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## COMMERCIAL NEWS

### Swiss invention in the manufacture of cotton-wool

In order to meet the difficulties of production caused by the shortage of labour, a firm in Schaffhausen, which manufactures all the articles required for dressings and bandaging, has now perfected and built in its own workshops a number of machines which are quite remarkable for the economy in labour which they represent. The most noteworthy of these is a machine which works up carded cotton until it can be put, ready for use, as cotton-wool, in a zigzag shape, into a package. As a result of this invention, it is possible to eliminate several processes of fabrication and to achieve an economy of up to 60 per cent in the manpower required, as compared with the usual methods. Moreover, this machine makes it possible to reduce the waste of material by 80 per cent, while, at the same time, doing the work in a more hygienic fashion than can be attained when it is done by hand. This process, which has been patented in all the civilised countries, most certainly constitutes the greatest technical progress achieved in this respect, since the invention of absorbent cotton-wool. It was nearly a century ago that the firm in question was the first to produce absorbent cotton-wool on an industrial basis.

### The biggest air curtain in the world

The passenger entrance of the new Idlewild air station, in New York, is not closed by a door, but by an air curtain, which is the biggest in the world. The elaboration and construction of this device, which protects the entrance hall from winds, cold and dust, were entrusted to the Swiss firm of Sulzer Brothers Ltd., of Winterthur. The resistance of this air curtain to the strong pressure exercised by the wind — measured on the spot — was tested by means of a model on a reduced scale, in the aero-dynamic tunnel of the Federal Polytechnical School at Zurich.

### Swiss textiles for the home

Even if the women embroiderers, dressed in their national costumes, whose pictures are still to be found on post-cards, have almost entirely disappeared from East Switzerland, the so-called "cottage work" goes on to a considerable extent, more particularly in regard to chain-stitch embroidery, which is greatly in demand at present as a decoration for modern table and bed linen. The reputation possessed by East Switzerland, as being a centre for embroidery, and the use of this for model garments, as well as for "ready-to-dear" articles, has tended to make people forget

that the Swiss cotton and embroidery industries also produce furnishing fabrics: curtains, hangings, materials for covering furniture, household linen, etc. This production, like that of all the other Swiss textile branches, owes its reputation not so much to its quantity, but to the quality of these products and to the elegance of the novelties which are put on the market each year. It is this aspect of the Swiss textile industry which was particularly stressed on the occasion of a visit by the Swiss Press recently to East Switzerland, for purposes of information.

### Colvilles Ltd. orders go to Sulzer Bros. (London) Ltd.

Orders worth £187,000 have been placed with the Heating and Ventilating Division of Sulzer Bros. (London) Ltd., for two installations for Colvilles Ltd. in Scotland.

At Ravenscraig, the new Strip Mill Sales Office will be air-conditioned with Sulzer "Clima" high velocity induction convectors. The system is designed to give individual air temperature control to each office to provide optimum conditions of comfort.

Sulzer Radiant Strip Heating supplied from a high pressure hot water system will be used in the new Cold Reduction Mill at Gartcosh. A feature of the installation is that the radiant strip will be mounted 55 feet above ground level to afford an even distribution of heat, besides allowing a completely clear production area of some 500,000 square feet.

### Swiss packaging catalogue

Packing technique has advanced tremendously during these last few years, more especially as the result of the developments which have taken place in the manufacture and the working of plastic substances, as well as of the pressure of very sharp international competition exercised on all the markets. Swiss industry has not remained behindhand in this domain, but, on the contrary, has been able to achieve considerable progress in the presentation of certain traditional Swiss products, as also in the creation of new machines for the packaging of all sorts of materials and products in a better manner, more rapidly, more hygienically, more safely with a view to transport and in a more attractive fashion with a view to sales. In order to realise the extent of this evolution, and the ingenuity and the efficacy shown by Swiss manufacturers of packages and of packaging machinery, one need only peruse the new "Swiss catalogue of packaging and of the manipulation of goods", which appeared at the beginning of the year.



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