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A Geological Excursion to Switzerland.

YOU have asked me to write something of my past summer's experience in Germany that would be of interest to your readers, more particularly to students in Science, I have chosen therefore to take the subjects of excursions, since these now form such an important part of instruction given at our own college here, and, there is probably no better way of teaching scientific subjects, nor of causing students to be really interested in their work, than by taking them into nature's museum and letting them become familiar with the objects and structures so often referred to in lectures.

The great universities of Germany realize this more fully than we do, and excursions are therefore conducted at the end of the week by the instructors in most departments, including geology, mineralogy, botany, biology, chemistry, and the various branches of engineering. Excursions are made to mines, quarries, woods, parks, zoological gardens, chemical works, and structural works of every sort, so that students are not only shown the practical side of their subjects, but they acquire an instinct and a power of observation that can be had in no other way.

It was my good fortune to attend many of these week-end excursions, but of these I will not speak further, but give you a brief description of the great excursion held at the close of the term, by the professor of geology, Dr. Wilhelm Salmon.

Fully a month before the close of the term a notice was posted stating that an excursion for advanced students in geology would be conducted by Dr. Salmon, in Switzerland among the glaciers, passes, and mountains of the Alps, and that students who wished to go must give their names at once. I was not slow to take advantage of this great opportunity, although the necessary equipment for the trip was extensive and formidable enough for a Polar expedition. Among the things necessary for an excursionist was the following: "students not holding life insurance or accident insurance must take out an accident policy; all students must be physically fit for the climbing, and any doubtful must be medically examined before starting; each student must provide himself with the following articles, a heavy suit with vest, warm mantle (no rubber coats), two woollen shirts, nightrobe, woollen undercloths, woollen collar, four pairs woollen socks, leggings or puttees, common handkerchiefs at least five, blue glasses or black veil (for snow), suspenders, extra buttons, needle and thread, *nailed shoes*, insoles, shoe-fat, laces, mountain stick or ice pick, back-sack, field-flask at least one litre capacity, drinking