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BUSINESS IN SWITZERLAND

Swiss Water Works with Electronic Remote Control

At La Chaux-de-Fonds — one of the main centres of Swiss watchmaking production — the first plant in Switzerland to be equipped with an entirely electronic remote control system was recently put into operation, the necessary impulses being transmitted over the existing telephone lines. This plant, situated some 12½ miles outside the town, pumps the water for La Chaux-de-Fonds' main water supply and at the same time produces electricity with the surplus water. All the electrical and hydraulic machines can be started and stopped and their working supervised from the Public Utilities Office in town. This new plant enables seven mechanics out of ten to be released for other work and ensures greater reliability and speed of control; it is the fruit of close collaboration between the engineers of the La Chaux-de-Fonds public utilities and the firm of Hasler, in Berne, which specialises in telecommunications.

Important Swiss Contribution to Modern Radiology

A beta-ray apparatus for the treatment of tumours has just been put into operation at a West Berlin hospital. This new model, known by the name of "Asklepitron", weighs 11 tons and produces an energy of 35 million electronvolts; it is the most powerful and most modern X-ray apparatus in the world and has been designed and built by the Swiss firm of Brown-Boveri & Co. at Baden, from the data of a Norwegian scientist. The "Asklepitron" is the younger brother of a Betatron which was installed in a hospital in Berne a short while ago.

From Golf to the Factory

Watchmakers need to be richly endowed with imagination in addition to a high sense of precision in order to be able to develop their inventive genius to the full and to apply it to all sorts of utilitarian or even frivolous uses. And just as the ordinary mortal carries the right time with him on his wrist, so the golfer is now able to carry a small counter resembling a watch, which records the number of strokes he has played. This new gadget may also be used by a billiard player, or a mechanic checking the output of a machine, as well as a statistician recording the repetition of an event. The "Domatic Score" counter looks like a wrist watch and has a dial provided with small windows in which the figures appear, with crowns for re-

setting to zero and a push-button which is pressed whenever a unit is to be counted.

A European Novelty in Switzerland

Near Olten, a pudding powder firm recently opened a factory which is the most modern of its kind in Europe. Nothing in its outside appearance, or the premises even, would lead one to suspect the very intensive production taking place there. But, thanks to the almost complete automation of production, the actual manufacture requires the presence of only one man who can run the whole plant singlehanded, and the manpower, which is mainly seasonal, is limited to 50. The various machines and apparatus are controlled by means of perforated cards, each of which represents all the operations involved in the manufacture of an article. The machinery and appliances required for transport and manufacture as well as the control plant were designed and built by the Oerlikon Buehrle & Co. Machine-Tool Factory in Zurich/Oerlikon.

Sulzer Bros. (London) Ltd. are pleased to announce that their new 9RD90 engines are to power the new "Glenlyon" class cargo liners, at present being built for Glen Line Ltd. in shipyards in Britain and the Netherlands.

Pioneers in the field of loop scavenging two-stroke engines, Sulzer recently introduced the RD series, covering engines up to 27,600 b.h.p., and the engines for Glen Line Ltd. are the largest of the series so far built.

The nine-cylinder engines of 900 m.m. bore and 1,550 m.m. stroke are each fitted with three Sulzer RT67 turbo-chargers and are designed for a maximum output of 20,700 b.h.p., but it is not anticipated that this output will be required in service. The high efficiency of the pulse pressure-charging system, coupled with the use of the piston underside as a scavenging aid, permits smokefree starting and manoeuvring. The thrust bearing, flywheel and turning gear are built into the engine whilst the water and oil pumps are separately driven by electric motors. The engines are a combination of modern developments with traditional Sulzer quality.

Sulzer Bros. are pleased to be associated with Glen Line Ltd. in building these vessels which, during this period of intense competition, by their economy and efficiency will play a large part in ensuring the future of British Shipping.

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