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THE HEART OF EUROPE

By Charlotte Muret and
Denis de Rougemont

Duell, Sloan & Pearce, \$2.50

"The Heart of Europe" is a rather roseate little item about Switzerland, written by an American and a native Swiss now living in the United States. It traces the history of Switzerland from the time of William Tell. One chapter gives a fairly well-rounded picture of the mechanism of the Swiss government.

Switzerland has become, according to the authors, "a Europe reconciled with itself," since it combines three civilizations, two religions, four languages and innumerable races in harmony. The authors distinguish between a democratic and a representative government; Switzerland's government is truly representative and cooperative. The citizens of each canton meet in the village and vote, much the same as in our New England Town Meeting.

The authors propose a Federalized Europe as post-war civilization's only hope of escape from totalitarianism. In substance, the proposal is identical with that of Clarence Streit in "Union Now," and must be rejected for the same reasons. To pass laws abolishing national boundaries is one thing; to induce people to erase these boundaries in their hearts, without eradicating the politico-economic abuses which caused the divisions in the first place, is something else again. It takes more

than a pretty blue print to make a sturdy bridge.

Nevertheless, the book makes pleasant reading, especially for its anecdotes about Swiss sagacity, Swiss courage, and the Swiss character generally. Many passages are written with humor, and there is a delightful simplicity throughout which the reader who is sated with sophistication should find thoroughly enjoyable.

HARRIETT PHILMUS
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