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Budapest Visit Charms Traveller

Hungarian Capital's Beauty Captivates, Though Society Flocks to Lake Balaton Beaches.

(Special Correspondence.)

BUDAPEST, Wednesday. — At this time of year, "tout Budapest" is on the shores of Lake Balaton, which is the largest lake in Europe, whose sands are not surpassed on any European seacoast. Its northern banks are beloved of swimmers, while its southern side is preferred for children.

The most fashionable resort is Balaton-Foldvar, patronised by the aristocracy, the Szechenyis, Zichys and Majlars. Balaton-Fured and Siofok come next in importance. They are all provided with hotels, while "paying-guests" are taken in private families, also at Tihany monastery, where the late King Charles was interned after his adventurous exploit last year.

Fured, five hours' railway journey from Budapest, is very much like Evian-les-Bains. It has the same kind of steep streets, old-fashioned houses and quaint nooks and corners. It is surrounded by vineyards and is a good centre for walks and excursions in the hills and mountains. But the main attraction here, after the bathing, which is most beneficial, the waters being said by some doctors to contain radio-active properties, is the atmosphere. Nowhere in Europe are there more beautiful sunsets and dawns, nowhere does the water

assume such variously opalescent iridescences. In the less fashionable parts, the "simple life" is the custom, people keeping their bathing-suits and wraps on all day and running out into the water from their houses.

On the Blue Danube.

Budapest is the most beautifully situated city in Europe. Prague is older and more picturesque; perhaps more curious architecturally; but it has no blue Danube. That is Budapest's beauty. The great river four kilometres wide pours its waters right through the city, four bridges connecting Buda and Pest. In flat Pest, there is a promenade along the river bank, similar to the Promenade des Anglais at Nice. This promenade, with its gay hotels, pastry-cook shops, crowded with smartly dressed ladies and pretty children, gives the impression of a fashionable watering-place, rather than a busy capital.

And it must not be forgotten that Budapest is a thermal resort. Besides the well-known bitter waters, it has springs beneficial for gout and rheumatism, which may be taken at different well-equipped hydros. Among these the Gellert establishment, is the most-fashionable.

The Buda-Pesters who are not on Lake Balaton or at Carlsbad, are at Johannsberg, which is much nearer, at Leanyfalú ("Maiden Village"), and at Visegrad on the Danube. Here they live in white-washed bungalows spending the hot hours of the day on cool verandas. In these parts, the Danube assumes an aspect very much like the Rhine, with steep banks, vineyards and ruins. A steamer service connects these resorts with the capital in a couple of hours.

On the way to Visegrad from Budapest one passes St. Eudre, a Serbian colony which has existed intact here

since the fourteenth century. There Serbian is the language, Greek Catholicism the religion, and the men wear the red fez of the East.

A Favorite Trip.

A favorite excursion from Budapest is St.-Margaret's Island, lying at the end of the city, in the middle of the river and connected with the last bridge. It is a charming pleasure resort, where people go to play tennis, to row and to swim.

In the city itself fresh air and shade are provided by the Varos-Liget, Budapest's "Bois de Boulogne," where the flowers are a joy for the eye. Here, in the Varos-Liget, horse-riding is the principal exercise, save in the winter, when the lake affords skating. At Johannsberg skating and indeed all kinds of winter-sports are a feature.

Café life is the great attraction in Budapest, more so even than in Paris. As in Vienna everyone goes to the café, and everywhere Tziganes play their wonderful improvised tunes. But they are not distinguished by red jackets trimmed with frogs. These they wear only abroad.

Artists will be charmed with the markets full, at this season, of melons, and every other kind of fruit, and with the Swabian market-women who wear such picturesque costumes and look so much neater and cleaner than the poorer natives generally do.

Mass at St. Mathews.

Whoever is lucky enough to be in Budapest on August 15, Assumption Day, should hear mass at St. Mathews Church, where the music is especially fine. Here the Coronation oath used to be taken. And if possible the visitor should stay over the 20th, which is the feast of St. Stephen, the national patron saint. Then they will see the Hun-

garian nobility in its gala costumes, the men wearing fur caps with costly egret and dolmans, the ladies, tiaras and richly embroidered gowns. The holy relics are carried in procession escorted by charmingly dressed young girls. The ceremony has quite a mediæval appearance.

The architecture of Budapest is constantly reminiscent of the East, especially in old Buda, where are the castle and all the Government buildings except the House of Parliament. It is reached by a funicular connecting the quays with the Prime Minister's offices. Up there one has the impression of being in a world apart. Quiet prevails in old Buda, no trams or buses being allowed, and the traffic consisting only of private motors and "fiacres," which are in reality smart victorias or broughams drawn by two fine horses and driven by non-liveried, careless coachmen. On fine days the house-porters stand on the doorsteps wearing the old Hungarian ankle-long, button-trimmed coats. Visitors must not be surprised to hear these dwellings called "palais" which is merely a term to describe private residences, used in the sense of the French word "hotel."