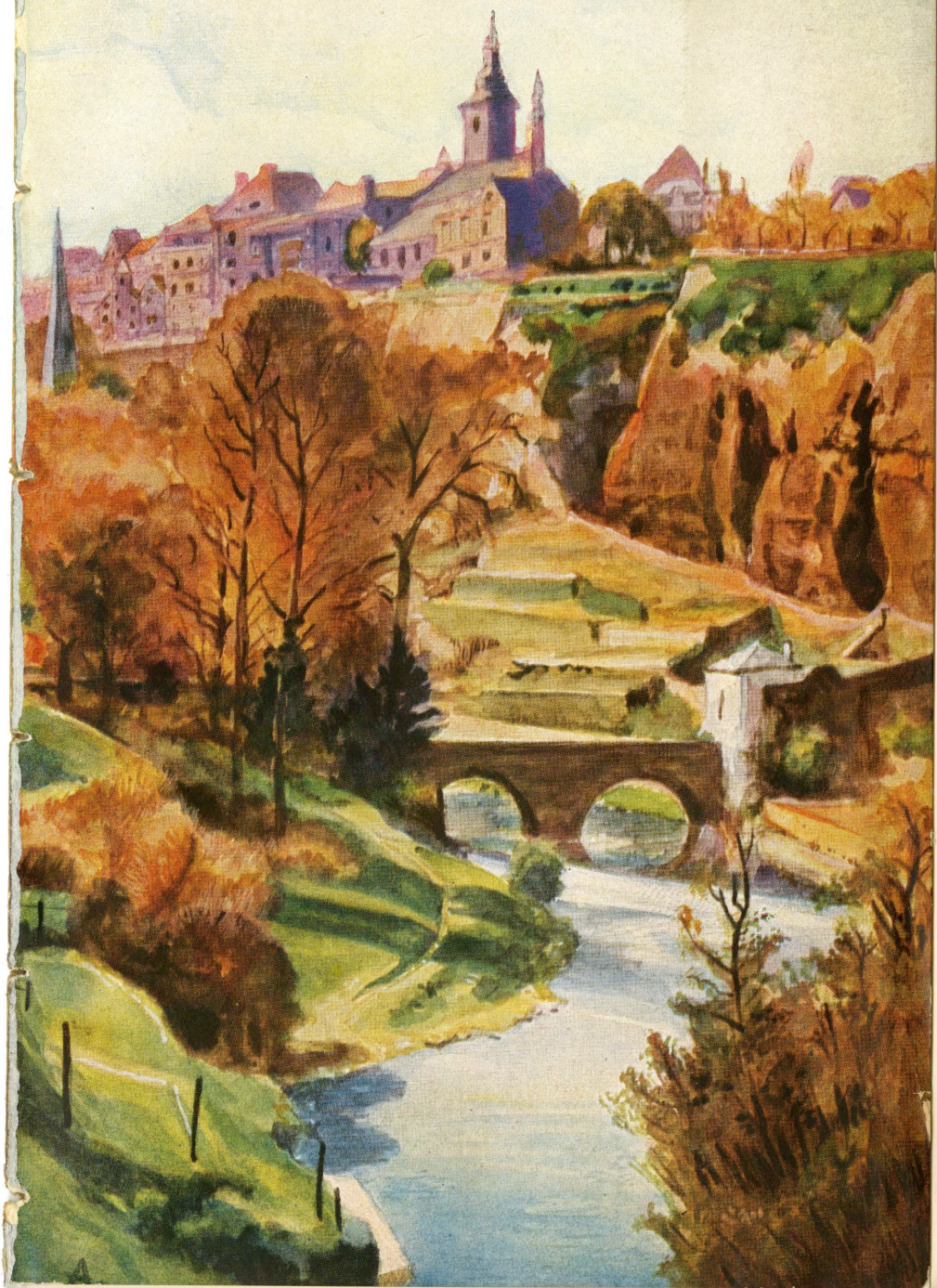
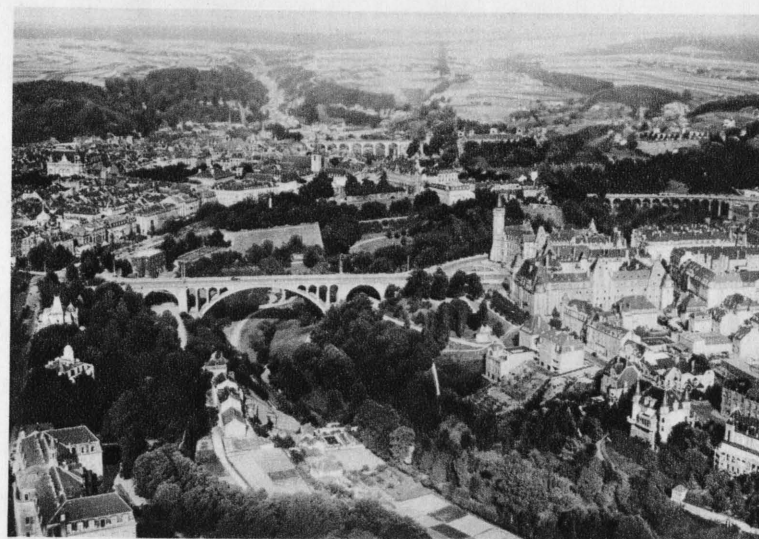


13
LUXEMBOURG

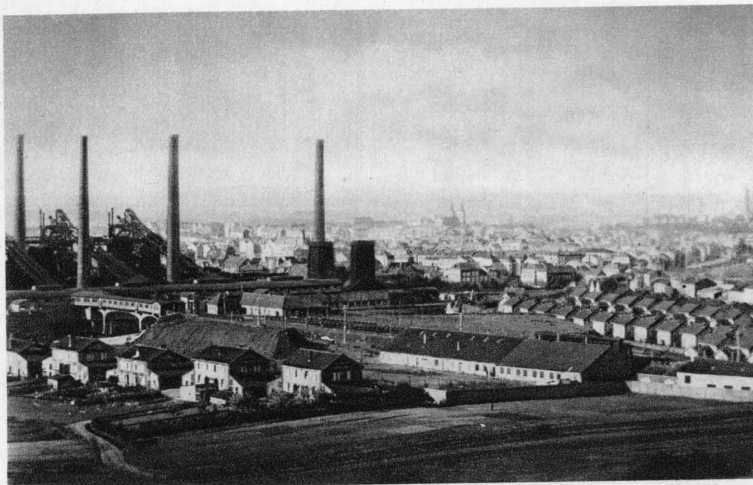




General view of Luxembourg

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

The last Grand Duchy that has remained after the world-war and one that owes its perpetual neutrality to the treaty concluded in London between the great powers in 1867—, lies hidden away in a corner between Belgium, France, and Germany. If it is one of the smallest of European countries, it is one of the most beautiful. On the way to Switzerland and Italy, it is scarcely known to the European traveller. But neither the Belgian nor the French Ardennes have such a rich and lovely succession of mount and valley, of forest and bush, of plain and gorge and river. No other little land provides such continual and varying delight for the wanderer. There Nature's great tome is condensed to a pocket volume; there are her selected works.



General view of Esch on Alzette

In its northern part (the "Oesling") Luxembourg is the continuation of the Belgian Ardennes. The centre and the south ("Gutland") belong the plateau of Lorraine. All the rivers of the country, with the exception of one brook, are tributaries to the Moselle.

Luxembourg, with an area of 2596 sq.-km. or 998.216 sq.-miles nourishes a population of 280.000 inhabitants. Its railway and road systems are highly developed (highroads and bye-roads 2275 km., railways 472 km.) The well-kept highroads form the delight of the motorist and cyclist to such an extent that they have been termed billiard-roads. In the numerous clear brooks the trout-fisher finds good sport amidst enchanting scenery. Commerce and industry are extremely flourishing in the centre and the south of the country (iron-ore-mines, iron and steel works). The Moselle region produces wellknown vintages and the famous



Cliché B. Kutter, Luxembourg

Thermal springs of the state at Mondorf

sparkling Moselle (centres: Grevenmacher and Remich). The Luxembourg people are bilingual, French and German being spoken by nearly everybody. In all the secondary schools English too is taught and not a small amount of the inhabitants read, write, and even speak it fluently. The Luxembourghers have been described by George Renwick F. R. G. S. "as progressive, hardy, hospitable, and honest. They are hard-working too. Prosperity reigns, and in the Duchy now there is little poverty, and one never meets a beggar. No class distinctions reign in the land, and the people are extremely religious. In Luxembourg the climate is all that can be desired. The summer is delightful, the winter neither too long nor too severe. So we get a people sturdy in mind and body, children of nature, upright and pure, believing in dreams and prayer, living in a romantic land, fond of endless tales of fairies and of their folk-lore, Saint worshippers,



Echternach, Market place (Dingstuhl)

happy in the sun, bidding it good morning and good night with prayer."

The well-known author might have added: peaceful and pacifistic to the core, ardent enthusiasts of the League of Nations, and of peace and goodwill among mankind. The capital-town lies on the international London-Ostende-Basle line, on which frequent express trains run daily in each direction. It is also connected by express services with Paris, the Rhine and Holland, so that from whatever side the tourist comes he can reach Luxembourg comfortably in a very few hours. The city occupies one of the prettiest sites of any town in Europe. It is perched on the top of an enormous rocky mass, that falls away in sheer precipices on three sides to the river valleys beneath. It is surrounded on every side by the remains of massive fortifications, rising tier upon tier behind each



The Müller valley, Road towards Berdorf

other, mighty bastions surmounted by picturesque ivy-twined watchtowers, built into the rocks and continuing the perpendicular cliff walls to dizzy heights.

From Luxembourg to Esch-sur-Alzette. In half an hour's time we are in the Black Country of Luxembourg, the "Bassin Minier", of which Esch is the centre. Next to agriculture the greatest industry of the grand-duchy is the extraction and smelting of iron ore. The canton of Esch is blackened and blurred by furnaces, forges and foundries, and the grand-duchy produces no less than one fortieth of the world's supply of iron ore.

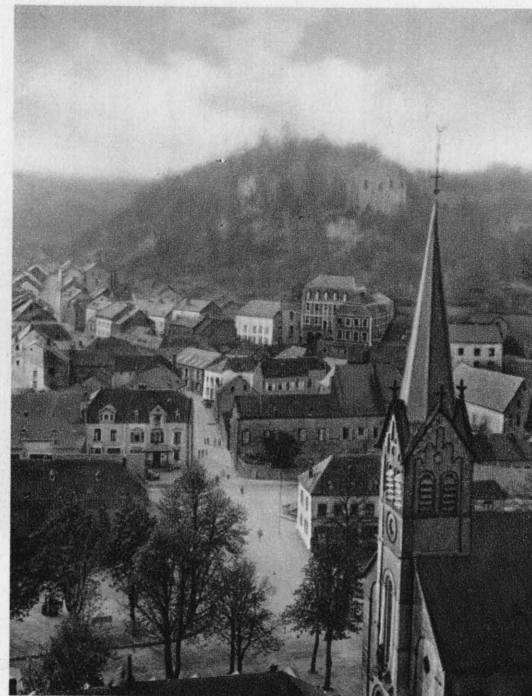
From Luxembourg to Mondorf-les-Bains. By a narrow gauge railway this watering place and health



Environs of Mersch, Castle and village of Schoenfels

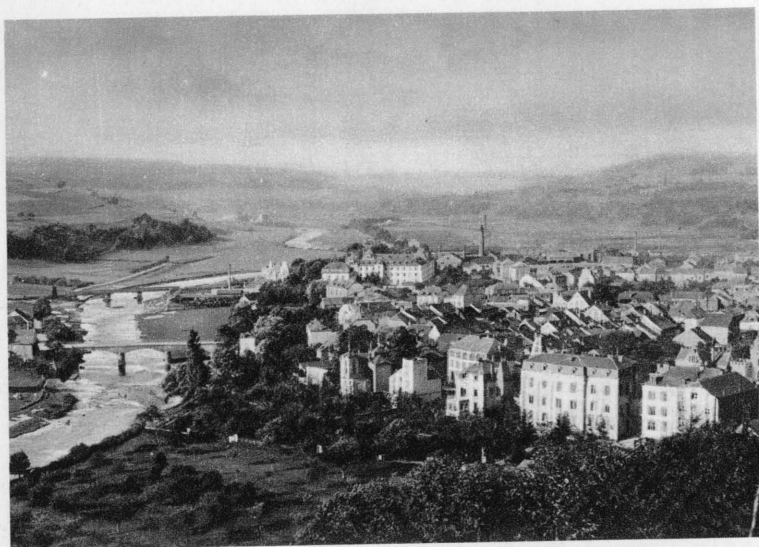
resort which is under state ownership is reached. The waters of Mondorf are famous for their beneficial effect on the digestive tract and the liver. A hydrotherapeutical cure in the highly modernised establishments of Mondorf is not wanting in charm. The park and its terraces are large and well kept; there are swimming baths with ferruginous waters, and the Moselle is not far for lovely excursions. The Moselle. From Schengen to Wasserbillig this river forms the boundary between Luxembourg and the German Rhine-Province. Remich and Grevenmacher are pleasing little towns with wine cellars of sparkling Moselle. The former is reached on the Mondorf line, the latter on the Luxembourg-Treves line. There are also the picturesque villages of Ehnen and Wormeldange, famed for their generous vintages.

Echternach and the Mullertal. From Wasser-



Country town of Fels with ruins of the castle

billig the Prince-Henri line brings the traveller up the Sûre to Echternach, the most ancient and picturesque town of the country, The Benedictine Abbey, which flourished from the 7th century to the French Revolution, owed its foundation to St. Willibrord, an Anglo-Saxon missionary and bishop of Utrecht. Its basilica, entirely restored, dates from the 11th century. Evers Whitsun-Tuesday the Dancing Procession, a remnant of the middle-ages, attended by thousands of pilgrims praying to Saint-Willibrord, passes through the town and ends before the shrine of the Saint in the Basilica. Echternach is a favourite summer resort both for its antiquity and the beauty of its scenery. Moreover, it is at the entrance of the Mullertal, that jewel



General view of Diekirch

of Luxembourg landscapes. Wild ravines, fantastic rocks, fine forests, grottoes and cascades abound there and present an ever-changing scene to the delighted wanderer. Smaller tourist's resorts in this district are Berdorf, Grundhof, Mullertal, Beaufort (this latter with the ruins of an old manor).

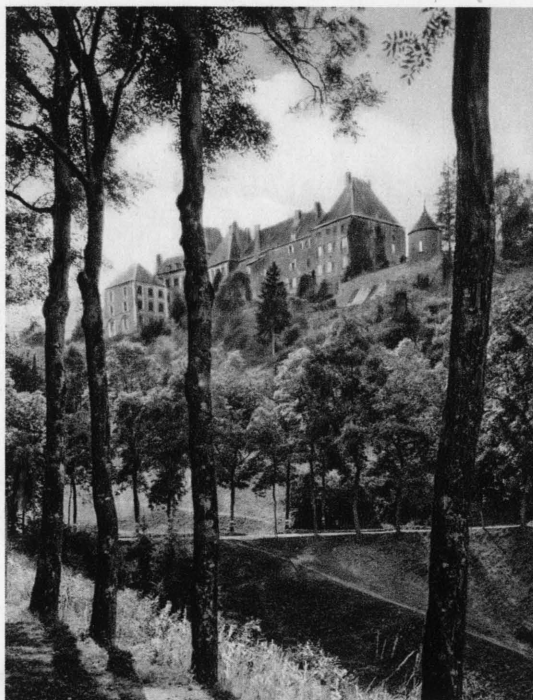
The centre and the North. From Luxembourg the Alzette line passes through the fertile valley of Mersch, a charming borough in whose neighbourhood vestiges of Roman and prehistoric times can be viewed. The tourist who likes to stay there enjoys charming tours to the valleys of the Mamer and the Eisch, in which picturesque manors abound: Koerich, Septfontaines, Ansembourg, Hollenfels, Schoenfels. The castles of Meisembourg, Fischbach and Laro-



Panorama of Esch on Sauer

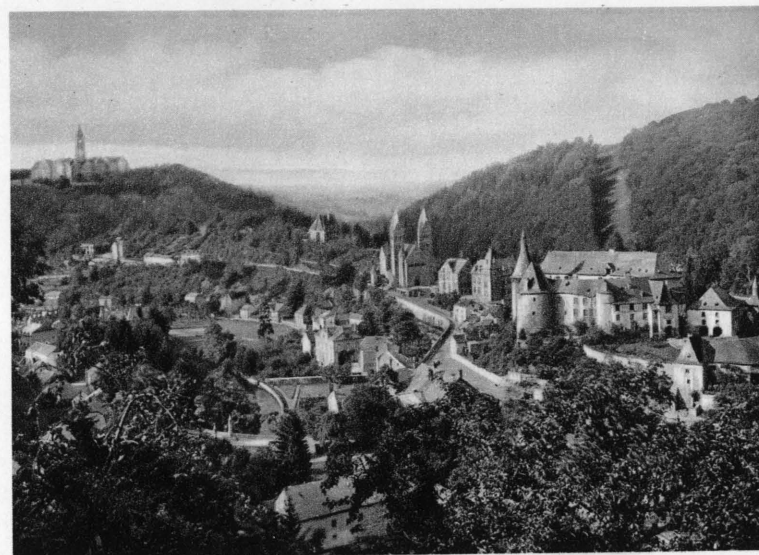
chette are not far off. This latter locality is also highly recommandable for a prolonged stay and pleasant walks. From Merch via Ettelbruck Diekirch is reached, the cradle and centre of touring in the Grand Duchy. This capital of the North, situated on the river Sûre, rivals with Echternach for the beauty of its scenery, the comfort of its hotels and the variety of the excursions that its surroundings offer to the visitor. From Ettelbruck the Luxembourg-Liège line brings you into the heart of the Luxembourg Ardennes ("Oesling").

Slate-schists, oak-bark plantations, golden broom, clear brooks meandering at the bottom of narrow valleys, wide panoramas with small villages at the horizon, ruined castles topping the hills, are the characteristics of this wild and romantic region. Its best known valleys are those of the



Wiltz castle

Upper-Sûre, the Wiltz, the Clerf and the Our, its most famous resorts Esch-sur-Sûre, Wiltz, Clervaux, Vianden. Esch-sur-ûre or Esch-in-the-Hole, idyllic and secluded at the foot of a sombre medieval donjeon, is justly renowned for its wild scenery, one of the most typical of the Oesling. Wiltz, the centre of the tanning industry, a coquettish town on the slope of a hill, affords wide panoramic vistas; its market cross and its château are worth seeing. Clervaux, snugly nestling, in its winding valley, round an ancient castle, that is well preserved, boasts of two stately modern buildings: a fine parish church and an imposing Benedictine abbey. Vianden is, besides Echternach, the most roman-



General view of Clerf

tic of our towns. Its castle, the cradle of the Orange-Nassau dynasty, is the most ancient, extensive and the best preserved in the country. There may be viewed the manorial chapel, the Byzantine Hall, the Knight's Hall the donjeon and the oubliettes. The town itself presents a Trinitarian church of the XIII. century and preserves, on the border of the river Our the house in which the French poet Victor Hugo lived during part of his exile. To the north the river Our winds through a magnificent valley, in which stand the castles of Falkenstein and Stolzembourg.

Vianden is described at length by an Englishman, Francis Gribble, in his book „In Luxembourg in War Time“ (1916).

The ruins of the castles of Bourscheid and Brandenburg also attract visitors who are fond of old-time remembrances and romantic scenery.



Kasteel Vianden

Since 1922 Luxembourg has entered into a Customs Union with Belgium. Belgian currency is used, and the price of living is about the same as in Belgium.

All those who visit little Luxembourg, the "Arcadian Duchy", leave it, like George Renwick, the author of "Luxembourg, the Grand Duchy and its People" (Fisher Unwin, 1913) with the intention to see it again: "They will return, laden with strange and glittering memories, if they only will follow, not necessarily in my footsteps, but wherever in its towns and villages, its softly undulating woods and stream-embroidered meadow-lands, the little gods of the open air may chance to call and to entreat".

Maps, booklets and information may be obtained of: the „Touring Club Luxembourgeois“. Coin Grand' rue Porte-Neuve, 2, Luxembourg.

THE MOSELLE RIVER

