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FIGURES GALORE

Did you know that . . .

- . . . the Federal Tribunal in Lausanne dealt with 1,648 new and completed 1,639 cases in 1967?
- . . . Switzerland looks after the interests of over 20 other States, the largest mandate among them being Cuba where she represents no fewer than 10 States?
- . . . that 507 complaints were passed on to the Federal Council by the Federal Department of Justice and Police, of which the Government accepted 10 completely, 9 partly and rejected 217?
- . . . that there are 336 foundations under Confederation supervision, with total assets of 350 million francs plus a similar amount in property?
- . . . that at the end of 1967, there were 121,555 (120'923 in 1966) men and women in the employment of the Confederation?
- . . . that there were 18,821 customs prosecutions in 1967?
- . . . that at the end of last year, there were 1,433 members of foreign diplomatic missions in Berne?
- . . . that there are 79 permanent delegations at UNO in Geneva, totalling 1,015 members, 61 of whom are of Swiss nationality? and 8,171 with international organisations, 1,836 of whom are Swiss?
- . . . that last year, the federal administration used 2,400 metric tons of paper, cardboard, etc., an increase in 14 years of 600 tons?
- . . . that the Federal Political Department spent 8,846m. francs on internationally active assistance and welfare schemes and 5.73m. on Swiss ones; UNICEF, refugees, emigrants, world food programme, World Health, Red Cross, etc.?
- . . . that Switzerland granted political asylum to 214 people in 1967, and refused 44?
- . . . that the ETH Library in Zurich received its millionth volume recently?
- . . . that there are nearly 1,300 aircraft registered in Switzerland?
- . . . that 170,000 people visited the National Park (150,000 in 1966)? and that there are nearly 3,000 head of deer?
- . . . that there are 33 vessels under Swiss flag on the high seas (296,000 tons)? and that they employed 1,006 men at the end of last year, 60.73% of them Swiss?

[A.T.S.]

AN END TO DRIPPING TAPS

The "Rapid" tap milling cutter, made by a Geneva specialist, makes it possible to true the faulty seats of dripping taps in a few minutes. This instrument has the great advantage, over all existing models, of being suitable for use on all taps of current dimensions, without any adaptation or changing of parts. Quickly fitted on any faulty tap, it adjusts to the right place entirely on its own through the action of two centering cones. The milling, achieved by means of a hard steel knife, practically impossible to wear out, is carried out in a few minutes and makes it possible to true the seats of taps eaten away by corrosion. The process does not risk wearing away the seating of the tap, for the milling action stops of its own accord as soon as the desired effect is achieved. The Rapid milling-cutter will certainly render invaluable service not only to plumbers but also to home-owners who carry out their own repair work.

[O.S.E.C.]

A SWISS NOVELTY IN AEROSOL CONTAINERS

A big Swiss chemical factory is presenting a new system of aerosol packaging, which revolutionises the presentation of traditional containers. In fact, in the new "Innovair" system, the pressurised gas used for propelling the liquid is not contained directly in the bomb, i.e. in contact with the liquid; it is enclosed in a special cartridge from which it is only allowed to escape — drawing the liquid in the container with it through a three-way micro-nozzle — when the valve is pressed. Thus, no longer having to stand up to high pressures, the container no longer needs to be made in specially strong metal but can be manufactured in plastic. Among the main advantages of the new system, let us mention the resistance of rusting of the plastic container, the avoidance of undesirable chemical combinations between the product to be pulverised and the gas, the decrease in the quantity of gas needed, the increased safety due to the use of a small gas cartridge, itself protected by the plastic container, etc. Let us add that the "Innovair" process has already been tried out successfully in certain countries for several years now.

[O.S.E.C.]

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