

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: - (1970)

Heft: 1606

Rubrik: Technical items

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: 13.08.2025

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

ger of forgetting the object of one's stay in Bournemouth: English. To forestall this latent eventuality, an eye is kept on the work of each student by a supervisor of studies. They are therefore held by a minimum of discipline. The reputation of the school is, after all at stake.

Mr. F. Schillig and his collabora-

tors will celebrate their school's 25 years of existence with a Dinner at the end of this month. They will be able to look back proudly on 25 years of regular growth and eminent service to both the English language and the thousands of continental students who come to spend a useful and enjoyable time at ACSE every year. (PMB)

TECHNICAL ITEMS

A factory of the future

It is not idle boasting if we announce that Marin, a simple little village in the canton of Neuchatel will shortly be known all over the world. Electronic Ebauches Co. Ltd. is in fact building there the first electronic watch centre, a huge factory that will employ over a thousand workers, and perhaps double this number in the fairly near future. Thanks to all those who have contributed to the achievement of this project, the laboratory revolution brought about by the creation, within the space of a few years, of various electronic watches is now in a position to spread rapidly to all markets. The new firm will have an annual output of several million electronic watch and clock movements. It will operate according to the most modern methods and will be connected to the central ordinator at Granges, a powerful electronic brain capable of solving the problems of 250 subscribers at the same time. Obviously the investment in equipment goods is tremendous—for the moment a minimum of 16 million francs (US \$3.7 million)—but the requirements of technical progress and above all keen international competition have led to an irreversible movement of rationalisation and automation.

Extent of investments in Switzerland during the last decade

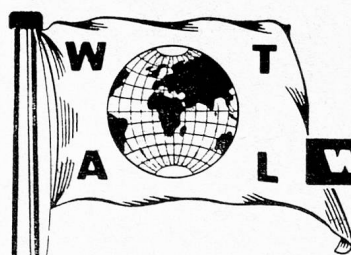
Investments made in Switzerland during the last ten years totalled S.Fr. 153 billion (US \$35.6 billion), representing on an average 28% of the gross national product. Two-thirds of this amount, i.e. S.Fr. 101 billion (US \$23.5 billion) was invested in building, while the remaining third, i.e. S.Fr. 52 billion (US \$11.2 billion), was accounted for by equipment (purchase of machinery and plant of all kinds.) In building, the proportion of investments of the public sector increased at the expense of those of the private sector. Expenditure on public building work, which represented only 16% of the formation of fixed capital in 1960, amounted to 22% in fact last year. On the basis of 1960=100, the index of public works amounted to 308 in 1969, that of private works to 203. In spite of this trend, expenditure on construction in the private sector, S.Fr. 70 billion (US \$16.3 billion), continues to be much higher than that of the public sector (S.Fr. 31 billion=US \$7.2 billion). In public works, the most important item consists of buildings, and S.Fr. 6.3 billion (US \$1.5 billion) was spent on the construction of schools and hospitals. With S.Fr. 10 billion

(US \$2.3 billion) roads too have accounted for a large part of public funds; this is the sector that recorded the highest mean annual rate of growth (16.8%). With regard to private building work, housing easily comes first, the S.Fr. 39 billion (US \$9 billion) spent on this representing a quarter of the total investments. Industrial construction work during the period under consideration accounted for over S.Fr. 23 billion (US \$5.3 billion), corresponding to 15% of investments as a whole. It should however be pointed out that this sector has shown a certain stagnation since 1965. This trend seems mainly to have benefitted expenditure on equipment since, if we take as basis 1960=100, the index for the latter amounted to 251 in 1969, as opposed to 202 for industrial construction work. This difference shows that investments made in the industrial sector have been used less and less for increasing the production system and more and more for its modernisation and rationalisation.

Swiss wines in Japan

In 1969, Switzerland exported only 9,300 bottles of wine to Japan. Although customs duty, cost of transport and insurance are very high, it would seem, to judge by visitors to the Swiss restaurant at the Osaka Exhibition, that very many Japanese however would like to try other drinks than saké, beer or whisky. In order to make Swiss wines better known in the country, those in charge of the Swiss pavilion recently organised a mini wine exhibition, to which they invited the managers of Japan's biggest hotels, as well as the trade press. The managers of the main hotels in Tokyo, Kyoto and Kobe, in most cases accompanied by their seconds in command, had an opportunity of trying out and appreci-

FOR *Your*
WORLD
TRANSPORT
(ANYTHING - ANYWHERE)



Ask /
WORLD TRANSPORT
first!

WORLD TRANSPORT

Tel: 01-928 6996 . Telex: 28401 London

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

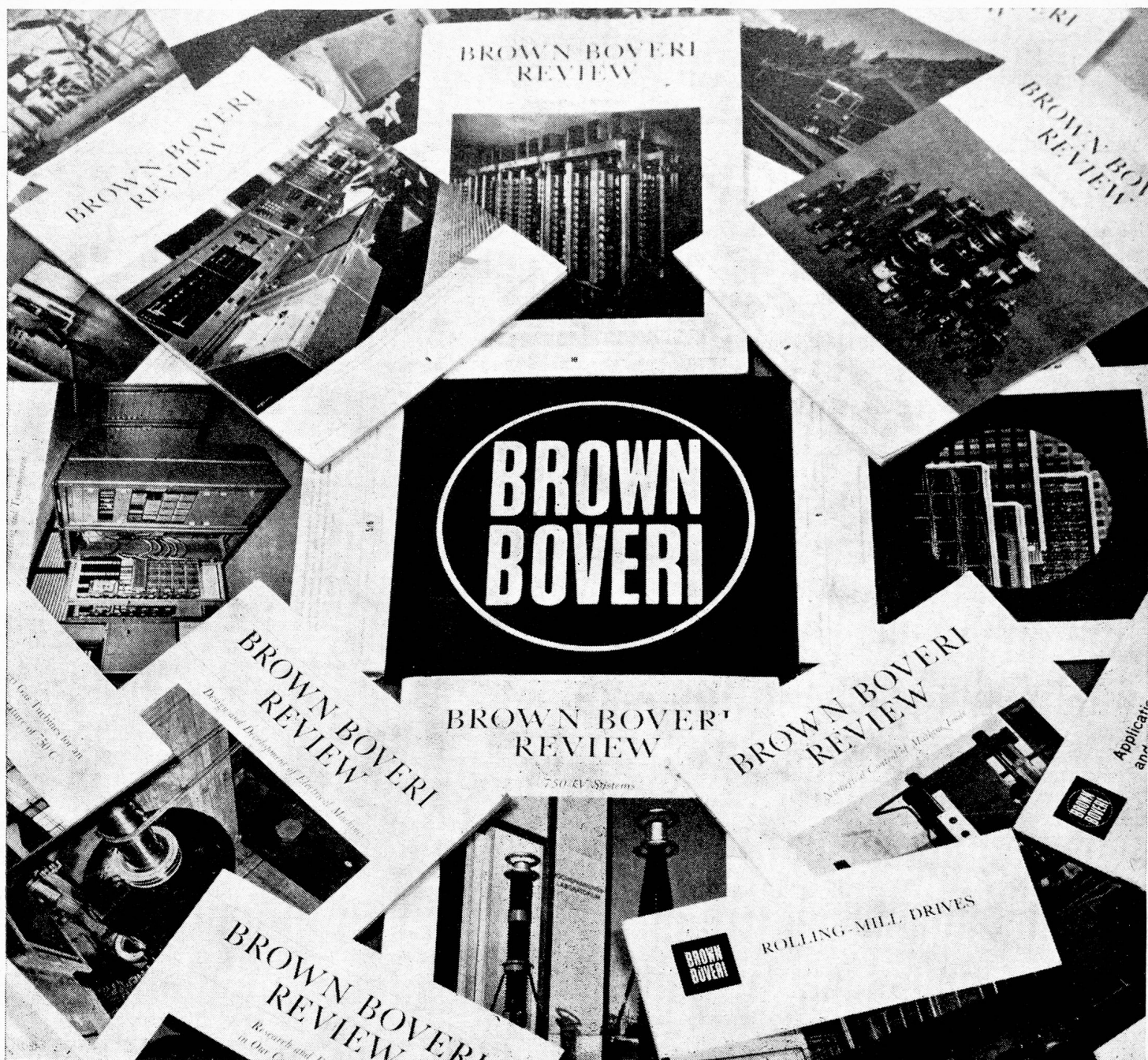
AIRPORT OFFICES:
LONDON BIRMINGHAM SOUTHEAST
MANCHESTER YEADON GATWICK

AGENCY LIMITED

Specialized Regular Groupage Services

GREAT BRITAIN - SWITZERLAND and ITALY
and VICE VERSA

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



A vital link in the chain of progress

Every month, from the BROWN BOVERI research headquarters in Switzerland, over 800 copies of the BROWN BOVERI Review are sent to subscribers throughout the U.K.

Whilst the BROWN BOVERI Review serves as the medium by which much of British industry is kept informed of the latest developments in advanced European technology, the practical advantages of these developments are being applied by BRITISH BROWN-BOVERI to an ever increasing number of projects in an ever expanding number of industries.

POWER GENERATION · TRANSMISSION · DISTRIBUTION · UTILIZATION

British Brown-Boveri Limited
Glen House · Stag Place · London S.W.1.

ating various Swiss vintage wines: Johannisberg, St. Saphorin, Auvernier, Hallau and Dôle. Greatly interested, they immediately enquired about prices and the names of suppliers; one of them has already organised a "Swiss Wine Week" in his hotel.

Swiss grape juice for Florida and "Down Under"

Owing to its sub-tropical climate, Florida possesses tremendous quantities of fruit, a large part of which it exports to various parts of the world in the form of fruit juice. In spite of this, it is shortly going to receive grape juice from Switzerland; in fact, several thousand bottles of a fine grape juice speciality recently left the cellars of a Swiss manufacturer at Hallau (canton of Schaffhausen) for Miami, ordered by an American distribution network supplying hotels and luxury stores. Similar quantities of bottles at present on their way to New York and Brisbane (Australia) are eloquent proof of the great reputation enjoyed by this famous Swiss soft drink.

A Swiss firm's success in Japan

A Swiss machinery works at Uzwil (canton of St. Gall) is extremely busy in Japan right now where it is executing orders totalling several million Swiss francs. At Kobe, a ship unloading plant is in the process of completion while a cereal silo, two wheat mills, a compound foodstuffs mill and a pasta factory are being built or are on the point of going into operation. This same Swiss firm recently completed the first corn mill for a Japanese brewery, with a capacity of 150 tons of corn a day. In addition, also in Kobe, a factory for the industrial production of compound animal feeding stuffs, with an hourly output of 120 tons, is in the process of construction. A dozen other similar plants are at present being delivered. During the last few years, the Uzwil firm has taken part in the modernisation of the Japanese chocolate industry by supplying 140 five-cylinder rolling mills for chocolate refining. Finally, in the printing inks sector, in the last three years, it has supplied 100 fully hydraulic rolling mills; an order valued at one million Swiss francs (U.S. \$0.23 million) is at present being executed for the biggest Japanese printing inks factory. (OSEC).

NEW TRIUMPHS FOR THE SWISS WATCHMAKING INDUSTRY

"Ramses", a jewellery watch with lines resembling the pyramidal structures of ancient Egypt, has just won for Omega of Switzerland the "Golden Rose of Baden-Baden". The results of the annual award for elegant watch design were announced at the annual meeting of German and international jewellers. The young Swiss stylist, Luigi Vignando, went back to ancient Egypt

for inspiration in designing this superb ladies' watch; the massive clasp bracelet in 18 ct. white gold, reminiscent of the geometry characteristic of ancient monuments, blends harmoniously with the rectangular case set with 20 "baguette" diamonds surrounding the watch crystal made of synthetic tourmaline of unusual size. Omega is moving a lot in jewellery circles this year. Quite recently it obtained an honourable mention for the Prize of the City of Geneva, with a man's watch featuring a high precision electronic quartz movement. The Certina Watch Factory, for its part is the creator of the only jewellery watch among the prize-winners at the big annual competition of the International Diamonds Academy. The jury were faced with a difficult task, having to choose the "Oscars" from among 2,351 entries. The watch presented by Certina is in grey gold, with an asymmetrical dial; it is decorated with 167 11-carat diamonds. These two Swiss achievements are yet further proof of the leading role played by the Swiss watch industry in the field of aesthetic endeavour.

A NEW TILTING AND SWIVELLING THERMOMETER

Within the range of its "all stainless steel" programme, a Swiss measuring instruments factory, at Crissier (canton of Vaud) has just launched a bi-metallic thermometer with tilting and swivelling head, specially designed for the chemical, petro-chemical and process industries. This instrument belongs to the heavy-duty group of thermometers, known all over the world for their high precision, perfect legibility and reliability. Made entirely of stainless steel, this thermometer comprises a head inclinable from 0 to 90° and an antiparallax dial for easy reading from any angle. The instrument is designed for temperature ranges from -100° to +600°. On request it can be delivered with protection tubes, welded or drilled from solid bar-stock, for use under high pressures.

SWISS SAFETY SYSTEM IN THE PARIS METRO

The Paris Metro was faced with a seemingly insoluble problem: during peak hours it had become impossible to put on enough trains to carry all passengers. However a Swiss firm at Ragaz (canton of St. Gall) came up with a solution: it produced an electronic system of entirely new design, with which the 60 stations of the "Porte de la Villette-Mairie d'Ivry" line have been equipped. Thanks to this new system, trains can now run at intervals of only a minute and a half. The control clocks in the different stations enable the engine driver to keep to the timetable to the nearest second. The new control plant is designed to take fluctuations in the traffic into account. In fact, each control unit comprises two clocks: the first for controlling the running of trains during peak hours, the second for normal traffic hours. In addition, two other instruments indicate the interval between two trains as well as the actual length of stop at each station. An automatic acoustic signal informing passengers of the imminent departure of the train makes it possible to avoid delays. Another automatic system of appliances closes the gates giving access to the platforms 50 to 80 seconds after the departure of the previous train, thus avoiding platforms becoming overcrowded with passengers.

SWITZERLAND THE HOME OF A WORLD WELDING CENTRE

When at the beginning of the century Mr. J. P. Wasserman, a Swiss metallurgist, founded the present company of Castolin-Eutectic, he certainly did not expect to see some sixty years later his firm become one of the leaders in the field of modern welding. Nor could he have imagined that the firm whose offices are situated at St. Sulpice (canton of Vaud) would this year be inaugurating a big polytechnic institute of repair and maintenance welding: The "Castolin-Eutectic Institute for the

THE ZURICH GROUP

ZURICH INSURANCE COMPANY
(a limited Company incorporated in Switzerland in 1872)

THE BEDFORD LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY LTD.
(an associate member of the Life Offices Association)

THE BEDFORD GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.
(a member of the British Insurance Association)

UNDERTAKE ALL
CLASSES OF INSURANCE
BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE U.K.

HEAD OFFICE:
FAIRFAX HOUSE, FULWOOD PLACE
HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.1

Telephone 01-242 8833

GROUP RESOURCES EXCEED £500,000,000

Development of Welding Processes for Repairs and Maintenance". This institute's new premises contain in particular six lecture rooms equipped with all the latest audio-visual equipment required for seminars, congresses and "workshops", a permanent exhibition "Soudexpo"—the largest collection of parts repaired by welding ever gathered together in one spot—and a "Higher School of Maintenance Welding". The technical and scientific information collected from all over the world is taken care of in a research and documentation centre and processed by an ordinator. Created with a view to promoting the use of repair and maintenance welding at all levels of industry, the institute grants subsidies and gives prizes to encourage research and

supervises various programmes of study devoted to welding techniques; in addition, it distributes films, publications and instructional equipment, organises congresses and conferences, and publishes monographs, brochures and technical reports.

SWISS PATENTS IN JAPAN

At the end of 1969, Japan had issued 185,566 patents, of which 61,957, i.e. about a third, were of foreign origin. With 3,645 patents, Switzerland came fourth among countries holding Japanese patents, after the USA, West Germany and the United Kingdom, but ahead of the Netherlands, France, Italy, Sweden, etc. During the last 5 years, on an average some 1,200 patent applications have been made annually in

Japan, about 500 of which have been granted. By way of comparison, let us mention that in Switzerland, the Federal Bureau of Intellectual Property records on an average 15,000 patent applications per year, about a third of them of Swiss origin, and that it issues about 7,000 patents each year.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRESS IN SWITZERLAND

Switzerland is one of the countries in the world with the highest number of different newspapers. There are 120 dailies, some 80 papers coming out 3 to 5 times a week and about 280 periodicals published once or twice a week. This makes a total of about 480, broken down into 330 newspapers and 150 news and advertising sheets for a popu-

Telegrams and Cables : TRANCOSMO- LONDON

TELEX 24777

Telephone : 01-407 4433 (8 Lines)

COSMOS FREIGHTWAYS AGENCY LIMITED.

INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT FORWARDERS

ALSO AT
LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE
HULL, BRISTOL, CARDIFF,
SWANSEA, NEWPORT, Mon.,
GLASGOW.

CONNECTED
THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD

By Road, Rail, Sea and Air
1, CATHEDRAL STREET,
LONDON BRIDGE, LONDON, S.E.1.
REGULAR GROUPAGE SERVICES WITH
SWITZERLAND

ANGLO-SWISS CUSTOMS EXPERTS.

OFFICIAL FREIGHT AND
PASSENGER AGENTS FOR
SWISSAIR AND ALL AIR LINES
TO SWITZERLAND AND ALL
PARTS OF THE WORLD

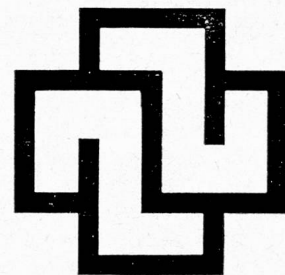
Agents: WELTIFURRER INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT CO. Ltd., Zurich, Basle, Schaffhausen, Geneva, St. Gal.

International Banking and Finance — from Zurich

Credit Suisse

Swiss Credit Bank
Schweizerische Kreditanstalt

Established 1856



**Whatever commercial banking services you need,
we will look after your interests.**

Head Office in Zurich—74 other branches in Switzerland. New York branch.
Representative Offices in London, Beirut, Hong Kong, Buenos Aires,
Johannesburg, Los Angeles, Mexico, Melbourne and Rio de Janeiro. Affiliated
companies in New York, Montreal, Nassau (Bahamas).

Correspondents throughout the world.

Capital and Reserves, Swiss Francs 1,170,000,000.

International Representative: George I. Williamson
48/54 Moorgate, London E.C.2. Tel: 01-638 0658/9

Credit Suisse — the right partner

lation of some 6 million inhabitants. The trade press, with over 1,000 titles, and the company papers, including over 450 personnel news sheets, also form an important part of the Swiss press, whose structure is largely influenced by the very decentralised political organisation of the country. This helps to explain why Swiss newspaper circulations are so small compared with those of foreign papers; the dailies as a whole run to some 2.5 million copies, the trade press about 2 million copies a week, and staff news sheets roughly 5 million copies a year.

(OSEC)

NEW BOOKS

A NEW TOME FOR MOUNTAINEERS

George Allen & Unwin have published the 1968/69 volume of *"The Mountain World"* (190p. 60s.). This collection was started in 1953 and nine *"Mountain World"* volumes have appeared since then, the last two having been translated from German into English. They are published under the auspices of the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research and under the direction of Mr. Hans Richard Müller. The collection is unfortunately to come to an end with the present volume. In the preface, Mr. Müller explains that the exciting era of the first ascents of the world's giant peaks has now come to a close. In the place of a few but highly important expeditions, there are now a multiplicity of ventures every year. There are too many of them to be covered in the Alpine Annuary which the *"Mountain World"* series purports to be, and with the growing ordinariness of ambitious mountaineering expeditions, the interest of the general alpine public has waned. "The aim and object of this regular publication, to record the exploration of the world's mountains must be regarded as fulfilled", concludes Mr. Müller.

So this title is destined to be the last of a series, but comes nonetheless as a worthy addition to the vast body of alpine and mountaineering literature. The book presents 25 contributions by alpinists from Europe and Asia and, in particular, from India and Japan. Their accounts describe ascents in such varied and wild places as the Afghan Hindu Kush, the Simien in Ethiopia, the Damavand in Persia, the Karakorum in Pakistan, the Stauning Alps in Greenland, the Tukuhe Peak in Nepal and the mountains of East Anatolia. This Annuary ends with an

impressive list of climbs performed in the Himalayas and the Karakorum in 1967, as well as a list of the expeditions to date in the Alps of Greenland. There seems to be so many expeditions to regions which, not so long ago, were accessible to high-powered and officially sponsored expeditions only that they have become commonplace. An Austrian expedition planning to ascend the Pamir range in Russia had more problems in securing visas than in undertaking the actual climb.

The proliferation of private expeditions and the increasing familiarity of European mountaineers with the Himalayas seem to be the principal trend of present-day alpinism. All the peaks of the Alps have long been overcome, there now remains to do the hundreds of peaks above 7,000 metres still waiting to be conquered. But, at the present rate, there won't be many of such virgin peaks left for very long and Alpinists will have to start looking for an "Eiger North Face" in the Himalayas, and tackle it preferably during the most difficult conditions of the year. The British Anapurna expedition early this year was an indication of the kind of "madness" which we are still to expect from mountaineers.

(PMB)

"MURRAY'S HANDBOOK FOR TRAVELLERS IN SWITZERLAND"

There is a growing demand for the classics of Victorian literature in many fields—such as history, literature, sociology, economics and the natural sciences. Hitherto this demand has been met by the second-hand market. But the prices of second-hand books are rising sharply and their supply is very uncertain. It has therefore been the object of the *Victorian Library*, launched by the Leicester University Press, to make some of these classics available again at a reasonable cost. These publishers have in particular reproduced one of the most successful titles of the celebrated series of Murray handbooks intended for Victorian travellers, the *"Handbook for Travellers in Switzerland"* (£2 10s. — 370 p.). The original work has been reproduced photographically, so that the typography is identical, but has been enlarged with a very useful introduction by Professor Jack Simmons, of Leicester University.

The Handbook was first published in 1838 and was the equivalent of a Michelin Guide for the English travellers to Switzerland of the 19th century. The Murray dynasty of publishers thrived on the many re-éditions of the various handbooks which it produced, such as the handbooks of Spain, France, Japan and India, the latter being still in press today. Those handbooks owed their success to the birth of modern tourism, and the handbook on Switzerland benefitted from the Victorian fashion for mountaineering and

the love of Alpine scenery which had been inspired by the Romantic movement.

Considering that the *Handbook for Travellers in Switzerland* was written by only one man, John Murray, assisted by mountain landscape painter William Brockedon, one is amazed by the wealth of details with which it abounds. The volume begins with an introduction on such useful touristic topics as Swiss currency, inter-city distances, the stage coach network, *lohnkutschers*, and Swiss inns. It also gives many pertinent tips on the most suitable equipment and luggage which the traveller should take with him and on the most favourable season in which he should set out on his Swiss journey. Many pages are devoted to the monuments, towns, valleys, passes and cascades which the traveller is recommended to see. A significant section describes the *moral condition of the Swiss*, their venality and churlishness, and the bad influence which tourism has had on originally simple and disinterested people. This section introduces the skeleton of the tours which are to be minutely described in the remainder of the book, the shortest suggested carriage tour lasting for two weeks, and the longest one taking the traveller for three months into every corner of Switzerland. The style is undeniably more literary and personal than the curt data offered by some modern holiday guides, as the following introductory passage shows:

"The most beautiful Swiss Valleys are those of Hasli, near Meyringen; the Simmenthal; the Vale of Sarnen; the Kanderthal and the Emmenthal—all distinguished for their quiet pastoral character, and the softness and luxuriance of their verdure. And here it may be remarked that the traveller in Switzerland must not suppose that beauty of scenery is confined to the High Alps: the Jura, and the intermediate undulating country, which, though still greatly elevated above the sea, may be called the Lowlands in reference to the Highlands of Switzerland, abound in peculiar and unobtrusive beauties—hills tufted with woods, among which picturesque masses of bare rock project at intervals, slopes bursting with rills, and meadows which, by the aid of copious irrigation, yield three crops of grass a year, presenting at all seasons a carpet of the liveliest verdure, and of a texture like velvet, equal to that of the best-kept English lawns;—such are the beauties of these lowland scenes."

Anyone who knows Switzerland moderately well should enjoy rediscovering it through the eyes of a 19th century traveller. He will also brush up its history in an entertaining way, as the account is not only geographical, but historical as well. This blending of history with geography lends an added interest to a recommended literary pilgrimage to Switzerland.

(PMB)