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is that nature must satisfy some basic rules, irrespective of any physical theory. Thus the principle of causality, which asserts that everything must have a cause, has to be accepted if any physics is going to be done at all. In the same way, the principle of relativistic invariance, which states that physical laws must be the same in every part of the universe, has also got to be admitted.

These fundamental requirements are expressed mathematically as axioms. The mathematical objects satisfying these axioms and adequate in describing the physical world are developed so that a complete lattice of mathematical relations can be deduced. These relations subtend the physical world and should be proved right when translated into physical terms. This would be the proof that nature behaves "logically".

To some extent axiomatic quantum field theory has yielded the results expected of it. To name some of the most important I must quote Professor Hep. They are the *PCT Theorem, the prediction of symmetries found in nature, the relation between spin and statistics, scattering coefficients and the analyticity of amplitude diffusion*.

These results were however of a very general nature. When the theoretician attempted to apply the techniques of axiomatic quantum field theory in particular problems he ran into unsurmountable mathematical difficulties. The method was just not applicable to practical problems in the actual state of the mathematical art. The problem was not one of computation and computers were of no use at this stage. It lay in sheer mathematical complexity. "We're not really physicists anyway", said Professor Hep. "We're plain mathematicians. The development of actual mathematics comes as a reply to the challenge of physical problems."

"Owing to these mathematical obstacles", he continued, "we have temporarily moved away from axiomatic field theory to return to somewhat more empirical methods previously closed to us because of insufficient mathematical equipment. In brief, what we are trying to do now is to forget the axioms, and to play about with the equations of the system under study so as to make them satisfy certain constraints imposed by the physical conditions of the problem."

"The method is less general and less beautifully abstract but more promising in the present circumstances. Instead of starting with axioms to hopefully reach meaningful equations, we start with the equations and may eventually find the underlying axioms. All the physics we are now involved in must take account of an infinity of particles and of the nature of the interaction between each one of them."

"This is the crux of the *many body problem*. I am now trying to under-

stand the mechanism of the *laser*, a device which produces a beam of perfectly coherent light and in which a multitude of atoms vibrate together. The phenomenon was explained by Einstein 50 years ago, long before the laser was invented. However, his simple theory failed to describe by what *exact* mechanism the electrons of billions of atoms could be brought into perfectly synchronous oscillations. This problem, and all those concerned with collective behaviour, require the most recent methods of theoretical physics and statistics".

At this point the atoms of my brain were buzzing collectively and I switched to another subject by asking Professor Hep how he worked.

"As far as I am concerned, I cannot engage in research in the same straightforward way as I might for a daily job such as polishing my shoes or making tea. The theoretical physicist is rather like an artist. To do something worthwhile he must be in the right mood. An artist cannot "force" a masterpiece unless he has some kind of inspiration. In the same way, I can't force my way through to the solution of a problem. Sure, I think of the problem for perhaps six hours a day and it is at the back of my mind for the rest of the time. But the solution comes of its own accord at the right time. You cannot give yourself a time limit for an answer."

"Intuition is of course most important. But it is a complex thing acquired with considerable experience. It is built on an awareness of physical analogies, of theoretical and experimental results. The most important requirement in this work is a solid mathematical background."

"Research implies a lot of reading and I have to keep abreast of things by poring over the literature. I don't read the proofs in detail but keep in my mind a clear picture of the arguments. It is often useful for me to derive the results on my own."

"My work is by no means all my life, it can't be. My family life, the discussions which I have at the Institute and my contacts with students are all essential to me. I couldn't just sit in a room with a pen and a piece of paper engrossed in research. Without my daily life and the teaching which I love I am sure that I would be totally unproductive".

Professor Hep must be a happy man. He knows the intellectual bliss of moving in a world of logic and abstraction but is still able to savour the more commonly shared pleasures of life. Into the bargain he is one of the youngest and most brilliant researchers in his field.

(PMB)

## SNTO NEWS

### An important sculpture exhibition in Basle

The "Kunsthalle" (Hall of Art) in Basle has a great surprise in store. From October 23 to November 28 it is showing an exhibition of iron sculptures by Robert Müller who lives in France. The Zurich City Council has decided to award to Robert Müller the art prize of Zurich for 1971. (This prize alternates with prizes for literature and music.) The considerable amount of prize money will, as usual, be handed over in a ceremony in the early part of winter. The City Council pays special tribute to this citizen of Zurich by mentioning that his work and extraordinary powers of expression have found recognition in the whole world and thus contributed to our country's reputation abroad. The exhibition in Basle will therefore not only be of regional importance but will radiate into many directions. Robert Müller, sculptor in metal, was born in Zurich on June 7, 1920. He first worked under the direction of Germaine Richier and Otto Bänninger and in 1945 started creating sculptures of his own, first at Morges on Lake Geneva, then in Genova (Italy) and from 1949 in Paris. A large Paris exhibition in 1954 paved his way for his success. Already in 1956 he received the prize for sculpture of the museum of Sao Paolo and further successes led to his participation in the bi-annual exhibition in Venice, Sao Paolo and Paris. He is regarded as one of the best-known iron sculptors of our time, an important successor to Julio Gonzalez. Nature and fantasy blend in his sometimes surprising forms which may have humorous or tragic overtones, thus representing today's way of life. The exhibition in Basle will be an important event.

### Swiss Dining Car Company at big highway crossing N1/N2

An "Agip" motel is being built—and will be under the management of the Swiss Dining Car Company—at the crossroads of National Highways N1 and N2 in the immediate vicinity of the Olten-Egerkingen exit, at a point where the planned Mittelgäu Express Road is supposed to join Highway 5. Due to the enormous density of traffic caused partly by international tourism and partly by Swiss and regional travel, the location of the motel may be considered unique. The new highway motel will be an ideal stopping place for motorised tourists and a convenient meeting place for businessmen. The distances from Berne and Zurich are about 37 miles or about 30-45 minutes

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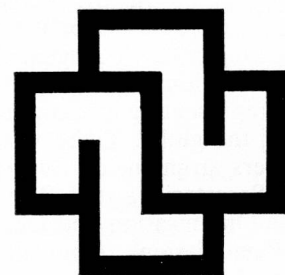


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### Diversity of fairs

The Swiss Art and Antiques Fair at the Art Museum in Berne annually radiates unusual splendour. From October 8 to 17 numerous firms have displayed works of art and antiquities in an artistic decor. While this show was still on, the "Viennese Weeks" were starting in Berne on October 15 and lasted until October 21. They offered a rich programme of concerts, theatrical performances and exhibitions. In Eastern Switzerland the "Olma" Swiss Farm and Dairy Fair (October 1-17) was an important annual event. Not only in the fields of agriculture and dairy production, but as an economic

fair in general it always offers something new to visitors from Switzerland as well as from adjacent foreign countries. Also the St. Gall Autumn Market is always attractive. In Basle the "Jubilee Autumn Fair" will be a merry large-scale event, from October 23 to November 7. It enjoys popularity also with visitors from neighbouring areas of Germany and France. There is merry making around St. Peter's Square from early morning until late night. This year Basle will commemorate the fact that fairs have been held there for 500 years. Based on this ancient tradition the Swiss Industries Fair which has achieved international importance may display its annual spring show just in Basle. In Lucerne the "Budenmesse" (Booths Fair) on the Inseli (Little Island) will mean pleasant days from October 4 to 16. (SNT0)

## ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD

### The Delegates at work

During the Assembly of the Swiss Abroad, several meetings took place which were not open to participants other than those who were members of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, the Council of the Solidarity Fund and the Foundation of the Swiss Abroad which is responsible for administering the money which comes to the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad every few years from the National Collection on 1st August.

The Commission of the Swiss Abroad meets twice yearly, and when members gathered in the beautifully renovated Council Hall at Schwyz early in the morning of 27th August, it was a most international crowd, all good Swiss but representing communities in all parts of the globe. There were several members from inside Switzerland and of the Secretariat's staff. The President of the Organisation and Chairman of the Commission, Councillor of States Dr. Louis Guisan, welcomed delegates from as far apart as Sweden and the Congo, Peru and Thailand.

From the report given by the Secretariat, it was evident that work had gone on much the same with an ever growing interest shown in the activities of the Organisation. The Director, Mr. M. Ney, had been in South Africa and visited 14 Swiss organisations and met (individually) some 400 people in one month. The President announced that he would visit the United States next year and contact Swiss societies there during about 2-2½ months. At the moment, the contacts established so far were not very close.

The President also reported that he was now a regular member of the Central Council of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and their President

was a member of the Commission. It was also stated that more financial support was needed to carry out the work of the Organisation. For that reason, the Friends of the Swiss Abroad would be reconstituted at a later meeting at Brunnen, and it was hoped that their activities would result in more income.

Next, the subject of information was dealt with, and a report was presented on the work done by the special commission which has been studying the subject for a number of years. Recognition of foreign matriculation by Swiss universities was discussed, and members were informed of efforts made to get some relief for Swiss nationals wishing to study in Switzerland. There was a short report on the pending revision of the old-age pension scheme (AHV) and certain alterations which may be made in favour of Swiss living abroad who may at present join on a voluntary basis.

Regarding military exemption duty, it was reported that no answer had yet been received from the authorities as to the suggestions put forward by the Commission earlier.

Next, a new member was elected on to the Executive Committee of the Commission; Mr. C. Schaer (France) was replaced by Mr. M. Gehrig, President of the Union of Swiss Societies in France. The members also agreed that the Swiss Association of Hong Kong should be invited to appoint a delegate and deputy.

A list of meetings in 1972 of umbrella organisations was read, and details of next year's Jubilee Assembly were given. It will take place in Berne from 25th to 27th August, and the theme will be "Political Rights and Duties of the Swiss Abroad". There will be special events, such as a military march past and a rifle shooting competition for Swiss from abroad, not to forget the exhibition of products and achievements by Swiss living abroad.

The next meeting of the Commission was fixed for 11th March in Berne.

Following the business part, there was question time, and quite a few points were raised, such as the thorny point of double taxation which worries the 16,000 Swiss in Italy.

One of the new members attending the meeting for the first time was Father Bossard from London. He now replaces Mr. E. Bonvin as deputy to Mrs. Mariann Meier. She, too, was present, as was the delegate for Great Britain North, Dr. H. R. Bolliger from Manchester.

A much-valued member, Mr. Theo Nagel from Sweden made his farewell speech after 11 years of devoted service. He stressed that there was too much materialism, and that it was the Commission's task to watch jealously over spiritual values. It should be like a seismograph which records all currents and drifts within the Swiss communities, so that all Swiss abroad would become accepted as valuable citizens of the homeland. (MM)

*P.S. to PMB report on the Assembly (issue 1623): the collection made in aid of the tornado victims in the Vallée de Joux amounted to Fr. 2,400.*

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