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The Swiss Observer

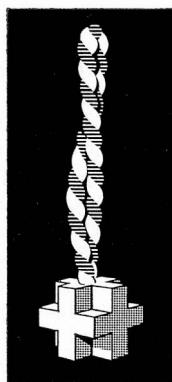
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THE WHITE AND THE RED CROSS



THIS YEAR'S SWISS NATIONAL DAY COLLECTION

Every year, the Swiss people buy badges and special postage stamps in aid of the *Bundesfeierspende* (*Don Suisse de la Fête Nationale*), an organisation which supports charities, special funds (cultural, educational, etc.) or work undertaken in the national interest. Last year, 100,000 francs was given to the victims of the bad avalanche winter 1967/8. 25,000 francs went towards the restoration of the old Bernese patrician estate at Worb (home of the Bernese Domestic Science College), 5,000 francs towards re-roofing the Erlenbach Church in the Simmental and 35,000 francs to the Tell Museum at Buerglen. The bulk of the money went to the National Fund for Swiss Soldiers and their Families.

In 1968, 936,235 badges were sold and nearly 28 million stamps. Total gross income amounted to over 4 million francs (3,940,373 francs in the previous year). Including interest, and some 34,800 francs in cash gifts and after deducting expenses, 3,786,521 francs remained (221,000 francs more than in 1967).

This year's collection will go to the Swiss Red Cross for use in Switzerland. It will be allocated mainly for the training of nurses and organising home nursing and first-aid courses. The work of the Swiss Red Cross covers many aspects, such as the blood donation service, civil defence, help in natural disasters. The Red Cross has looked

after the training of nurses since the 'nineties of the last century. This task has been extended considerably, especially since the second world war. The Swiss Red Cross supervises professional training in over 70 nursing schools in Switzerland. Individual sectors include general nursing, child bed care, babies and children's nursing, practical sick nursing, psychiatric nursing and the training of medical laboratory assistants.

Hospitals in Switzerland as elsewhere are short of nursing staff. The Red Cross helps by providing relief nurses, by helping to look after people at home, by training ordinary citizens in home nursing and child care. The Swiss Red Cross also administer the Swiss Medical Mission for First Aid and Rescue Work.

For 45 years, the price of the National Day Badge has stood at 1 franc. When the National Day Fund held its annual meeting at the end of April, members had to decide reluctantly to double the price, seeing that the cost of production was steadily increasing, and that general expenses were going up.

The special stamps are now on sale, four different values, showing glass panel paintings on biblical themes.

Next year, the collection will be for the woman in the service of the nation, for the spiritual, cultural and legal training of the Swiss woman, and to assist women's organisations in their work.

SWISS FRANCS FOR UNICEF

Switzerland is giving 3,720,000 francs to the United Nations Children's Fund, as its cash contribution toward the Fund's regular programme.

This puts Switzerland among the seven biggest donor countries to UNICEF.

In addition, the Government is asking Parliament to grant a general credit of 1.25 million for the next few years for distribution to various U.N. institutes, funds and special programmes.

The main organisations to benefit from the Swiss contributions will be the U.N. Institute for Training and Research and the Research Institute for Social Development.

It is also expected that the Government will shortly ask Parliament for a general credit of 180 million francs for the next three years for bilateral technical assistance to developing countries.

AVENCHES BAKERS USE CAESARS' RECIPE

Swiss master bakers have gone back to Roman days for their latest creation.

They presented "Roman Bread", said to be baked from a genuine recipe from the days of the Caesars, in an appropriate setting — the Roman arena at Avenches, once the capital of Roman Helvetia.

Master Bakers' spokesman, Fritz Nägeli, said that, although bakers were trying to push their sale, with it, the Roman Bread is not a pure invention but really is based on an ancient recipe.

The bread, sold in octagonal-shaped loaves, is made from wheat flour and coarse gramah meal, with the addition of split hazelnuts.

Avenches Roman Museum Curator Dr. H. Bögli explained that the new bread is not exactly the same as that eaten by the ancient Romans because their bread included tiny particles of stone from the mills which ground the corn.

In the modern version, the pieces of hazelnut make an acceptable substitute for the stone particles, which used to gradually grind down the Romans' teeth.

The bakers' new campaign is aimed at getting the Swiss to eat more bread.

Average consumption has dropped from 350 grams daily during the last war to a mere 110 grams.

The modern Swiss apparently prefers circuses to bread.

But there is also an educative angle: purchasers of "Roman Bread" will be given a free map showing the main settlements of Roman Switzerland, with historical notes.

"Weekly Tribune",
Geneva.