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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Auckland Swiss Club

Our **Annual Picnic** will be held on February 20th at the Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa. There will be a barbecued luncheon plus entertainment for all. Those wishing to camp are most welcome to do so.

—E.B.

### Hamilton Swiss Club

On Sunday, February 6th, our **Annual Picnic** will be held at Mr and Mrs Risi's Farm, Ngaruawahia.

We will be fortunate to have with us members from various Swiss Clubs in the U.S.A. Most of them belong to the Aelpler-Gruppe of the Swiss Clubs of Newark, California, and San Joaquin Swiss Club of Ripon and Modesto, California. There are also some from Washington and Los Angeles. They will be looking forward to meeting as many Swiss-Kiwis as possible on their New Zealand tour, so come along and meet these ranchers and dairy men — you never know, there might be some long lost friend or relatives amongst them!

—R.E.W.

### Taranaki Swiss Social Club

**Annual Picnic:** Our Annual Picnic will be held at Te Ngutu Park, Okaiawa, on Sunday, February 13th, commencing at 10.30 a.m.

**Social Evening:** A Social Evening will be held in the Kapuni Memorial Hall on Friday, February 18th, commencing at 8 p.m.

—R.W.

## NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

### THE "FREIBERGE" — A WALKER'S PARADISE

The plateau of the Freiberge in the Jura mountains, with its majestic fir trees, pastures and meadows could be likened to a beautiful national park. Here and there, surrounded by nordic flora, a silvery pool lies hidden. The walker will certainly appreciate the unique charm of the Freiberge where he can wander wherever his fancy leads him. The delightful region can be reached by the Jura railway from La Chaux-de-Fonds, Tavannes or Glovelier. The specially-reduced "rover" ticket (Wander-

billet) is ideal for excursions combined with walking tours. It is valid throughout the entire Jura railway network including its coach routes and also for coach services between Tramelan, Saignelégier and Coumois. The "rover" ticket is available at all the local stations throughout the year.

## VALUABLE COLLECTIONS IN THE REGION OF BERNE

Looking around in the region of Lake Thun we find not only the Historic Museum in the Castle of Thun overlooking the town but also during the six summer months we are attracted by the collections devoted to old interior decorations at the Castle of Oberhofen, at the Castle of Spiez and at the Castle of Hünegg near Hilterfingen, located in its part, where the rooms furnished at the turn of the century also have taken on historic patina. At the Castle of Landshut near Utzendorf, situated on a lake in a beautiful park, there is the Swiss Museum of Hunting, Shooting and Game Preservation which contains many rare items.

A very special surprise may be experienced when visiting the collection displayed by the Abegg Foundation in Riggisberg which may easily be reached from Berne. Although a private foundation it is open to the public and contains unique art treasures of antiquity and the middle ages.

## SUCKING FLAKE HAND-DRYER

As everyone has discovered for himself at one time or another, after washing his hands in a public toilet, the drying systems are very seldom completely satisfactory. The semi-automatic towel roll dispensers are hardly any more hygienic — when they work — than ordinary towels; for technical reasons, automatic hot-air hand-dryers are not completely effective either, the air takes too long to warm up and finally becomes too hot. As for paper towels, they are comparatively expensive, owing to their lavish use.

A Swiss inventor at Zug has thought of a new device eliminating all these drawbacks — the hygroscopic or "sucking" flake hand-dryer. At the last Inventors Salon in Brussels, this appliance won a silver medal. It is the size of a small, narrow piece of furniture and comprises a sucking fan, an electric air heater and a device for the production of sucking flakes. The ambient air, drawn through a filter by means of the fan, is warmed by the electric heater. Via an air duct, the hot air passes over a device producing flakes from a bar of hydroscopic cellulose fibres or plastic foam, on its way to the hand-drying shell in which the hands are placed for drying. In this way the latter are dusted with flakes which are then completely removed by sucking fan and directed into a waste flake sack.

With this appliance it is possible to dry one's hands in a matter of a few seconds.

## NEWS IN BRIEF . . .

In Zurich the first volume of the new "Kunstführer durch die Schweiz" was introduced to the public by the Swiss Society for Art History. This guide-book for art lovers, is a nearly comprehensive inventory of all objects of artistic value in Central, North-eastern and Northern Switzerland, as well as in the Grisons. It contains approximately 1000 pages of descriptions, maps, regional and local plans, photographs, an index and a dictionary of technical expressions. Arranged according to travel routes within cantons and towns, this volume is not a catalogue, but, as indicated by its title, a practical guide for tourists.

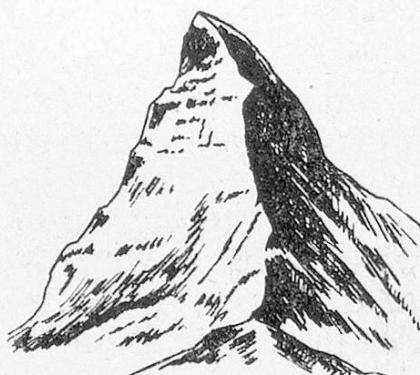
A commemorative plaque has been placed on the facade of Zurich's "Storchen" Hotel, stating: "In the autumn of 1527, the doctor, scientist and philosopher Theophrastus von Hohenheim, known as Paracelsus, born in Einsiedeln 1493, died in Salzburg on September 24th 1541, stayed at the old inn 'Zum Storchen'."

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