

Remarque out of Germany before the war, he drove out in a car which he then stored in Switzerland before moving to the United States. He still owns it, and he and Paulette shop together in it. They live with one maid, an Egyptian cat, and rooms full of Egyptian mummy masks. Paulette does all her own cooking, while Remarque is busy writing.

For the writers, of course, the problem is easier. Writers can work anywhere, and they do not regard solitude as a mortal enemy, the way actors do. A. J. Cronin, in Lucerne, lives almost the life of a hermit, and is rarely seen by anyone. Georges Simenon's colossal output of detective stories continues in Lausanne. Peter Viertel lived the life of a happy bachelor at Klosters until he married Deborah Kerr, whereupon she moved in and began to tidy up the chalet.

On the other hand, there is the diverting spectacle of the stars who

do not like to be alone and are either seldom in Switzerland or are there and going crazy.

Jack Palance, perhaps, can be excused because his wife left him while he was at the *Villa la Jacquièr*, and he roamed around Europe trying to effect a reconciliation. The villa at Epalinges is big, with six bathrooms, and to fight off loneliness Palance sometimes surrounds himself with a hard-drinking bunch of tough American intellectuals—who regard his problems without sympathy.

"He is always in my room," one of them complained. "He recites poetry which he has written or sings a song he has composed. But the last line of the lyric never seems to work out, somehow. Or he discusses the stories he would like to write and never will."

A PROBLEM that faces all the Hollywood stars now, or will soon, is that of education. William Holden's children go to Swiss schools. Deborah Kerr's children by her first marriage go to school in England. The Ustinovs and the Burtons are putting off the day when they will have to decide.

As one of them said to me, "You think of Swiss schools as being very cosmopolitan, but they are not. The children learn bad French because most of the other children are foreigners like themselves. They have to waste a year learning the geography of their canton. Not even the geography of Switzerland, mind you, useless though even *that* is, but the geography of their local canton!"

Van Johnson is the only star so far to take the plunge into Switzerland and climb out again. He has abandoned his home there, and he told me why.

"At first it was marvelous," he said. "I looked from my bedroom window with a glorious view over a Swiss mountain. Next morning it seemed even lovelier. Then, after some time, a strange thing happened. I noticed the mountain seemed to be coming closer. Every morning I checked, and it was true. One morning I awoke and found it in my garden. I screamed, 'Aaarrggghh!' and fled. If I hadn't gotten out of the country, it would have killed me."

For him, at least, having to live in Switzerland proved more bitter medicine than the brand prescribed by Uncle Sam's tax collectors.



In his Swiss abode near Montreux, Noel Coward deserts the gay theatrical whirl momentarily for a fling at the keyboard.

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