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HELVETIC VARIETY

The foundation stone for the Swiss Pavilion at the 1970 World Exhibition in Osaka, was laid at the end of January.

Various Swiss towns and regions have considered an application to hold the next Winter Olympics: Bernese Oberland, Davos, St. Moritz, Sion and Zurich.

The next Swiss National Exhibition may be held in Basle or possibly Lucerne; there is no definite decision yet.

Switzerland will take part in the international hotel and catering exhibition in Tel Aviv in October.

The so-called "Witchcraft Trial" in Zurich has created quite a stir. Six people are accused, including a former German priest, of causing the death of a young girl, Bernadette Hasler, by beating her "to exorcise the devil" in the house belonging to a religious sect.

A Zurich Court condemned the international crook and forger Paul Hoffmann to seven years imprisonment. Another international crook, long-wanted by the police in many countries, Gerhard Coeppicus, alias Mendoza, was successfully apprehended by the Zurich police. The German spy Peter Neumann had already been tried and found guilty in the autumn (in Chur). The fight against drug peddling goes on also in Switzerland, and a ring was discovered at Montreux, resulting in the arrest of forty people.

On 29th January last year, Switzerland's first atomic supply was put out at Lucens. Almost a year later, on 21st January, a defect caused an escape of a small amount of radio-active matter. There was no escape of heavy water, however. Nobody was hurt.

In October, Professor Hans Oeschger, Head of the Physics Institute at Berne University, went to the Antarctic, accompanied by two of his assistants and two American scientists. At Byrd

Club Presidents and Secretaries — PLEASE NOTE:

A complete recompilation of the addresses of Club Presidents and Secretaries will be undertaken in the July issue of the Helvetia. No additions or alterations will be possible for six months afterwards so please check your address and advise the Editor before July 12th.

Station, where a team of American scientists and research workers has pierced the polar cap to a depth of 6500 feet, the probe invented and made by the Physics Laboratory at the University of Berne, will enable the age of the ice to be dated by the radio-active carbon method.

The Geneva authorities did not give permission for the travelling exhibition on Hong Kong to be shown, because of its commercial character.

A Swiss Society for Crystallography was founded in Berne. The "Radio-Orchestra Battle" went on for several months, and finally it was decided that the Swiss Broadcasting Orchestra should be transferred from Zurich to Basle.

The good news received just before Christmas came from Algiers, viz. the release of the four Swiss political prisoners.

The Swiss film camera "Bolex 155 Macrozoom" was awarded one of the distinctions awarded by the American Industrial Research Society to the 100 best new products. The choice is made by 30 scientists including five Nobel Prize winners.

The Basle Art Gallery's newest exhibit is a 5.5-ton iron figure "Autour du Vide" by the Spaniard Chillida. The enormous cubistic form caused great difficulties to the engineers.

The well-known Ticinese tropical medicine expert Dr G. Maggi is building a new hospital in a swampy region in North Cameroon. He has been working in that country for twenty years and has created several hospitals.

The grave of the humanist Ulrich von Hutten has been discovered on the Isle of Ufenau, Lake Zurich.

Two Vaudois yachtsmen crossed the Atlantic single-handed, one in November, the other a month later.

Sophia Loren, famous film actress, gave birth to a son in Geneva, early in January. She and her husband, producer Carlo Ponti, presented the town of Geneva with a clinic in honour of the long-awaited arrival.

The famous pearl "Peregrina" which was supposed to have been sold in U.S.A., is still in the vaults of a Lausanne bank. It is in the possession of the former Spanish Queen. It was inspected and examined by a Geneva specialist who confirmed the fact. The pearl is worth some 40,000 dollars.

A "destitute" American woman who died early in January in Delmont, Pennsylvania, left five million francs to twenty Swiss schools — a surprise not only for the schools in question, but above all for Miss Ann Kepple's neighbours and the Delmont authorities!

(Compiled from news received by courtesy of A.T.S., "Weekly Tribune and "Pro Helvetia".)