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News from Switzerland

IMPORTANT WORK BY SWISS CATERING FIRM IN SWEDEN

The Swiss firm of Freis Co. Ltd., in St. Gall, has been asked by Food Plan International, an agency specialising in community catering, to organise the distribution of meals at Malmö university hospital. The system devised by Kreis makes it possible to serve the 2400 patients and 1500 hospital staff in less than an hour.

In view of the success of this operation, Kreis Co. Ltd. has also been asked to organise the distribution of food in the biggest old people's home in Sweden. The Kreis research department is already working on the solution of other problems, including a project for the electronic heating of dishes by micro-waves. (osec)

NEW PROCESS FOR THE PURIFICATION OF EXHAUST FUMES

Will the appeal launched by "S.O.S. Nature" on the occasion of the European Year for the Protection of Nature be heard? The problem of atmospheric pollution, to which the exhaust fumes from automobiles contributed a good 25%, is becoming more and more acute. A Swiss firm provides a solution to the problem of exhaust fumes: after many years of research, it has just produced a device for direct post-combustion, making possible the radical purification of automobile exhaust fumes. Experience has shown in fact that only direct combustion is independent of the quality of fuels and of the state of wear of internal combustion engines and their accessories.

This instrument makes it possible for every vehicle, whether new or old, whether petrol or diesel driven, easily to satisfy the very strict regulations of the famous California Text. In particular it ensures the complete combustion of the carbon monoxide at lower speeds, when the CO content may be as high as 14%, making the exhaust fumes particularly harmful. Fitted on the exhaust pipe, between the engine and the silencer, it also helps to cut down noise.

The system consists of a mixer and an air-suction device, in which pre-heated fresh air mixed with the exhaust gases produces a new inflammable mixture, and a combustion chamber, with two heating elements connected to the car battery. This device, whose life in the laboratory exceeds 125,000 miles, is no more expensive than the repeated replacement of exhaust pipes after every 25,000 miles. It can be fitted on any vehicle and has no adverse effect on engine power. (osec)

INTERNATIONAL GAME SHOOTING CONTEST

At the Bergfeld rifle range, specially equipped for game shooting, and easily accessible from Bern, international rifle shooting enthusiasts will meet on 22nd and 23rd August, 1970. Shooting with pellets (skeet, trap and rabbit) and with bullets (deer) within six different programmes will select the best shots.

Non-members are also welcome to use the rifle range, which lies in woodland near Hinterkappelen. It incorporates its own restaurant, and is very well-known to game shooting enthusiasts all over the world.

“VOICE OF SWITZERLAND” CHANGES TONE

The Swiss Short-Wave Broadcasting Service, whose purpose since it started in 1935 has been to tighten the links of Swiss living abroad with their home-country and to make Switzerland known all over the world, has just introduced big changes in the planning of its programmes.

Aware of the growing importance of news in the world today, the Swiss Short-Wave Service has decided to place the emphasis on this sector. From now on, listeners on all continents can listen to daily news bulletins (both Swiss and foreign items) in eight languages: English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Arabic and Esperanto. These bulletins, whose contents differ depending on the regions towards which they are broadcast, are followed by commentaries of a political, economic and cultural nature. At the weekend, the Swiss Short-Wave Service broadcasts lighter programmes; in addition to brief news flashes and the weekly summary of the main events of the week, more entertaining programmes are put on the air: Swiss popular music, classical music, home news from Switzerland, etc.

It is interesting to note that according to a poll carried out by the International Short-Wave Club in London, Swiss programmes are 4th most popular. At present the Swiss Short-Wave Service is negotiating with a number of American university radio stations wishing to relay some of its programmes, and with South American radio stations interested in rebroadcasting cultural and musical programmes. (osec)

FIXING AND CONNECTING WITHOUT SCREWS

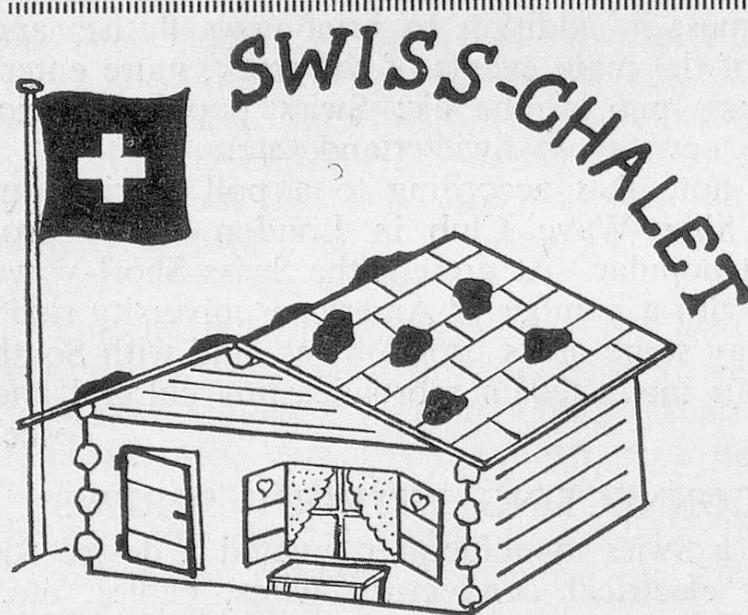
A short while ago, a Swiss manufacturer created a device for fixing and connecting electrical conductors, wires, cables, etc., instantaneously and without screws. This device can also be used as a mechanical connector. A simple pressure of the thumb is sufficient to insert or remove the wire. This method of fixing, based on the lever principle, saved time and in addition has the advantage of doing away with short-circuits. This small apparatus, which won an award at Brussels and is available in different sizes, has many applications: electrotechnics, telephones, airplanes, automobiles, cable industry, etc. (osec)

FIREWORKS ON THE GURTEN

On the 1st August, Swiss National Day, the Bern celebrations will be crowned by a magnificent fireworks display on the Gurten in the evening. This display will be visible from near and far. The Gurten is a worthwhile destination not just on this evening, but at any time, where, from the highest point eastwards one has a clear all round view from the Jura Heights to the now bedecked peaks of the alps.

In summer there are numerous attractions. The children's paradise with miniature railway winding through will appeal to both young and old. For the walker there are many possibilities and the beautifully-kept parkland is ideal for picnicking and sun-bathing. The funicular with a speed of approx. 10ft to the second and a maximum speed of approx. 16ft to the second is the fastest funicular in all Europe and makes the Gurten easily accessible — by tram from the railway station to Wabern, and then a two-minute walk to the funicular station brings one quickly and easily to the top.

A large new car park has been constructed at the foot of the funicular for those visitors coming by car. The lack of road traffic on the Gurten itself — apart from the miniature go-carts in the children's play area — is a fact which every visitor appreciates.



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