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BUDAPEST IN WINTERTIME

Budapest, the capital of the Hungarian People's Democracy, is full of winter attractions.

Our capital's winter life is characteristically very lively and gay. The Opera House, the various theatres and the concert halls present the best performances.

The marvellous music of Béla Bartók, Kodály, Verdi, Puccini, Wagner, Mussorgsky and other great composers will be heard in our Opera House, and the theatres will feature the plays of Shakespeare, Molière, Bernard Shaw, Galsworthy, Gorky, Priestley, Anouilh, Osztrovsky, Chekhov, Companeéz and the most prominent Hungarian authors. Our recent visitor, the French poet, Paul Elouard, as well as the delegates to the International Women's Congress, were greatly pleased by the cultural life of Budapest. The programmes of our excellent movie theatres comprise a cross-section of the world's progressive films; our visitors from abroad may be entertained by English, American, French, Russian, Swedish, Czech, and other films.

It would be a serious fault to assume that Budapest has only cultural attractions to show to her wintertime visitors. Budapest is not only a city of gaiety and music; it is also one of the greatest mineral bath centers in the world.

We have as many as 117 mineral springs which pour forth the greatest variety of waters, many of which have remarkable healing power. Our balneoculture dates back to the times of the Romans, who first used these waters. There are a good number of renowned bathing establishments, like the Saint Gellért Bath, the Rudas Bath, the Saint Emery Bath, the Lukács Bath, the Császár Bath, the Széchenyi Bath and the Margaret Island Bath. All are perfectly equipped, and, under the leadership of famous doctors, give treatment to thousands of patients.

Our hotels in the short period of time since the end of the war, have been reconditioned, thanks to the self-sacrificing Hungarian people, and are in the position to give the greatest comfort to their guests.

True, Budapest is a bathing center, but her wonderful unique location, almost in the middle of a group of sub-Alpine mountains, makes the city a winter excursion center, too. The ski tracks are no match for the Swiss snow fields, but there is perhaps no other big capital city in the world where one can so conveniently enjoy this most wonderful of all winter sports. Almost within the city limits, after only about 15 minutes' tram or bus ride, there are the inviting, friendly, rolling, snowy hills. There are many outdoor skating rinks in Budapest, and in the heart of the city we have an artificial ice skating rink. If someone wants to go swimming in the wintertime he or she may join the many hundreds of people who enjoy this fine sport in the crystal clear thermal water of the Sports Swimming Pool on Margaret Island. The Saint Gellért Bath even has a Winter Beach with all the paraphernalia of a Southern bathing resort:

effervescent water, artificial waves, quartz lamps, and a swimming pool surrounded by a multi-storied winter garden. The illusion is so complete that swimming in the balmy water of these surrounding one quite forgets that perhaps there is frost in the outside world.

The food conditions, dining accommodations do not need much comment; they speak for themselves. Rationing has been discarded and foodstuffs, textiles, clothes, shoes, and whatever is needed may be purchased on the open market without ration cards.

All in all, it is very worthwhile to visit Budapest during the Winter Season.

Szemes István



House of Parliament



National Museum