News from here and there

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The " Stella Bernensis ", the organisation for French-speaking students, has been re-started. A Mid-day Leisure Club for Girls was opened by the "Amies de la Jeune Fille", and for the last few months, Berne has also had women in the postal delivery srvice.

OTHER COMMUNES (*in alphabetical order*)

In order to do away with the unsightly mass of TV aerials on the roofs of **Aarberg,** a central aerial has been constructed which enables excellent reception.

At **Aarwangen**, an Initiative has been launched to ask for the electorate's opinion regarding the renovation of the Oberaargau-Jura railway. From **Adelboden** comes the news that in spite of great efforts the trees which were uprooted during the catastrophic storm two years ago, have not yet all been sold. This creates concern as valuable timber lies neglected.

Bassecourt has a new secondary school built in a novel way: four buildings are grouped around a courtyard, which allows the sun to penetrate the last corner.

The town of **Bienne,** a centre of the Swiss Watch-making industry, is not normally connected with tourism. Yet it has attractions which appeal to travellers, such as the beautiful position on the shores of Lake Bienne and at the foot of the Jura mountains, the old town, where time has stood still since 1800, a selection of over a dozen excellent hotels, a night club, banqueting and conference rooms. Particularly rewarding excursions are those to the St. Peter's Isle — a real jewel — and the Jura mountains with their deep gorges. The population of 67,000 is composed of French- or German-speaking inhabitants, the town being on the linguistic border.

Though much building has been done in Bienne, there is a shortage of housing. The College for Applied Arts is being enlarged, and a third settlement for old-age pensioners has been opened in the " Mett ". The Lake Police has a new lifeboat, and problems facing the authorities concern Bienne's drinking water which is in danger.

The Commune of **Brienz** is against an aerial cable-way to the Brienzer Rothorn, and the organisation "Mys Schwyzerderfli" is planning an open-air museum on the Ballenberg near Brienz. At **Burgdorf,** part of the historic town wall collapsed early in May. The fifteenth exhibition of Swiss agricultural machinery was held at Burgdorf a few weeks ago. At **Corban,** four young men were killed when their aeroplane crashed in the Bernese Jura.

The old orphanage of **Delémont** has been sold. The proceeds will finance the new school building. At **Interlaken,** the famous " Tellspiele " celebrated their Golden Jubilee. "The Times" devoted a long article to these open-air productions with their natural stage and their appeal as patriotic play, and as a " pastoral and thriller ". The jubilee book showed a photograph taken during the first performance of Wilhelm Tell at Interlaken in 1912, portraying the small son of the hero, at that time none other than the present Federal Councillor Schaffner.

Koeniz has now a department store, and last year's accounts of the Commune closed with a deficit of one million francs. 25.7 million francs have been granted for the extension of the hospital at **Langenthal.** The new teachers' training college was opened in April. The water supply system has to be brought up to date owing to a large increase in the population. The " Langenthaler Tagblatt " has celebrated its centenary.

Early in March, a group of hunters were able to kill nine wild boars in the district of **Laufen.** Emil Balmer who was awarded one of the literature prizes of Berne, gave the prize money to the old-age home of his place of origin **Laupen.** The citizens of the same Commune decided to replace the annual citizens' allotment of timber by an old-age pension. **Lengnau** is to have a skyscraper and **Lyss** a vocational training college. Of **Moutier's** 8,026 inhabitants, 1,216 are foreigners. The monastery church of **Orpund** is to be renovated, and **Reichenbach** is to have a waste water plant at the cost of 2.2 million francs.

Spiez has a new church community centre, and **Thun** organised a competition for the extension of the Applied Arts College (cost: 7-8 million francs). The citizens of **Tramelan** agreed to a credit for renovating the slaughter-house. Early in April, Tramelan was the home of the " HOR EXPO ", an exhibition concerning the various branches of the watchmaking industry **Uetendorf** is to have a new primary school and **Urtenen-Schoenbuehl** a new church. The Commune Assembly of **Worb** agreed to a project of a new school building at the cost of 4.8 million francs. (*By courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse.*)

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

At Easter there were anti-atom-bomb marches and demonstrations in several Swiss towns. On 1st May there were traditional processions and demonstrations by Socialists, Trade Unions and workers' organisations.

A working party was organised at the Philipp-Albert Stapfer House at Lenzburg Castle to discuss the question of whether Switzerland should have an international centre on the pattern of Wilton Park. It was decided to make a start with courses intended to further international relations.

At a meeting in St. Gall, the experts on the Swiss language expressed concern that the mother tongue of part of Switzerland, German, which acts as an umbrella to all the different varieties of " Schwyzerdütsch ", was in danger of becoming shallow, and that there should not only be organisations for the protection of monuments and countryside, but also of the language.

The " Jerusalem Prize " was awarded to the Swiss author and playwright Max Frisch. The literary competition of the "Schweizer Spiegel " was won by Ursula Isler-Hungerbuehler for her novel " Am Ufer ".

Max Daetwyler is known as "Apostle of Peace " in many parts of the world. He has been joined by a second Swiss, an "Apostle for Education" in the person of Jacques Muehlethaler, from Geneva, who is touring Europe with his " Charter for Men ".

The Swiss Federal Railways have prohibited the sale of a German illustrated magazine at their book stalls on account of a series of articles on nudist culture.

His Holiness Pope Paul received a book " Pour l'Europe " by Robert Schuman and the three volumes " Histoire Illustrée du Catholicisme " on the occasion of the fifteenth aniversary of the Treaty of Rome. The presentation was made by the Geneva publisher Louis Nagel.

The Swiss Pharmacopoeia, the official drug list, has been compiled for one hundred years.

Julius Mueller, a well-known Swiss-American business man, now retired at Zollikon, has given one million Swiss francs to Swiss Cancer Relief.

An American, John Jeffries, who died in 1964, has left his fortune of several hundred thousand dollars to the Swiss Evangelical Church.

The 1964 contest " Come and paint the Ticino ", sponsored by the Ticino Tourist Association, has met with an excellent response. Mr. Charles W. Cadley of Manchester won third prize. [A.T.S.]