

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Zeitschrift: | The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK |
| Herausgeber: | Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom |
| Band: | - (1928) |
| Heft: | 364 |
| Rubrik: | City Swiss Club |

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 20.02.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

common custom other than a common youthful humanity which proclaims always an empty stomach. One of the best sights I have ever witnessed was such a collection of schoolchildren, boys and girls, holding out eager hands for the samples which manufacturers desire to see established in favour far and wide throughout the land. It is a very wonderful exhibition, and not the least wonder is the study of humanity.

As I write upon the Terrace of the Casino to the strains of a fine orchestra, with a matchless view of that vast range of snow-covered mountains—the Jungfrau, the Eiger, the Monch, the Blumlisalp, which comprise the Bernese Oberland, in the midst of Berne, the quaint mediaeval city, changing yet unchanged, its hundred wondrous decorated fountains flowing as they flowed four hundred years ago, I reflect that "Saffa"—the grouping of women in work—has always been; for are not women ever physiologically responsible for posterity? What through "Saffa" may not Swiss women teach to the world!"

Swiss Meters for England.

A small order for electricity meters has been placed with a Swiss factory by the Rochdale Town Council. It is always instructive to follow the discussion which precedes such resolutions and we reproduce the report of the respective Council meeting as published in the *Manchester Guardian* (Oct. 5th):

"At a meeting of the Rochdale Town Council to-day there was a long discussion on the question of a contract for the supply of meters to the Electricity Committee.

The Electricity Committee recommended the Council to buy Swiss meters, and this was strongly opposed by Alderman H. Clark, a member of the committee and a prominent Liberal member of the Council, who declared: "British goods are far away better than any foreign goods, and are cheaper in the long run."

Alderman Clark moved an amendment referring the question back to the committee, but it was defeated by 34 votes to 8. Among those who voted against the amendment was Alderman W. Davidson, the leader of the Conservative group in the Council. Four Liberals, three Conservatives and one Labour member voted for the amendment.

Councillor John Hanson, the chairman of the Electricity Committee, said there were differences in the committee on the question. A sub-committee recommended the purchase of British meters, but that proposal was turned down by the full committee. The difference between the prices of the foreign and British meters was very substantial. The cost of the Swiss meters they proposed to buy was £2,745 and that of the British meters recommended by the sub-committee—not the lowest British tender—would cost £4,275. There was no doubt that the British meter was a very sound job, but their manager told them that the Swiss meter was in every way satisfactory. The representative of the British firm was seen, and he could not promise any reduction beyond £150.

Alderman Clark, in moving the amendment, made comparisons between the two kinds of meter, and said that in spite of the difference in prices the advantage was with the British meter. He was an Englishman, and he was not going to have it that foreign goods were better or cheaper than British goods in the long run. British goods were always the best, and to buy them meant wages for British workmen. Members of the Council had bought foreign motor cars and then wished they had not done so. (Laughter). In the past the meters of the British firm had given complete satisfaction, and had been a wise purchase. Why go back on what they had tested and proved. He moved his "patriotic amendment" on practical as well as sentimental grounds.

Councillor Button seconded the amendment, and said the members should think of the anomaly of a foreign meter going into an unemployed man's home.

Councillor Lyon W. Taylor said that when there was such a substantial difference between the prices patriotism was not enough. They all wanted to give work to British firms, but to pay £1,500 more for meters they could get for £2,745 was something they could not do. It was public money they were spending.

Alderman Davidson said that he was strongly in favour of buying British goods, but not at any price. Cheapness was not everything, but in this case the difference in the prices was too high.

As a result of the voting the contract will be given to the Swiss firm."

We are certainly with the prominent Liberal member in his arguments why such an order should be placed in this country—we should do exactly the same in his place—but we should certainly not stoop to appeal to the gallery with such absurd phrases as "British goods are far away better than any foreign goods." Of course the Rochdale alderman may have had the necessary experience with all foreign goods to justify such a sweeping assertion but we have never yet heard of any sane man maintaining that any particular country had a monopoly

or reputation for beating all the others in the fields of industry and manufacture as far as quality is concerned. It seems to us that the Rochdale alderman is trying to emulate the ostrich which, by burying its head in the sand, disregards the unpleasant truth.

English Cheese in the Swiss Manner.

From the *Daily Mail* (Oct. 1st). The Swiss cheese industry is evidently losing a large slice of the English market if box cheese is to be manufactured on a large scale in this country. But then we obligingly sold our best customer the machinery with which to compete!

"Cheese in portions, wrapped in silver paper and packed in round boxes, now so often seen in provision shops, is being manufactured on a large scale in England. One Shropshire factory is using 15,000 gallons of milk every day.

"Switzerland is the home of this industry, and our machinery is all Swiss," a member of the firm said. "But the material, and, of course, the labour, are all British. The factory is at Whitechurch, in the midst of a flourishing dairy-farming district, and the milk we use is supplied by the surrounding farms.

The machinery does everything; no process is carried out by hand. The majority of the employees are women. An important part of their work is the cleaning and sterilising of the complex machinery. This is done every day by steam pressure.

"Three kinds of cheese—Cheddar, Cheshire and Lancashire—are made in the factory. The flavour and texture depend upon the temperature at which the cheese is set. The milder the cheese the higher the temperature. Lancashire, a strong flaky cheese, is set at a low temperature; Cheddar, a milder and smoother cheese, is set as high as 104 deg.

We could easily make Gruyère in this country, though it is popularly supposed that that cheese is exclusively Swiss. But we find there is a bigger demand for our own English cheeses.

The increasing sales of cheese in compact portions is due, I think, partly to the fact that so many women are housekeeping for small-scale flats and partly to the growth of motoring and the consequent need of easily-carried food. People who find they cannot digest ordinary cheese are eating it in this new form because the pasteurisation, which is part of the process of manufacture, makes it more easily digestible."

THE BUCHI SYSTEM OF EXHAUST TURBO CHARGING.

It will be of the greatest interest to our subscribers to observe the great stir in shipbuilding and marine circles which has arisen from the development in application to internal combustion engines and especially to Diesel engines of the Büchi system of exhaust turbo charging, the invention of Dip. Ing. Alfred Büchi of the Büchi Syndicate, who is a Director of the Swiss Locomotive and Machine Works of Winterthur, Switzerland.

On Tuesday evening last Mr. Büchi, in response to an invitation, read a paper on his system at a meeting of the Institute of Marine Engineers, London, at which Sir Alan Anderson, K.B.E., presided. This meeting was attended by representatives of the Engineer-in-Chief's Department of the Navy, by leading engineers and shipowners, who listened to Mr. Büchi with the greatest interest and subsequently joined in a discussion of the merits of the system.

As may be known to our readers, the design of the Diesel engine has been limited by certain factors, notably the heat stresses of the cylinder heads, and Mr. Büchi's invention enables a 50% and even greater increase of power to be obtained, while at the same time reducing the detrimental heat stresses to which these engines have been subject. These extraordinary results are obtained by the passing of a quantity of comparatively cool air through the cylinders of the engine at the end of the exhaust stroke, and by filling the cylinder with air under pressure during the admission stroke. As the power of the engine depends upon the quantity of fuel which can be usefully burnt in the cylinders, and as that quantity is proportionate to the quantity of air in the cylinders, the filling of them with air under pressure permits of the introduction of more fuel, and results in the great increase of power characteristic of this system. This air is produced by a gas turbo air compressor driven by the exhaust gases of the engine itself. The Büchi System results in the safe increase of the power of Diesel engines far beyond that hitherto possible, while at the same time generally improving the running conditions.

The current issues of the English Technical Press have many articles describing the very successful trials of the M.V. *Raby Castle*, which have just taken place off the Tyne. The object of the conversion of the existing Diesel engines in this ship by means of the Büchi system was to obtain an increase of speed, and on the trials this ship did well over 1 knot more than she had previously been able to do, and this in spite of the fact that the engines were not called upon for the whole of

the reserve of power rendered possible by the system. Other ships are to be converted, and new ones are to have engines constructed in accordance with Mr. Büchi's patented system.

So far we have spoken of developments in Great Britain, but already a number of applications of the system have been carried out, notably in Italy and Germany, and we now hear that France is interested.

As the result of the increase of power made possible by the Büchi system, engines of a given power can now be made smaller than hitherto, and shipowners have been quick to realise the effect of this on the saving of engine room space, and the consequent increase of cargo carrying capacity of vessels.

All indications point to the Büchi system being one of the most important, if not the most important, development in internal combustion engine design of recent years.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

BRIDGE COMPETITION.

Rapid progress is being made with the Auction Bridge Competition, the first rubbers for which were played about three weeks ago. The interest displayed by the competitors will allow the competition to be finished much earlier than originally anticipated. The following are the average scores of those members who have played five or more games, the number of rubbers played being indicated in brackets: Ch. Valon (6), 7.5; R. Bessire (8), 6.2; M. Gerig (12) 5.6; A. C. Baume (8) 5.2; P. F. Boehringer (6) 5; J. Billeter (7) 4.3; A. Schupbach (5) 3.4; P. Bessire (6) 3.3; L. Schöbinger (7) 2.9.

SWISS GYMNASTIC SOCIETY.

The Swiss Gymnastic Society, London, will hold a Banquet, followed by a Ball until 2 a.m., on Friday, October 19th, at 8.45 p.m. at the Union Helvetic Club, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1, and the Committee sincerely hopes that all Passive members will make a special point to be present on that auspicious occasion in order to assist in celebrating the success of the Society's Team at the last Swiss Gymnastic Festival in Lucerne in July last, when a Laurel was won with 140 $\frac{1}{2}$ points.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

Max Kappeler, Elgg: "Europe and the Coloured Peoples." Eugen Fritz, Zurich: "Why?" Max Knecht, Uzwil: "L. Beethoven." R. Wust, Biel: "Animals in Custody." Miss Ilse-Rika Vogler, Zurich: "Something about Truth-telling." A. Schmid, Langenthal: "A Trip to Derbyshire." Hugo Guggisberg, Zurich: "National Economy." R. Lafont, Degersehen: "The Life of Thomas à Becket." E. Aschbacher, Worb: "Capitalism and Communism." Dr. Stern, Basle: "Coal." F. Fehse, Basle: "A Talk about Our Teachers." Miss H. Reine, Baden: "Just Pranks." Miss M. J. Terraz, St. Imier: "Friendship." W. Schoenmann, Berne: "The Daily Newspapers." Miss Gertrud Schmidhauser, Zurich: "Events." H. Kade, Basle: "The Case Against Taxation of Bachelors." E. Fritz, Zurich: "Are our Newest Inventions against Nature?" R. Ursprung, Chur: "Formative Forces of Nature." H. Hui, Wagenhausen: "The French Foreign Legion." W. Aebi, Wichtach: "Saffa." F. Frieler, Murten: "Cotton." A. Koch, Solothurn: "The Industry in the Valley of Zermatt."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Are Swiss women too much dominated by men?" Proposer, Miss J. R. Vogler, Zurich; Opposer, F. Eggstein, Zurich.

"Are the Swiss indifferent to Art?" Proposer, Mr. Engler; Opposer, Mr. Witz.

Friday: A very humorous and much appreciated lecture was given by Mr. George on "English Humour and Songs."

Saturday: The School paid a visit to the Tower of London.

FOOTBALL: Swiss Merc. Soc. F.C. 1, Berkeley Hotel F.C. 0. This match took place on Tuesday and was a great success of our First Eleven, especially as the Berkeley Hotel fielded a very strong team.

Further fixtures:—

Saturday, Oct. 13th, v. Handicrafts Athletic F.C.

Monday, Oct. 15th, v. Russell Hotel F.C.

Saturday, Oct. 20th, v. Star Athletic Club.

Drink delicious "Ovaltine"
at every meal—for Health!