

EASTER RIDE.

The people of the Bavarian town of Traunstein celebrate St. George's Ride - a festival which dates from pagan times, and was taken over by the Christian Church. Since the dawn of history, horses have been vital to the life of this part of Europe, and they still take part in welcoming the victory of Spring over the evil spirits of Winter.

After the Ride comes another ancient festivity - the sworddance.

When Germany was the frontier of the Roman Empire, the tribesmen danced this sword dance in their tall forests. The Roman historian Tacitus first mentioned it nearly two thousand years ago.

The dance also symbolizes the victory of good over evil, the return of life to the world after the dead months of snow and ice.

The winter is past, the forces of darkness conquered; and once again man rises with renewed strength to survey the reborn world around him. Thus Traunstein celebrates the miracle which has captured man's imagination since time began.