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An illustrated guide-book to Heidelberg its castle and environs

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Walks and excursions

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nenweg, with its views of the Neckar Valley and side valleys, and on to Ziegelhausen down to the Trout Ponds of the Electors, at the Wolfsbrunnen.

WALKS AND EXCURSIONS

On the left of the Neckar, the whole of the Koenigstuhl (King's Seat) with its adjoining spurs and hills — the Gaisberg, the Jettenbuehel with the Castle, the Molkenkur and the Auerhahnkopf lie open to the pedestrian. Roads and paths lead from the town up into the world of green shade; or there is the Mountain Railway from the Corn Market, which goes up to Molkenkur, and thence to Koenigstuhl.

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On the right of the Neckar is the Weisser Stein (White Stone) with its spurs, the Holy Mountain and St. Michael's Mountain. One can begin from Friedrich's Bridge and take the Philosophen Weg; from the Berg Street and take the Hainsbach Weg; or from the Old Bridge and up the narrow winding path opposite; the Schlangenweg (Snaky Way); or still further eastwards up the Hirschgasse.

ON THE LEFT OF THE NECKAR

From the Castle Gardens follow the road running behind the Schloss-Hotel, cross the Schloss-Wolfbrunnenweg and take the path uphill leading to the "Schutzenhaus".

To the Molkenkur (on the site of the old castle which was blown up in 1537), from which there is one of the best views, take the road from the Castle leading to the Klingenteich.

From the Molkenkur, the road ascends towards the Blockhaus, which is half-way up the Koenigstuhl, and

further to the Sprunghoehe (the Saddle) and from there to Speyerershof, and then straight down or via the War Cemetery to Rohrbach.

From the Molkenkur, the usual walk, however, is to the Blockhaus and from there to take one of the many ways to the Koenigstuhl. There is lookout tower and observatory here, and the terminus of the Mountain Railway.

For the way back, there is the choice between the road leading via the Felsenmeer, with splendid views of the Valley and back to the Molkenkur, or the road to the Kohlhof, Posseltlust (a look-out tower) and Drei Eichen and down into Rohrbach. The shortest way down is via the Kohlhof, Jagerpfad, Leopoldstein, and Blockhaus.

From the Koenigstuhl it is only 10 minutes walk to the Observatory.

A pleasant walk for those who do not care for anything strenuous is to take the railway to the Koenigstuhl and then walk, keeping fairly on the level to the Kohlhof.

A longer walk is from the Castle to the Felsenmeer, the Hohler Kaestenbaum, Linsenteich, Neckargemund, and home, or from the Koenigstuhl, Vulpiushuette, Krausstein, Linsenteich and Neckargemund.

Illustration
No. 22

ON THE RIGHT OF THE NECKAR

Every visitor must take a walk along the Philosophenweg (Philosopher's Lane) with its glorious view of the Castle, the Neckar and Old Town, past the Lieselotte Stone, down the Hirschgasse past the inn of the same name, (the historic duelling ground of the students), past the Scheffel House (Garden restaurant) possessing a collection of souvenirs of Vikt. von Scheffel, and of Meyer-Foerster's

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play "Old Heidelberg" which ran like wild-fire through the whole world, and which had this house for its background.

From the Philosophenweg an endless number of walks can be taken:

To the Bismarck Tower along the side of the mountain to the Siebenmuehlental and Handschuhshiem and home by tram; or from Bismarck Tower to the Aussichtsturm (Look-out Tower) on St. Michael's Mountain which stands among the ruins of St. Stephen's Monastery, which was founded in 1094; and from there walk in a short five minutes to the Feierstätte, behind which, on the very top of the mountain, lie the ruins of St. Michael's Basilica that was founded here towards the end of the 9th century. The foundation walls of the Church are still to be recognized as well as those of the monastery adjoining on the east.

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From here the road goes either down to Handschuhshiem or on to the Zollstock and from there to the right down to the Philosopher's Way and home. Or go straight on to the Weissen Stein, where there is a look-out tower, from which there is a good view over the Odenwald. From here you go either down the Siebenmuehlental, or take the Hohe Strasse back to Heidelberg. People who do not care to walk so far can go by car via Ziegelhausen-Peterstal to the Langen Kirschbaum and from there it is only twenty minutes walk to the Weissen Stein.

Or, along the right side of the Neckar to the Guckkastenweg, continue into the Mausbachtal, over the ridge with a lovely view of the Neckar, as far as Ziegelhausen. On the way home you pass Neuburg Abbey that was founded in 1130, but in 1195 was transformed into a Benedictine Convent. A few years ago the Benedictine Brothers of Beuron reestablished a monastery there.