

69 — SWITZERLAND

The average Englishman's picture of Switzerland is an attractive mixture of travel posters and childhood geography books. He sees it as a country of snowy mountains and green valleys with bright, trim chalets perched among them, of sleek cows and massive cheeses, of farmers, mountain guides and watch-makers. True though it is, so far as it goes, this image is hardly fair to modern Switzerland. For Switzerland is not just a mountainous country inhabited by thrifty peasants. It now stands at the industrial and commercial cross-roads of Europe. The Rhine joins it with the factories of the Ruhr and the docks of Belgium and Holland, and the project for connecting this river with the Rhone will, when it is finished, place Basle astride one of Europe's north-south arteries. Road and rail tunnels and passes lead into France and Italy. Swissair links Zurich with Tokyo and Buenos Aires, as well as with the European capitals. Above all, tourists from all parts of the Continent come to Switzerland to climb, to ski, or just to relax.