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NEWS OF THE COLONY

★ Auckland Swiss Club

How did you like the Auckland Swiss Club Picnic?

On Saturday, 24th February a small group of committee members and some friends left for the Swiss farm to start organising for the annual Picnic which was arranged for the following day.

There was a happy and gay pre-picnic atmosphere around the farmhouse. In the evening a delicious spaghetti meal and own entertainment underlined the day — tents have been put up and car seats prepared for the night.

On the following morning the sun got up early — she was entirely satisfied with the job the working bee had done and she promised a hot and sunny day. During the whole morning newcomers, i.e. families and children, climbed up the hill towards the farm. Dogs have not been seen at all — couldn't they read the invitation on the programme?

Alplermusic, Swiss jodel songs and the smell of barbecued meat — this altogether gave a most happy atmosphere. Competition in kegeln and shooting helped also to create a gay and colourful day. And certainly the children enjoyed themselves as well.

Late in the afternoon, people started to pack up what was left and returned back home. Haven't you seen some of the cars left behind with a flat tyre? If not, you were lucky and you will agree that it was a lovely and enjoyable Sunday among your family and your friends. See you next year! —E.S.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

★ Auckland Swiss Club

Annual General Meeting: The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 14th April at 8 p.m. at the Newmarket Club, Teed Street, Newmarket. —E.S.

★ Hamilton Swiss Club

The **Annual General Meeting** of our Club will be held at the Eureka Hall on Saturday, 14th April at 8 p.m. Reserve this evening for this important meeting. Free supper. —R.E.W.

★ Wellington Swiss Club

The Club's **Annual General Meeting** will be held on Saturday, 7th April in the Victoria League Hall, Westbrook House, at 8 p.m. A film will be screened: "Saigon Today". —M.K.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

THERMOMETER FOR THE BLIND

The manufacture of "Cary" thermometers was recently taken over by a Bienne firm. Connected with watchmaking and backed by its years of experience in this field, this factory has added several improvements to this type of instrument, which possesses many advantages over the classical mercury thermometers. It is simple to use and avoids any possibility of error; after taking the temperature in the mouth, armpit, fold of the groin or rectum, it is sufficient to remove the instrument and read the temperature — as one reads the time — on a dial graduated in degrees Centigrade or Fahrenheit. Made of metal and plexiglass, this thermometer is unbreakable and completely without danger to the patient. Shock-proof and very accurate, it is available in various versions: medical, with a special variant for the blind, and veterinary with models for both big and small animals.

ROLLER BEARING TRANSMISSION SCREW

At the 1st International Exhibition of Inventions and New Processes recently held in Geneva, the prize offered by the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade was awarded to a Swiss invention patented by an engineering office in Bienne. It is a roller bearing transmission screw for converting a rotary movement into a linear movement and vice-versa.

The fields of application of this screw are many: micro-technics, measuring instruments, numerically controlled machine tools, chemical and automobile industries, etc. The main characteristics of this device, which revolutionises mechanical transmission systems, lies in the conception of the screw, consisting of a single pillow-block and one or more precision ball bearings. The different ways of mounting are many: simple, in V, stretcher, with possibility of engaging and disengaging while in motion, etc.

This system offers many advantages: the machining of the parts being simple and classical, the cost price is comparatively low; its geometrical characteristics make for precision of adjustment and all movements are carried out smoothly and silently. This device comes in a very wide range of sizes, the minimum thread diameter being 1 mm.