

News from Switzerland

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ENCOUNTER WITH SCHILLER AND GOETHE

Whoever attends a performance of "William Tell", Schiller's drama about liberty, on the open-air stage near Interlaken cannot help being favourably impressed with the cultural aspirations of amateur players in Switzerland. It is fortunate that this production is shown in a region much frequented by international tourists, the Bernese Oberland. Independently and apart from the professional theatre at the opera houses and dramatic theatres of Swiss cities, a large amateur company here succeeds in creditably performing a classical drama in verse.

In the huge structure called Goetheanum in Dornach, Goethe's "Faust", the masterpiece of German poetry, is incomparably performed in its unique way. For both parts of this powerful work are presented in an unabbreviated form. This requires a series of partial performances closely following one another which should be attended during the summer sessions (July 23 to August 16) as festive cycles of the play. The style of presentation of the Goetheanum emphasises the classical dignity of the monumental work of poetry. (snto)

SWISS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The International Tennis Championships of Switzerland are the highlight of the sports events in Gstaad. They were held from July 14 to 19, 1970, with the world's best professional and amateur players participating. This year's winner was Richard Hawks of New Zealand.

NEW SWISS MIXING TAP

After six years of research a Swiss has perfected a mixing valve which won him a silver medal at the last Inventors' Salon in Brussels. It is a system halfway between the simple control with two hand-grips and thermostatic control, which is more complicated and expensive. Of ordinary appearance, this tap has a small lever which is adjusted horizontally to obtain the desired temperature. Inside the body of the tap the lever acts on a piston which has two sets of slots — one for the passage of hot water, the other for cold; by masking a larger or smaller number of these slots the mixing proportions are determined.

The actual hand-grip of the tap regulates the flow of water by varying the height of the slots, but not their number. This small fitting, easy to handle and embodying high precision, has the further advantage of having a cost price four times less than that of a thermostatic mixer. (osec)

SWISS KITCHEN GADGET

A Swiss inventor has thought up an ingenious little gadget which should save housewives a lot of trouble. It consists of a boiling indicator with a probe and an alarm drum. The probe is immersed in the pan, and the housewife can leave the kitchen without having to fear the pan boiling over and maybe putting out the gas, unpleasant burning smells or hotplates to be cleaned. The alarm is given before boiling starts, and is only silenced when the probe is taken out. (osec)

RIETER CELEBRATES ITS 175th ANNIVERSARY

A Swiss textile machinery works — Rieter of Winterthur — recently celebrated the 175th anniversary of its foundation. To mark this occasion it has issued a splendid Jubilee Booklet conceived and produced on the most modern lines, as proof that despite its venerable age the company remains forward-looking. The reader can trace the development of Rieter since its establishment in 1795 as a cotton trading house to the present day, when it ranks as one of the country's most important mechanical engineering works employing 3500 people and achieving annual sales of 170 million francs. It is shown how the Rieter management solved the problems with which they were confronted, in particular the choice between a policy of specialisation and diversified production.

Conscious of their advantage in the form of a sound experience of cotton spinning, they gradually gave up the manufacture of hydraulic machinery and railway equipment in order to concentrate solely on textile machinery. At present 90% of their output is exported. Besides a network of agents covering 70 countries, Rieter has affiliate companies in Italy, the U.S.A., India and Argentina. (osec)

LAUSANNE — THE HOME OF ONE OF THE MOST MODERN CONGRESS CENTRES IN EUROPE

Lausanne now possesses a congress centre which is one of the best equipped on the continent. This centre groups under the same roof all the facilities required for the organisation of international congresses as well as large exhibition halls for specialised exhibitions and trade fairs. The new Congress Palace has five halls with seats for 700 to 1900 delegates, a festival hall, a theatre and a cinema, as well as audio-visual installations, some twenty board and committee rooms, about forty offices for administrative purposes, a press centre with teleprinters, together with radio and television studios.

This huge complex also comprises the indispensable auxiliary services such as a post office, bank, transport concerns, medical department, etc. (osec)