

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1969)

Heft: 1581

Artikel: Technical items

Autor: [s.n.]

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-696690>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 05.04.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

a glove. Strong and impossible to lose its rigid shape, the shell opens outward on hinges like a cigarette case and requires absolutely no looking after. Once the joys of skiing are over, the outer shell can be removed leaving the skier wearing an after-ski boot which fits the foot like a second skin, allowing him to drive a car or dance with equal ease. (OSEC)

A minor "revolution" in the watering of plants

Is the tiresome chore of the traditional watering of lawns, trees, shrubs and flower-beds doomed to disappear at last? This would seem to be the opinion at any rate of a Montreux inventor, who has designed and perfected a new system for the underground irrigation of roots. It requires no special installations, consisting as it does of a hollow metal rod with a large number of holes in the bottom through which the water soaks into the surrounding earth. A system of valves makes it possible to regulate the flow and the pressure. This new method of watering has the advantage of avoiding any chalky deposit on the leaves. In addition, it makes for a considerable saving of water, evaporation being greatly reduced, even practically nil. After having successfully passed the experimental stage, this new system of underground watering has been patented in Switzerland and abroad and will shortly go into mass production. (OSEC)

Two new products of the Swiss electronics industry

The leading Swiss manufacturer of typewriters, accounting and office machinery has just presented two new office machines: a desk-top electronic printing calculator and an electronic invoicing machine, both operating on integrated circuits. The Hermes 114

calculating machine adds, multiplies, divides and calculates with 7 registers. In addition, an internal programme makes it possible to store and then repeat up the 50 functions and figures, for carrying out repetitive work more quickly and without mistakes. By means of this programme, the machine automatically calculates percentages, compound interests, mortgage plans, roots, exponents, trigonometric functions, etc. Easy to operate, it calculates at a speed of 2 to 40 milliseconds and prints 5 lines of 16 figures and signs per second. Outstanding features of the Hermes F-4 invoicing machine are its small size, its high speed of calculation (6 to 50 milliseconds for a multiplication) and printing (17 signs a second) as well as for its simple and rapid programming. It can be equipped with 2 to 5 registers, as required. (OSEC)

A Swiss chairlift for an American zoo

Visitors to San Diego Zoo (USA) will soon be able to admire their favourite animals in complete comfort and with no risk of getting tired. The Swiss firm of Von Roll Co. Ltd. is at present building the first "zoo chairlift" in the world. Some 1,650 feet long, it will blend inconspicuously into the vegetation, the four intermediate pylons being designed to look like palm trees. The four-seater cabins will glide smoothly over the zoo at a speed of 8.2 ft/sec., ensuring a capacity of some 1,200 passengers an hour. (OSEC)

Growth of the Swiss Chemical Industry in Asia

Starting next year, the Basle chemical firm of Hoffmann-La Roche will manufacture pharmaceutical products in the Philippines. The parent firm will spend several million dollars on the construction of a modern factory in Manila. This new branch

will produce pharmaceuticals only and no chemical products. Previously Hoffmann-La Roche only had an agency in Manila. In addition, the Indonesian government has signed a contract with Ciba for the purpose of stepping up its rice production. The agreement stipulates that the Swiss firm will supply Indonesia, in the form of a loan, with 121,912 dollars' worth of fertilizers and equipment for rice growing. The programme provides for the development of production over an area of just under 1,000,000 acres in the east, centre and west of Java. This new contract is the third signed between CIBA and the Indonesian government. (OSEC)

THE SWISS BANK CORPORATION INCREASES ITS CAPITAL

At an Extraordinary General Meeting held in Basle on the 21st October, 1969, it was decided to increase the share-capital of the Bank in two stages. The capital will first be raised from S.Frs. 330,000,000 to S.Frs. 348,000,000 by the issue of 36,000 new bearer shares of S.Frs 500.-, cum coupon No. 5 and ranking for dividend for the financial year from the 1st January 1969, to shareholders of the Société Suisse d'Industrie Electrique (INDELEC) in respect of the share-exchange offer. These shares also include entitlement to subscribe to the new shares offered under the second stage through which the capital will be increased from S.Frs. 348,000,000 to S.Frs. 406,000,000 by the issue of 116,000 new bearer shares of S.Frs. 500.- cum coupon No. 6 and ranking for dividend from the 1st October, 1969 (one quarter of the dividend for 1969) to be offered to shareholders at the price of S.Frs. 1000.- in the proportion of one new share for every six old. In all other respects the new shares will rank *pari passu* with the old.

FOR *Your*
WORLD
TRANSPORT
(ANYTHING - ANYWHERE)



Ask /
WORLD TRANSPORT
first!

WORLD TRANSPORT

20/22 EMERSON STREET
LONDON S.E.1.

AIRPORT OFFICES:
LONDON BIRMINGHAM SOUTHEND
MANCHESTER YEADON GATWICK

Tel: 01-928 6996 . Telex: 28401 London

AGENCY LIMITED

Specialized Regular Groupage Services
GREAT BRITAIN - SWITZERLAND and ITALY
and VICE VERSA

BRANCHES: BASLE · MANCHESTER · BRADFORD · BIRMINGHAM · HULL · SHEFFIELD · LIVERPOOL
LEICESTER · STOKE