

NEWS FROM GERMANY:

The swans on Hamburg's famous Alster lakes prepare for a move. Three hundred and fifty of them live on these famous beautiful stretches of water in the heart of the North German city, and the people of Hamburg have a great affection for them. But the swans - two of which were presented by our own Queen - are finding it more and more difficult to get enough food from the Alster lakes during the winter months. So other arrangements have to be made.

The swans are released in a smaller lake in the town, which is to be their winter lodgings in future. Here they can be kept under expert eyes, and properly fed and taken care of till the spring comes again. A little cramped, perhaps - but at least one's among people one knows!

When you're an invalid, it's not always easy to find a sport you can enjoy - but these Berliners, all of them handicapped one way or another, have taken up curling to keep themselves as fit as possible. Curling's a popular winter sport in Scotland, Bavaria and other places, and it's usually done on ice; but here it's been adapted for indoors. Even a blind member of the club can have a go, after the positions of the stones have been marked on a board for him to feel.

And it's a winner! Pretty good going for a blind man!