

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 29 (1966)
Heft: [2]

Rubrik: News from Switzerland

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News from Switzerland

NEW MAP OF SWITZERLAND

The Federal Office of Topography in Berne has just published a new 1:500,000 map of Switzerland on a single sheet. This new map measuring 78 x 57 cm is printed on syntosil paper, a specially strong material resistance to damp, tearing and stains, and capable of being folded and unfolded an indefinite number of times without fraying.

Beautifully printed in 13 colours with contour lines for every 200 m. the new map gives an extremely clear picture of the relief of the country. Covering an area of 240 miles from east to west, and 150 miles from north to south, it shows the whole of Switzerland and large parts of the neighbouring countries.

This achievement of the Swiss Federal Office of Topography joins the fine series of maps which have built up the reputation of Swiss cartography, such as for example the maps of Switzerland on a scale of 1:50,000 and 1:25,000. (OSEC)

SWISS DIESEL ENGINES FOR DANISH SHIPS

One of the largest Scandinavian shipping lines, A. P. Moller of Copenhagen, recently decided to equip two of their new vessels with nine-cylinder Sulzer diesel engines having a bore of 9000 mm and a maximum continuous output of 20,700 HP. This order is all the more remarkable since this shipping line is using Sulzer engines as main propulsion machinery for the first time. (OSEC)

IMPORTANT SWISS DISCOVERY IN FIELD OF MEDICINE

The famous Swiss chemical and Pharmaceutical company, Ciba Ltd., in Basle, has just launched a new Chemo-therapeutic medicine called ambilhar (regt. trade mark), discovered by its chemists, which will make it more possible to put an end at last to the terrible scourge of bilharziasis, or schistosomiasis. This is a previously incurable, debilitating and often mortal, parasitic disease found all over Africa and parts of Asia as well as in South America, from which some 200 to 300 million people are estimated to be suffering at present.

The new Swiss chemo-therapeutic cure, which has already proved its worth in a large number of clinical trials before being launched, is characterised by its speedy action, its effectiveness and its great simplicity of administration, a course of three pills a day over a period of a week being sufficient to effect a cure.

This new Swiss medical victory allows us to hope that by tracking down and systematically treating the millions of patients suffering from this disease, medical science will succeed in curing it and wiping out for ever the fear inspired by this veritable scourge of the tropics, second only in its incidence to malaria. (OSEC)

SWISS TYPEWRITERS IN JAPAN

At the request of the Japanese Board of Education, 50 Japanese typing masters recently took part in a typing course on Swiss Hermes Typewriters fitted with the Kanamoji script. This script, which has been adopted in Japanese commercial circles, makes it possible to use the typewriter for normal Japanese business vocabulary.

These special Swiss machines possess a normal keyboard with 46 keys and are fitted either with the Kana script and Arabic numerals, or the Kana script, latin characters and Arabic numerals. (OSEC)

CONTRIBUTION TO UNO'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS

In 1966 Switzerland will contribute some S.Fr. 4 million to the United Nations Extended Programme of Technical Aid and S.Fr. 6 million to the Special Fund. The total amount to be provided by Switzerland is thus S.Fr. 500,000 higher than her contribution in 1965 and S.Fr. 2 million higher than in 1964.

In this way Switzerland, alongside other countries, proves her solidarity with regard to the economic and social schemes of this world organisation. The slight increase in multilateral technical aid does not however prevent an increase in Switzerland's bilateral aid, drawn from a special loan of S.Fr. 90 million set aside by the Federal Government in December 1964. (OSEC)

RADIO AND TELEVISION IN SWITZERLAND

In November 1965, the number of TV licence holders in Switzerland increased by over 10,000, so that at the beginning of December the figure topped the 6 hundred thousand mark with the impressive total of 609,049. Radio licence holders on the other hand decreased by 1,457 during the same period; the figure nevertheless still exceeds 1,650,000. (OSEC)

SWITZERLAND, THE LAND OF INVENTORS

An article appearing in the journal of the Christian Federation of Metal Workers shows that, taking into account the number of inhabitants of the country, Switzerland comes first for the number of patents applied for under the terms of the Paris Convention.

With regard to patents or inventions registered, Switzerland was first in 1961 of the 23 biggest countries adhering to the Convention. These figures naturally apply to patents of Swiss origin and not foreign inventions for which legal protection has been claimed in Switzerland.

Switzerland is therefore in the lead with 0.87 patents per 1000 inhabitants, followed by Germany (0.63), Sweden (0.50) and Great Britain (0.42); in the United States, the figure is 0.43 patents per 1000 inhabitants. (OSEC)