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blanket specially designed for hospitals. Made of synthetic fibres, these new blankets offer a great many advantages. As required for hospital use, they are particularly resistant to washing, boiling, chemical cleaning, disinfectants and spin-drying. Even after being boiled several times, they are as soft as ever and keep all their thermal properties, do not felt, and dry particularly quickly. Being very light, they do not inconvenience patients with their weight. Furthermore they are anti-static and allow air to circulate, thus ensuring excellent air conditioning of the body.

#### Swiss firm sets up new branch in Germany

Apart from granting licences for the processes developed mainly by the Ems Works at Domat/Ems (Switzerland), Inventa Co. Ltd., Zurich also goes in for the planning, construction and delivery of industrial plants. The Ems group produces, on Inventa plants and in the sector of synthetic fibres, the well known brands "Swiss Polyamid Grilon" and "Swiss Polyester Grilene". In view of the fact that none of the Ems group manufactures either plants or machinery, Inventa works in close co-operation with a number of instrument and machinery manufacturers for the construction of the plant it requires. During the last few years this co-operation has concentrated more and more on firms in countries belonging to the Common Market, especially Germany. With a view to simplifying this co-operation, Inventa recently founded the Inventa Anlagenbau GmbH at Frankfurt-on-Main (Germany).

#### A Swiss timekeeping system offered to a Dutch school

The new premises of the Christian Huygens Technical School, a very big educational complex for 1,200 to 2,000 students, was recently opened in

Rotterdam. In addition to training specialists in fine engineering, metallurgy, electrotechnics and optics, this institution also possesses a watchmaking section. At the opening ceremony, members of the Swiss watch industry presented the heads of the school with an Oscilloquartz timekeeping system (made by one of the firms affiliated to Ebauches Co. Ltd.); automatically controlled by a thermostated quartz oscillator, this timekeeper guarantees a precision of as high as one thousandth of a second per day, and will indicate the time to over 200 secondary clocks in different parts of the buildings.

#### Watch research: Considerable increase in expenditure

Expenditure on research and development in the Swiss watch industry rose from 27.5 million francs in 1965 to 46.4 million in 1969, which represents an increase of 68%. Three-quarters of this total was accounted for by work carried out in firms' own laboratories, the remaining quarter corresponding for the factories' participation in joint research institutes, i.e. the Swiss Laboratory for Horological Research and the Electronic Watch Centre. In 1970, some 300 university graduates (including lawyers, economists, etc.) and engineers from the Federal Institutes of Technology (FIT) as well as 450 engineers with degrees from the higher technical schools (HTS) were employed in the watch industry. By 1976 the numbers are expected to have risen to 500 university graduates and FIT engineers and 700 HTS engineers.

#### Wine harvests 1970: The most generous year of the century

The total volume of Swiss wines harvested in 1970 amounted to 125.7 million litres, thus exceeding the figure for the previous year by over 47 mil-

lion litres. French-speaking Switzerland produced 106.6 million litres, i.e. 84% of the country's total harvest. Switzerland's highest wine-producing canton, the Valais stocked away in its cellars some 57.6 million litres of wine. This canton was followed by Vaud, with 31.6 million litres and Geneva with 12.4 million litres, Neuchâtel having doubled its 1969 yield (2 million litres). As for Eastern Switzerland, it succeeded in harvesting 12.3 million litres, i.e. over 70% more than the previous year, while Ticino produced 7.5 million litres. For the Swiss wine growing economy, the year 1970 gave an abundant harvest of highly satisfactory quality.

(OSEC)

#### CULTURAL EVENTS

- 26th, 28th July, 1st, 3rd August. Glyndebourne Festival Opera. The tenor *Hugues Cuénod* is soloist in *La Calisto*.
- 24th July to 7th August. Kettles Yard Gallery, Cambridge, paintings by *Cuno Amiet* (1868-1961) and *Giovanni Giacometti* (1868-1933).
- Friday, 6th August, Royal Albert Hall, 7.30 p.m. The tenor *Hugues Cuénod* sings the part of Linfea in the Glyndebourne Festival Opera production of Cavalli's *La Calisto*.
- Wednesday, 25th August. Freemason's Hall, Edinburgh, 11 a.m. The pianist Claude Frank plays *Frank Martin's* Eight Preludes.
- Monday, 30th August. Usher Hall, Edinburgh, 8 p.m. *Ernest Bloch's* Schelomo included in the programme presented by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION at 19.30 p.m. sharp at Wimbledon Town Hall on Saturday, 31st July.
- SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER. 1st August Celebration at the Cottons Hotel, near Knutsford at 8 p.m. on Monday, 2nd August.
- SECOURS MUTUELS, no meetings until October.
- CITY SWISS CLUB, no meeting until 21st September.
- SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY, no meeting until 8th September.
- SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION, no meeting until 5th September.
- SCHWEIZERBUND Dinner at Edgwarebury Country Club, Barnet Lane, Elstree, Herts. on Friday, 30th July at 7.30 p.m. For details phone the Secretary at 734 1921.
- ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD. 27th-29th August at Brunnen.

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