

ELECTRIC RAILWAY BRUNNEN-MORSCHACH AXENFELS-AXENSTEIN

As charming as the situation of Brunnen is, so beautiful are the walks it offers. Brunnen, the stately bright and busy landing-place of the Canton of Schwyz is, with its en-



Electric Railway Brunnen-Morschach
Axenfels-Axenstein

viron, a favourite resort of the summer-guests of Lucerne and the visitors of the Lake of the Four Cantons in general. Situated

in the midst of the richest verdure, with public grounds and pretty walks, and consecrated by its souvenirs of the

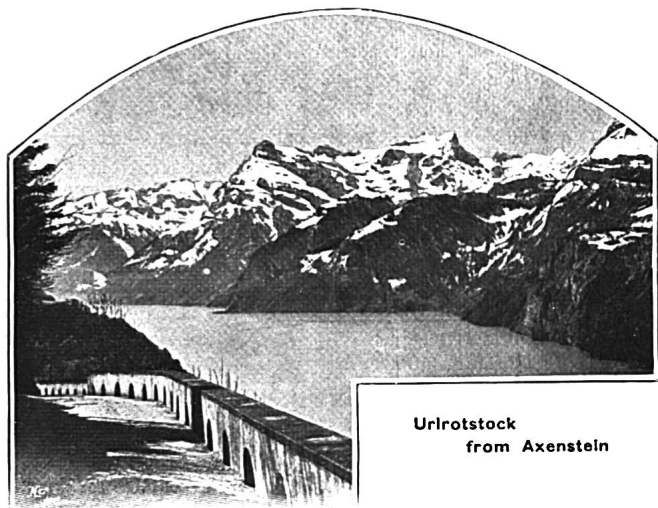
time the first Swiss alliances took place, Brunnen is the very jewel of the lake, the two upper arms of which may be seen from the near *Guetsch*.

The tours before-mentioned of Gersau-Rigi-Scheidegg, Gersau-Rigi-Hochfluh, Schwyz, Mythen lie at the door of Brunnen. The most interesting walk leads from Brunnen up to the *Wasiwand*, rising above the beginning of the Axenstrasse and hence to the high terrace of the village of Morschach (2155 feet) and the renowned cure-houses of Axenfels and Axenstein.

The recently constructed electric rack- and-tooth-wheel-railway **Brunnen-Morschach-Axenfels-Axenstein** has its starting-point on the Axenstrasse, near the Mythenstein-tunnel, about 200 meters from the pier of the steam-boats. Immediately behind the station it crosses the steep projection of the *Wasiwand* by means of a tunnel 1000 feet in length, leading with a continuous gradient through the *Wasiwand* up to the broad sweep of the carriage-road of Morschach. Below the so-called *Känzeli* there follows a slope-viaduct. During the trip the train affords the view upon the large basin of Brunnen-Beckenried, afterwards upon the Mythenstein, the Rütli and the Seelisberg, later on the look down into the mountain region of the Lake of Uri, reaching nearly as far as the south-end of the latter, the green waters of which are over-towered by the glacier-embanked peaks of the group of the *Urirotstock*. The train next arrives at the Palace Hotel Axenfels, the splendid park of which, covering a surface of one kilometre in length, is strewn with glacier stones and erratic blocks. At the cure-house *Fronalp* the railway leads into the station of Morschach.

Owing to its marvellous and exuberant vegetation, Morschach is the rendez-vous of painters and a much frequented health-resort. Lush green meadows and massive erratic blocks are adorning the handsome terrace from the brim of which sights of the most pleasant parts of the

Lake of the Four Cantons may be obtained. From the village the line, which has a total length of 2,06 km with a gradient of 17 in hundred, runs high above the carriage-road to its ending-point, the Axenstein (2350 feet), where we find a restaurant provided with a recently built terrace that allows of a fine view upon lake and mountains. The trip



Urlrotstock
from Axenstein

from Brunnen to Morschach is accomplished in 10, that of Brunnen-Axenstein in 15 minutes. In the immediate neighbourhood of the terminus lies the *Grand Hotel Axenstein*, surrounded by a beautiful wood-land park, through the shades where of run walks and ways to many a point that preserves in its name the souvenir of a celebrated visitor. On the Axenstein there are also monuments that have been erected in honour of the Swiss naturalists Agassiz, Oswald Heer and B. Studer. Another curiosity to be seen here, is

a "glacier-field" bearing visible traces of the corrosive action exercised by the glaciers of prehistoric time.

Above Morschach stands the *Cure-house Stoos* (4241 feet), which may be reached on a good road in a two hour's walk. The Stoos is a well known Alpine health-resort situated upon a lofty but sheltered terrace; its swelling and blooming meadows are the delight of all travellers. Even from here the prospect of the surrounding mountains is sublime, but the impression they make on the onlooker will be still heightened, if from the Stoos he ascends to the summit of the *Fronalpstock* (6296 ft.), which can easily be carried out without a guide in 1 1/2 hours, sign-posts indicating the path to be followed. Traversing mountain pastures, we come to a point of view, that can well challenge comparison with the Rigi or the Grosse Mythen. The panorama includes an uninterrupted chain of snow-capped peaks extending from the Säntis to the Blümlisalp; not less grand, however, is the view of the Lake of Lucerne, the strange configuration of which is laid bare to us, whilst its colour varies at different times of the day between the most charming tints.



THE AXENSTRASSE.

Along the Lake of Uri, from Brunnen to Flüelen, under the rocks of the Fronalpstock, runs the famous *Axenstrasse*, nine miles in length, and commanding lovely views throughout. Built in 1863 and 1864, it was considered, prior to the construction of the Alpine Railways, a triumph of engineering and though now far surpassed by the St. Gothard Railway it still retains all its charms as a highly romantic and beautiful roadway. Running at times high above the lake, and in many places cut out of the solid rock, it pierces the