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A regrettable disaster occurred at Lucerne, where the remnants of an old railway bridge, crossing the River Reuss, were being blown up.

The electric current having failed to ignite the charge of explosives in one of the bridge pillars, civil engineer M. Dreyfus, of the Federal Railways, decided to remove the charge for investigation and carried it some little distance away, when suddenly the charge exploded, killing him on the spot, as also civil engineer Fritz Steinbuch, from Zurich, and a workman named Karl Wälti, and seriously injuring four others.

* * *

Over four hundred Swiss artists from home and abroad have entered the competition for the design of a poster for the Federal Gymnastic Festival which will be held at St. Gall next year.

* * *

The Central Committee of the Swiss Aero Club has decided to invite Geneva to make the necessary arrangements for holding the start-meeting of the 1922 Gordon-Bennett Balloon Cup Race.

The town of Berne had to decline this honour on account of the heavy financial engagements involved.

The Aero Club Committee also decided to hold in Zurich during next summer an International Flying Meeting for Aeroplanes, connected with an exhibition of motor-less aeroplanes. It is hoped that this meeting will be patronised by the leading international aviators, and that it will tend to foster goodwill between the one-time enemy nations so far as the international sport of aviation is concerned.

The Publisher will be pleased to forward free specimen copies of the *Swiss Observer* to likely subscribers whose addresses may be supplied by readers.

FAMILIEN - WEIHNACHTSFEIER

veranstaltet vom

Gem. Chor der Schweizer-Kirsche in London

unter freundl. Mitwirkung der

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY

Mittwoch, den 21. DEZEMBER, 1921, abends 4 bis 10 Uhr

im grossen Saal der **ST. GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS SCHOOL**
(Corner Shaftesbury Avenue—Endell Street).

Kinderfeier mit Weihnachtsbaum u. "Samichlaus"
(von 4 bis 6 Uhr abends).

Gem. Chor, Männerchor, Töchterchor, Musik, Declamationen,
Ansprachen, Thee, etc.

Herzl. Iladig an alli Landslüt!

Schweizerischer Christlicher Verein Junger Männer,
28, RED LION SQUARE, W.C. 1.

Unsere **WEIHNACHTSFEIER** findet statt
DIENSTAG den 20. DEZEMBER

im City Central Y.M.C.A., 186, Aldersgate St., E.C.1
6 Uhr: THEE. Beginn der Feier: 7 Uhr.

wozu wir alle unsere lieben Landsleute, Freunde und Gönner unseres Vereins
herzlich einladen. Der Vorstand.

BULLETIN CONSULAIRE.

The first number of the "Bulletin Consulaire" published by the Political Department in Berne has just come to hand; it is issued in the form of a pamphlet and is printed in French and German.

The publication has for its object to cultivate and strengthen the relations between Swiss abroad and the mother country and to supply to the former trustworthy information on economic actualities and on the conditions and prospects of our different industries. It is hoped this will not only help to create and preserve a just appreciation of Swiss aspirations, but will also assist in furthering and developing commercial intercourse with foreign countries.

The number before us enumerates all the changes which have taken place in our consular service since the beginning of this year. It contains articles on Immatriculation (emphasizing the necessity of every Swiss being registered at his respective Consulate), on the activities and purpose of the Office Fédéral du Travail and the Office Suisse du Tourisme and the first part of a review of the Swiss watch industry.

In a supplement Dr. C. Benziger, the chief of the Consular Service of the Division for Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Political Department, deals exhaustively in a remarkable article with the relations between Switzerland and Holland, and singles out the names of those compatriots who have distinguished themselves in that country.

The "Bulletin" appears monthly, and the ordinary subscription is Frs. 10.—per year; for compatriots, however, residing abroad and who have conformed to the Consulate prescriptions regarding Immatriculation, the price is reduced to Frs. 3.—per annum. Application should be made to the Chancellor, Swiss Legation, 32, Queen Anne Street, W.

The Commercial Division of the Swiss Legation in London has just established a second edition, completed and revised, of a list of the principal technical journals (Fachblätter) concerning the various branches of commerce and industry in Great Britain, a document which would be of great help to Swiss firms wishing to advertise in Great Britain or to offer their services for Switzerland. This list is divided into 28 headings, namely: Building Trades, Fittings and House Furniture, Coal, Iron, Steel, Boilers and allied Trades, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Transport, Shipbuilding, Shipping, Food-stuffs and Liquors, Drugs and Chemicals, Oils and Fats, Printing and Graphic Arts, Scientific and Surgical, Agriculture (Farming, Poultry, Gardening), Society, Sport, Touring, Aviation, Economical Publications of General Nature, Finance, Textiles, Furs and Hatters, Rubber, Leather, Leather Goods, Hardware, Glass and Clay Products, Clocks, Watches and Jewellery, Games and Toys, Music, Hotels. Those interested in this list can obtain same from the Commercial Attaché of the Swiss Legation, 32, Queen Anne Street, London, W.1. (price 3s.)

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