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NEW TOOLS FOR THE HANDYMAN

A Swiss inventor at Orselina (Ticino) presented two very useful new tools for the handyman at the last International Salon of Inventions in Geneva. The first consists of a universal wrench fitting any shape or size of nut and bolt. In the handyman's tool kit, it will take the place therefore of a whole series of standard spanners; it also offers the advantage of being round and articulated, enabling bolts located even in the most inaccessible places to be reached. The other tool is a ratchet-spanner which can also be used as a screwdriver, box-spanner, etc., by merely inserting the desired accessory into the tool's driving rod. A simple push with the thumb is sufficient to lock the system, making it possible to screw in either direction. All operations are quickly and easily done for the leverage exerted by the dovetail handle increases the force. For screwdrivers, milling machines, drills and other mechanical tools, a special clutch system has been provided, making it possible to fit the accessory or remove it simply by pressing.

OPEN HOUSE AT VILLARS

(snto)—In order to encourage tourism, the Association of Hotelkeepers at the Vaudois resort of Villars-sur-Ollon (attainable by rack railway from Bex) has decided to offer guests free use of its sports facilities, by granting them a ticket with a daily value of Fr. 25 to 30. Right now, an Alpine golf course, a covered ice rink, an equestrian and a tennis centre are under construction.

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SWISS YOUTH HOSTELS

(snto)—The Association of Swiss Youth Hostels is celebrating its 50th jubilee this year. In 1973, half a million young people from all over the world stayed in Switzerland's low-cost youth hostels. (Price of an overnight stay: 4 to 7 francs, breakfast: 2 to 2.50 francs and 4.50 to 5 francs for a main meal). The largest youth hostel (with 185 beds) is in the former church of Arosa. There are also several hostels located in historical buildings as, for example, the castles of Rotberk-Maria-stein in canton Solothurn, Ehrenfels in Domleschg and Laufen at the Rhine Falls. The hostels in former patrician houses at Oberhofen on the lake of Thun and in Schaffhausen, and in an old farmhouse at Langnau in the Emmental are equally of much cultural value. The "Youth Hostels in Switzerland" booklet which is issued by the Swiss National Tourist Office, contains further information.