

An invaluable aid to crop-crowing

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RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Henry Perrenoud (68), Lausanne, owner of large jeweller's shop; one of the few Swiss experts in precious stones.
Prof. Alfred Schmid (70), Basle, lecturer in chemistry at Basle University from 1924 to 1932; later in Berlin, and since the end of the war engaged in commerce at Fluelen.

Miss Marie Hirzel (87), Zurich, philanthropist and President of the "Zürcher Frauenverein" from 1919 to 1956.

Gustave Widmer (64), Neuchâtel, former Consul in Antwerp and previously at the Embassy in Paris.

Prof. Jean Weigle (68), Pasadena (California), citizen of Geneva and Physics Professor at Geneva University for 18 years; left for U.S.A. in 1948 where he made a name for himself at the Technological Institute for Molecular Biology.

Pfr. Constantin Luethold (56), Alpnach, Minister at Kerns since 1962; member of the Obwalden Education Department since 1953; Cantonal School Inspector; Army Padre.

Brigadier Ernst Burgunder (83), former Aarwangen Tribunal President; elected Secretary of the Federal Military Department and then Director of the Federal Military Administration (until 1950).

Mrs. Anna Henriette Abegg-Stockar (101), Zurich, the oldest citizen of the town.

Carlo Viscardi (68), Lugano, President of the Ticino Chamber of Commerce from 1960 to 1967 when he was awarded Honorary Presidency; since 1944 member of the Executive Committee of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce.

Prof. Otto Hassler (90), Geneva, former teacher in Basle; Professor of German and Literature at Geneva from 1918; well-known author.

Walter Schild (79), Grenchen, well-known composer of military band music.

Domherr Franz Schnyder (75), Zug, Episcopal Commissar and Prelate, formerly in Berne and from 1923 to 1934 Minister at Gerliswil; after that *Stadtpfarrer* of Zug.

Ignazio Epper (77), Ascona, Thurgau painter; deliberately burned himself to death.

Dr. Armand Nicati (77), Neuchâtel, well-known oculist; played important part in Neuchâtel Red Cross.

Guido Locca (68), Neuchâtel, painter; born and bred at La Chaux-de-Fonds.

Dr. Paul Gloor (76), Basle, lawyer first with Leder Import A.G. and since 1936 with Bell A.G.; member of the Chamber of Commerce and of the "Volkswirtschaftsbund"; contributed in the creation of "Heer und Haus" during the war; philanthropist of mark.

Ernest Vautier (77), Orbe, chemist, since 1951 Federal Inspector of Factories; co-founder of the "Groupe-ment Romand de Médecine et d'Hygiène du Travail" and President of the Vaudois Astronomers.

Dr. Hans Adolf Berger (73), Berne, former banker who joined the Federal Service in 1922; Consul in Peru and later Ambassador; in his youth goalkeeper of the Swiss national football team.

Edwin Schneebeli (57), Winterthur, foreign editor of the "Glarner Nachrichten" and since 1951 with the "Neues Winterthurer Tagblatt".

Max Boelle (59), Basle, since 1955 manager of the Zoo Restaurant after having run the "Steinenklösterli" for 22 years.

André Willemain (58), Courroux, for 16 years President of his Commune and for 22 years member of the Cantonal Parliament (Socialist).

Paul Collin (88), Geneva, one of the pioneers of telecommunication services, one of the first seven technicians whom the PTT engaged at the end of the last century.

Maurice Roy (61), Yverdon, head of the Workers' commission of Paillard and President of the Yverdon Section of the Swiss Metal and Watch Makers' Federation; Socialist Commune Councillor.

Dr. iur. Heinrich Heer (68), Glarus, lawyer, elected to the Council of States in 1953 where he represented his Canton for 15 years; for 6 years *Landammann* of Glarus.

Elmar Bossart (51), St. Gall, Cantonal Councillor and President of the *Angestelltenkartell*.

Ernest Dubois (72), La Chaux-de-Fonds, well-known watch manufacturer and President of the Watchspring Manufacturers of Geneva, La Chaux-de-Fonds and Bienne.

Dr. André Borel (81), Brugg, former Deputy Manager of the Swiss Farmers' Association; Secretary-General of the European Agricultural Union from 1926 to 1954.

Baron Olivier de Reuter (74), Lausanne, grandson of the founder of Reuter's News Agency; British subject, but lived mostly in Lausanne.

Jean Musten (62), Lausanne, well-known in co-operative concerns and Manager of Cofal, Lausanne.

[A.T.S.]

AN INVALUABLE AID TO CROP-GROWING

Crop-growing under plastic sheeting tunnels has been experimented with in various countries, but it has two major drawbacks, no resistance to winds and too small air volume. A Swiss manufacturer has now perfected a model doing away with these drawbacks. The plastic, supplied in rolls of the required size, is stretched over a series of metal hoops, set in the ground and provided with a special system for attaching the plastic sheeting. Thanks to the ingenuity of this system of hoops, made in cold extruded profiles of great strength, it is possible to provide rapid protection for lines of crops or seedlings by erecting tunnels from 5 to 10 ft. wide and from 3 to 5 ft. high, which will stand up to winds as high as 75 m.p.h. The air volume of "Abrifor" tunnels has been calculated to ensure that the plants do not risk asphyxiating from lack of air. In addition, the special fastening system makes it possible to save considerable time in daily handling for ventilation and watering. Owing to the shape of these tunnels, the heating surface is about 50% greater than that of a glass frame, thus enabling plants to mature earlier. In view of the way plastic reacts under the sun's rays, there is no need to provide shade even during the hottest weather, resulting in a further saving of manpower. The system is suitable for all types of vegetables, spring and late autumn crops. It is particularly recommended for delicate fruit, strawberries for instance, and, when black plastic is used to replace the transparent plastic, can also be used for bleaching vegetables and slowing up the opening of flowers.

[O.S.E.C.]