchwil, and the promontory of Buonas with its two castles, to Immensee, whence a walk of $\frac{3}{4}$ hour brings us through the famous **Hohle Gasse** to Küssnacht on the Lake of Lucerne, where we can take the steamboat to that city. A new railway line runs along the beautiful south-eastern bank of the lake to **Walchwil**, a favourite summer resort, and through orchards and groves of chestnut-trees to the villages of **Arth** and **Goldau**, where the St. Gothard Railway affords communication with Lucerne.



SÜDOSTBAHN.

(SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY.)

In conclusion we have to describe a "tourist railway line" in the strictest sense of the term—one of those, which are so numerous in the vicinity of the Lake of the Four Cantons, namely the South Eastern Railway of Switzerland, connecting the tourist centres of the Lake of Lucerne with **Einsiedeln**, the famous place of pilgrimage, and the **Lake of Zurich**.

The South Eastern Railway branches off from the St. Gothard Railway at Goldau station (see p. 76) and ascends through the romantic scenery of the landslip of Goldau to Steinerberg, where a fine view of the valley of Schwyz opens, increasing in grandeur every moment till it embraces the precipices and glaciers of the Urirothstock.

Beneath the forests of the Rigi lies the placid Lake of Lowerz, in the midst of which rises the little Island of

Schwanau, famous in legend; the St. Gothard Railway intersects the green valley, in which, half hidden among its orchards, lies Steinen, the birthplace of the patriot Werner Stauffacher. We can also follow with our eye the track of the Arth-Rigi Railway from the débris-strewn fields of Goldau to the Kräbelwand, where it enters the romantic wooded ravine through which it ascends to Rigi-Klösterli.

We have a fine view, too, of the different summits of the Rigi, but on reaching **Sattel Station** the prospect becomes more restricted. Sattel is the starting-point for various interesting excursions; the famous battle-field of Morgarten is only 20 minutes' walk from here, and in half an hour we reach the beautiful Lake of Aegeri, remote from all the tumult of the world. In a hollow bounded by grassy slopes lie the villages of **Ober-** and **Unter-Aegeri**, from which a road leads down to Zug through the romantic valley of the Lorze. From Sattel to Zug is a walk of 3 hours.

A delightful walk may also be taken from Sattel by Adelboden to Schwyz (1½ hours) with the panorama described above; from Sattel, too, we may make the very interesting ascent to the **Wildspitz** (4855 feet, 1½ hours) with an inn near the top, while a walk of 1½ hours further on brings us to the **Gnippen**, commanding a striking view of the landslide of Goldau. At Sattel the railway enters the picturesque ravine of Steinenau, and leads to **Rothenthurm** station. The village, which possesses a handsome new church, derives its name from an ancient tower, doubtless erected for purposes of defence; in the year 1798 it witnessed the victory of the Swiss over a French army outnumbering them by ten to one. Traversing a stretch of treeless fields and peat-moors with a view of the Hohe Rhone and the sanatorium of Gotschalkenberg, we reach **Biberbrücke** Junction. The line bearing to the left descends through the ravine of the Sihl (affording us meanwhile a superb view of northern and eastern Switzerland) down to Richtersweil and Wädensweil

on the Lake of Zurich, the other line branches off to Pfäffikon, crosses the Lake by a dam more than half a mile in length, and reaches the pleasant little town of **Rapperswil**, which, with its ancient and venerable castle, looks invitingly across the lake. The castle contains the large historical and



Einsiedeln

art collections of the **Polish National Museum**. On the castle mount is a beautiful promenade, the Lindenhof with its ancient lime-trees, and magnificent points of view. In the town itself the Council-house, dating from the fifteenth century, with its Gothic wood-carvings, is worth a visit.

The railway connects here with the Zurich-Coire and Arlberg lines, as well as with the steamboats on the Lake

of Zurich. From Biberbrücke Junction the train conveys us in a few minutes to the famous pilgrimage-place of **Einsiedeln**, visited year after year by 150,000 pilgrims from every part of Europe.

Einsiedeln lies on a lofty plateau, surrounded by dusky woods, and forming, from a geological and botanical point of view, one of the most remarkable districts of Switzerland. The chief object of interest at Einsiedeln is the **Benedictine Abbey**, founded in the 10th century and richly adorned with gold and silver ornaments as well as with pictures and



Rapperswil

statuary. The convent possesses a famous collection of manuscripts and ancient books. At various times it has suffered from conflagrations, and the present structure dates only from the last century. In an open space in front of the convent stands a pavilion of black marble, with a statue of the Holy Virgin and a drinking fountain with 14 spouts; in the surrounding arcades there are bazaars with devotional objects of all kinds. The church, with its two slender towers and lofty choir, is richly adorned with fresco paintings and gilding, and contains a chapel of black marble in which is displayed the famous image of the Holy Virgin, covered with gold

and precious stones, and forming the chief object of the pilgrims' veneration. The Abbey contains many other interesting objects, for instance the music room with its portraits of the numerous sovereigns who have conferred benefits upon the monastery, and the library. It maintains a well attended college, and numbers among its 80 priests savants of European celebrity. The monks devote considerable attention to agriculture, in which they are extremely skilful. The village of Einsiedeln itself consists for the most part of inns and lodging-houses for the pilgrims, and of shops in which crucifixes, rosaries, and similar objects are offered for sale; it also contains the largest Catholic ecclesiastical printing works in the world. On high festivals, especially, the pilgrims assemble here in great numbers, and the scene almost defies description. The lover of nature, too, will find plenty to interest him in hill-encircled Einsiedeln. The twin peaks of the Mythen are seen to great advantage from here; indeed, a visit to Einsiedeln may well be combined with the ascent of the Grosse Mythen, descending direct to Schwyz.



We have now *glanced* at Lucerne and its excursions, but nothing more. The various tours described above can be combined in scores of ways which it is needless to particularize. Where picturesque scenery is as abundant as it is in the neighbourhood of Lucerne, it matters little which direction we take, if we but keep our eyes open to the beauties that surround us.

