

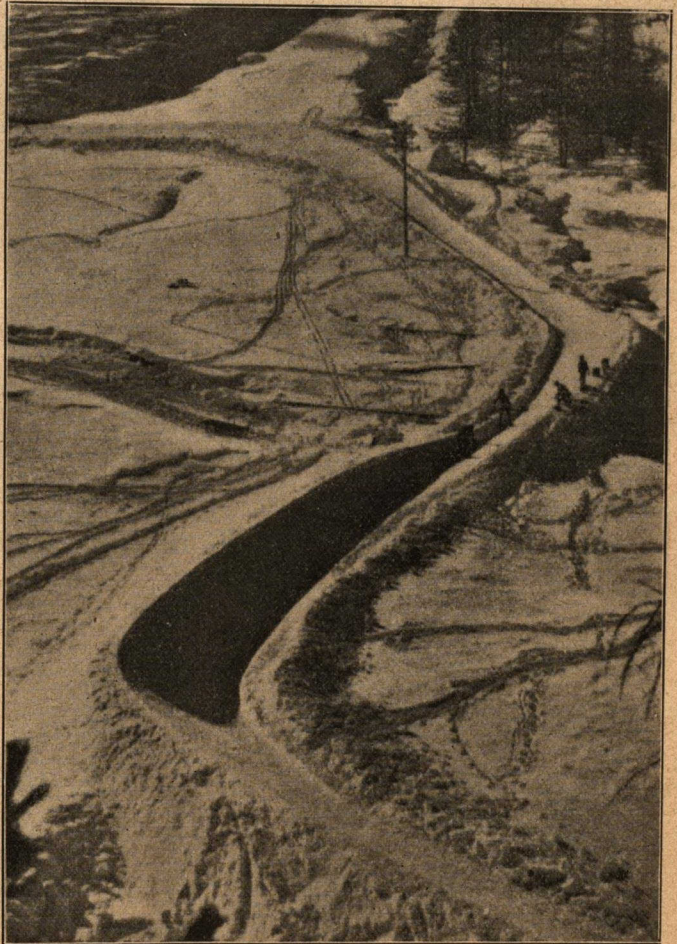
Winter Sport in Switzerland.

By JOHN DAVIES, in *Recreation*.

THE Swiss winter sports are endless in variety. Both sexes and all ages may find interests there. For the young and active, there are bandy and ice-tobogganing; for those whose agility is waning, there are ski-ing, lugeing, skating and bob-sleighing; while to handle a broom, to give even the faintest semblance of a Scotch accent to the phrase "Swoop her up, mon!"—to have passed nine and be on the right side of ninety—would seem the only qualifications necessary for the ever-fascinating game of curling. Descriptions of these sports are so familiar to the readers of magazines and illustrated periodicals that a repetition of them would be out of place. Yet a recapitulation of their latest developments may not prove profitless.

The bob-sleigh introduced in Switzerland consists of the familiar "bob," with runners of round steel. It is steered in the usual manner—from a cross-bar on the foremost sled—and from the one behind is operated a powerful brake. It is shorter than the American type of "bob," carrying a crew of usually five, three besides the steersman and brakesman. The motor car, latest and most potent influence of our modern outdoor life, has suggested a new means of guidance—a few bob-sleighs are now controlled by a steering-wheel; and, in obedience to a further suggestion of the same influence, there appeared last year one or two which were fitted with a sheet-iron wind-shield not unlike the hood which covers the machinery of a racing motor. The excitement of a descent of one of the Swiss courses on one of these racing sleds is an experience not to be forgotten—compared with riding the "bobs" on the coasting hills in America, it is like a ride in a racing motor car after riding in a low-powered touring car. It is the ski, however, that has provided the most striking development of interest in Swiss winter sports. The ski (pronounced "shee," not "skee") is a long, narrow

wooden snow-shoe, or, to be more exact, a wooden runner very little wider than the foot itself, and, by rule of thumb at least, of a length exactly coinciding with the height of its user. It is fastened not to the foot direct, but to a pliable gutta-percha attachment like a great inner-sole secured only at the toe; and thus, while the ski remains always on the snow, the body sways and bends with any undulations that may be encountered. During the last few winters, the number of skiers has increased by leaps and bounds. Morning after morning gay parties may be seen starting forth on expeditions, to zig-zag their way up some gently sloping hillside in order to take a long slide down again.



A FAST BEND ON THE CRESTA RUN AT ST. MORITZ WHERE THE NOVICE IN TOBOGGANING GENERALLY COMES TO GRIEF.