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THE OLDEST SWISS CITIZENS AND INHABITANTS

Under "Recent Deaths" we reported the passing away of Mrs. Widmer-Salm at the age of 104. She was the oldest Swiss citizeness, but the oldest woman inhabitant is Mrs. Ernesta Martinelli-Gatti (Aarau) who is 108; she is Italian.

At the end of July it was announced that the oldest inhabitant of Switzerland celebrated his 103rd birthday at St. Aubin (Neuchâtel). Since then it has been discovered that Mr. Charles Burgat-Maccabez is not the oldest citizen; that honour falls on Mr. Johannes Senn who is in his 106th year. He was born on 2nd January 1862 at Auenstein (Aargau) and went to Zurich in 1890 where he has been living ever since. He worked as carpenter until he was 90, and even today he can still read a little with the help of a magnifying glass.

[A.T.S]

TELEPHONING AT LESS EXPENSE

The frequent user of the telephone is pleased to learn that the present introduction of the new system of periodic pulse metering will make telephoning less expensive. The Swiss Museum of Transport in Lucerne shows a demonstration model with pertinent explanations of the new apparatus: viz. the visitor choses a long distance connection and then will see on an illuminated board the timing procedure by the old 3-minutes manner and by the new rate schedule with a 10-cts. tax per time unit. The telephone subscriber will be surprised to learn that, for instance, a talk of 18 seconds from Berne to St. Moritz will be only 10 cts., namely, 90% cheaper, as compared with the old 3-minute rate and a cost of 1 Swiss franc!

The Swiss Institute of Transport and Communications, Lucerne, is open from 16th March to 15th November daily from 9 a.m. — 6 p.m.

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUNG MOTHERS

A Useful Accessory for Infant Feeding

While manufacturers everywhere continue to create and sell appliances for rationalising and simplifying the housewife's task, nobody — according to the enquiries of a Geneva manufacturer — had ever thought of devising a practical means of cleaning babies' bottles easily. After studying this particular problem from every angle, this manufacturer created and launched, under the name of "Biberonet", a brush fitted with a cylindrical sponge, designed to fit the standard sizes of babies' bottles and offering the ingenious feature of revolving on its axis as it is pushed into the bottle. This results in a thorough cleaning of the bottle, in accordance with the needs of present-day hygiene. When worn out, the sponge is easy to replace because it is fitted on a plastic core provided with a screw thread, which is simplicity itself to dismantle and reassemble. This possibility of replacement and the sturdy construction of this handy appliance are a guarantee of long life.

[O.S.E.C.]

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MEDICAL STUDENTS

According to medical statistics for 1966, there were 3,403 Swiss medical students in Swiss universities during the 1965/66 winter term, i.e. 428 or 14.4% more than during the 1964/65 period. On the other hand, the number of foreign medical students fell off slightly during the same period. According to the figures already available for four universities, the number of Swiss medical students has again increased since 1965/66. At the same time the number of foreign medical students has also begun to increase again.

[O.S.E.C.]

A SWISS REFUSE DISPOSAL PLANT IN ALGERIA

In order to solve the problem of refuse disposal, the Algerian Government examined various solutions very thoroughly and finally selected the composting process, compost being of considerable use to Algerian forestry and agriculture. A contract was therefore signed with Bühler Bros. Co. Ltd., of Uzwil (St. Gall), for the building of a town refuse composting works with a capacity of 200 tons in eight hours with the possibility of doubling this output at a later date. . After the erection of plant for composting town refuse at Rabat, Marrakech, Tetuan and Meknès in Marocco, the Algerian plant will be the fifth of its kind to be built by Bühler Bros. in Africa.

[O.S.E.C.]

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