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## COMMERCIAL NEWS

### Achievements in Swiss measuring apparatus industry

A well-known firm, which specialises in the manufacture of measuring apparatus, is now producing instruments which make it possible, in chemical laboratories, to determine automatically the quantities of certain substances contained in certain compounds. The principal advantages of these instruments are that they cut down the time required for these operations and yield exact and reproducible results, even when used by unskilled staff. This firm also produces pH-meters of great precision for determining the blood pH (i.e. the degree of acidity) for the control of the pulmonary function, as well as a recording potentiograph, which makes it possible to discover the presence of the most divers substances and to determine their quantity up to a millionth part of a gram. An operation of this kind, which formerly lasted from 8 to 15 minutes, can now be effected, with a still higher precision, in one minute only.

### Let there be light

A new ingenious and practical little device is now available to all the campers and tourists who travel in cars or by motor-cycle and who need some means of lighting, in the night, in tent or car. The invention consists of a system of cables, with connections which make it possible for it to be connected with the battery of the car, after which one or several lamps can be fixed on to it, which, being furnished with grips can be clipped on to one of the stanchions of the tent in order to provide lighting, or to some part of the car, for the purpose of reading, consulting a map or doing repairs. This new gadget, which can be set up very quickly and easily, costs very little to operate.

### A novelty in laboratory technique

The presence of a burner is just as indispensable on a dentist's instrument-table as it is on that of a laboratory chemist's. Where there is no connection with the gas main, it is a spirit-lamp which provides the necessary heat. Now, however, a manufacturer of electrical apparatus in Lucerne has put on the market a burner without a flame, which uses electric power to produce heat by means of infra-red rays. This apparatus, which is made in the form of a small receptacle, makes it possible, in the same way as the traditional types of burner, to heat the test-tubes and receptacles of all kinds which are used in chemical laboratories, as also dental instruments. Perfectly insulated, it does not present any risk of burning, and it is economical in use. It is immune to any sudden change in temperature, is not affected by acids (except for fluorohydric acid), and possesses a lower orifice which enables liquids to flow away, should a test-tube break. This burner can also be provided with a temperature regulator, without any pillow-blocks.

### Swiss designed radio transmitter and receiver

A well-known Swiss manufacturer, in Solothurn, has just put on the market a transmitter-receiver radio set, with transistors, which weighs only 5.3 pounds. It has a power of 0.7 watts, possesses two transmitter tubes, and is equipped with a cadmium-nickel battery. The loudspeaker can also be used as a microphone.

### Funicular railways and aerial cableways inspection

The 10th International Meeting of the Technical Authorities for the Supervision of Funicular Railways and Telfers was held recently in Switzerland, at the invitation of the Federal Office for Transport. The

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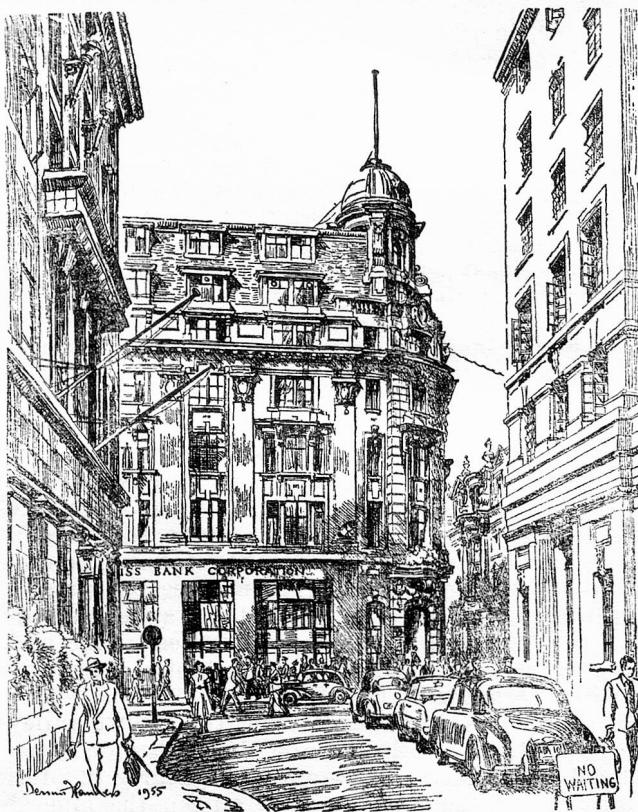
In LONDON the City Office is situated at 99, Gresham Street, E.C.2, and there is a WEST END BRANCH, specially equipped for the convenience of visitors, at 11c, Regent Street, S.W.1, close to Piccadilly Circus.

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purpose of this meeting was an exchange of experiences and opinions regarding the technical evolution of these installations. In addition, those taking part in the meeting were given the opportunity to view the functioning of several funiculars and telfers in the Grisons and in Central Switzerland. The countries represented were West Germany, Austria, Spain, France, Italy, Norway, Poland and Switzerland.

#### A revolution in watch packaging

In watchmaking, packing would seem to be a problem of secondary importance, as watches are always displayed without any wrapping, in the show-cases and shop-windows of watchmakers. Nevertheless, packing is of importance, because it is responsible for the protection of the valuable little object on its journey, which is often a long one, from the factory to its place of destination. This is exactly what a manufacturer of watches in La Chaux-de-Fonds said to himself, with the result that he has now launched a special air vacuum packaging for watches, which is creating a revolution in the classical form of packing. This system, called "Air Stop", which is the first of its kind, guarantees perfect air-tightness to all the watches wrapped in this way, thus protecting them from all external influences. Whatever the climatic conditions, they have no effect on the watches packed in this manner. No alterations can take place in the metal, the tiniest movement remains lubricated, because the oil cannot congeal or become denatured.

#### New look for an old material

In this era, when plastic materials enjoy such success, wood is sometimes rather neglected. Yet this noble material has its place in modern interiors, to which it brings a note of comfort and distinction which no other material is capable of giving. In order to popularise the use of wood in the arrangement of interiors, in both private and public buildings, by the decoration of showcases and shopwindows, and for various other purposes, a Swiss sawmill and factory which specialises in veneering has just launched a new kind of overlayed wood panelling under the name of "Laril". Instead of being smooth, the visible side of "Laril" is covered with a set of moulds, or grooves, which give it a modern and comfortable aspect, and

make it easy to place the panels in juxtaposition without any visible joints. Possessing stable dimensions and forms, "Laril", which is hygienic, sound-proof, and very easy to use, to tint, stipple or paint, is delivered in standardised panels and finds a large field for its application in the modern arrangement of walls and ceilings, in all kinds of places.

#### A Swiss watchmaking firm times the "Giro"

The official chronometric timing of the "Tour cycliste d'Italie" was entrusted to a Swiss watchmaking firm which had already done the chronometric timing of the Olympic Winter Games, at Squaw Valley, as well as that for numerous other sporting competitions, on a very large scale. This chronometric timing is carried out by means of Longines-Contifort apparatus, which possesses a special device that makes it possible to photograph the competitors, on a moving photographic film, at the very moment and in the order in which they cross the arrival line. At the same time, the film records the time taken, up to one-hundredth of a second, and it is developed within the ensuing twenty seconds. The apparatus is controlled by a portable quartz clock which is accurate to within one-thousandth of a second in forty-eight hours.

#### "TEURE HEIMAT, SEH' ICH DICH WIEDER. . .!"

Und wiederum bin ich zurück gekehrt  
In meine liebe, schöne Heimatstadt am See!  
Mein armes Herz vor Sehnsuchtschmerz verzehrt,  
Gelindert ward's, beim Alpenglühn des Firnenschnee!

Der weisse Bergeskranz, die grünen Auen,  
Die klaren Wellen hatten es mir angetan;  
Wie oft im Traum sah ich die heimatlichen Gauen!  
Nun plötzlich wird zur Wirklichkeit der süsse Wahn!

Und wieder werd' ich auf der Brücke steh'n  
Am Abend, wenn vom alten Kirchenturm  
Ueber Fluss und See die Glockentöne weh'n,  
Vom Wind getragen, mächtig wie im Sturm!

Ein Schiffelein treibt mit leisem Wellenschlag,  
Die trägen Ruder stille gleiten auf der Flut,  
Darin sich meine Kindheit trügerisch spiegelt, "Sag,  
Schiffer, spürst auch Du der Jugendflammen Glut?"

Anna Marie Bosshardt.



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