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technical items

AUTOMATIC INDUSTRIAL DEGREASING MACHINE

At the 4th International Exhibition of Surface Treatments and Industrial Finishing in Paris, the LHA type automatic industrial machine met with considerable success; it was presented by its manufacturer, a Lausanne firm (Vaud, Switzerland) specialising in the manufacture of automatic cleaning, degreasing and drying plant — with or without ultrasounds — specially designed for solving the problems raised by mass production requirements. The automatic machines produced by the Lausanne firm process 40 to 50 basket loads an hour, which represents an output of approximately 4,400 lb an hour depending on the nature of the products. The field of application of these appliances is very varied, comprising not only the manufacture of metal objects but also screw-cutting, watch manufacture, electronics, etc. These plants, which consist of several alkaline or chlorinated vats, provided with an adjustable stirring system, can be used for treating all parts; the vats are made of 18/8 stainless steel, the chassis and the body panels of heat-enamelled steel. Transfer is effected by means of a pneumatic aggregate with can

programmer and the loading and unloading of the baskets by means of a conveyor belt with separate compartments. A control desk makes it possible to keep a permanent watch on the operation of the automatic machine and instantly detect the cause of any breakdown, thanks to its special safety equipment comprising among other things a pressure gauge, a contact lamp, a time switch, etc. Powerful ventilation makes operation under partial vacuum possible, which guarantees perfect elimination of odours.

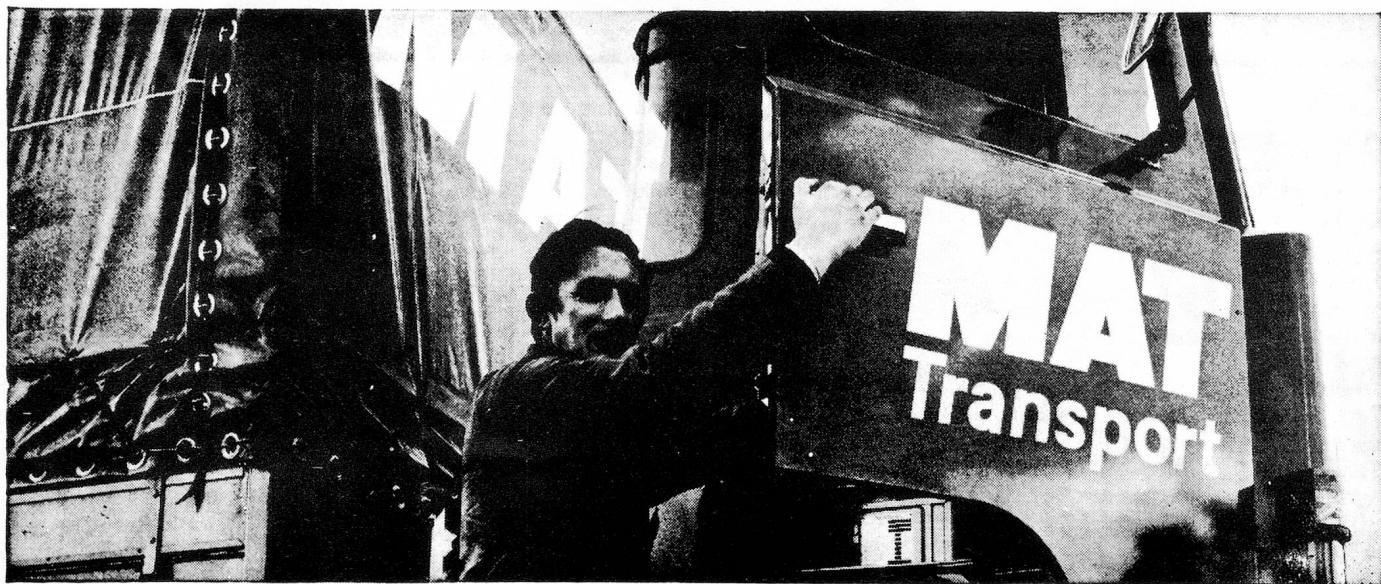
SWISS GAS TURBINE POWER STATION FOR SAUDI ARABIA

The president of the "Electricity Company of Riyad and surroundings" recently signed a contract for the purchase of a gas turbine power station to be supplied completely ready for operation. BST, the Brown Boveri-Sulzer Turbomachine Co. Ltd. (Zurich, Switzerland), has been commissioned to build this power station to the south of Riyad, the capital of Saudi Arabia. In addition to the four BST gas turbines, with a power of 25 MW each, the consignment also comprises all the related plant, i.e. two fuel tanks, the current distribution plant, alternators and

transformers, three 33 kV sub-stations, 45 miles of 33 kV three-core cables, as well as the necessary premises. The first unit is scheduled to go into operation and supply current about the middle of 1974. For a long time now, the Riyad Electricity Company has been using Swiss gas turbines for the production of the power it requires. Thus in 1955 Brown Boveri, one of the founder firms of BST, received a first order for four gas turbines totalling 24 MW. By 1970, BBC/BST has installed six more machines. These ten units provide a total of 100 MW, i.e. a power equal to that of the four machines recently ordered. The fuel used for the gas turbines will be Khurasan crude oil. This new power station will enable the town of Riyad to meet its power requirements for the next five to six years.

SUCCESS FOR A GENEVA FIRM

The hydraulic equipment division of the Chramilles Co. Ltd. Engineering Works (Geneva, Switzerland), recently received an order for two 68,200 kW Isogyre pump-turbines with vertical axles for the Malta-Oberstufe power station in Austria. The contract placed by the Oesterreichische Draukraftwerke Co. Ltd., at Klagenfurt, also includes the shut-off gates situated upstream and downstream from the groups. This order follows a few months after that for the first Isogyre of industrial dimensions for the Swiss power station Handeck III, whose maximum power will amount to



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55,000 kW, for heads varying between 1000 and 1500 ft. The Isogyre is a new type of pump-turbine developed by Charmilles a few years ago; inside a common spiral casing it comprises a pump wheel and a turbine wheel mounted back to back on the same axle. The main feature of this machine lies in the fact that whether it is operating as a turbine or as a pump the direction of rotation of the shaft remains the same (hence the name Isogyre), which greatly simplifies switching from one operation to the other. The group is always started by means of the turbine, thus doing away with the need for a starting motor and the expensive equipment indispensable when using a "reversible" pump-turbine. Each of the two wheels has been made the size best suited to it, which makes it possible to produce, without any need for compromise, a high capacity machine perfectly suited to operating as a turbine or a pump.

SWISS MACHINERY EXPORTS in 1972

In 1972, the biggest foreign market for the Swiss machinery and appliances industry was West Germany followed by France, the USA, Great Britain and Italy. With 79 and 21% respectively, the part played by the industrialised and the developing countries in Switzerland's exports of machinery and appliances has undergone a slight modification; European countries represented by far the biggest outlets: their share of the market, which beat all records in 1963 (71.4%) gradually fell to 65.7% in 1968 to rise again to 69% in 1972. First among exports comes the electrotechnical industry which, thanks to the diversity of its products, recorded an increase of 16% compared with 1971 to total 2,078 million francs. Next comes the textile machinery industry with 1,552 million francs (increase of 6.6%) followed by the machine tool industry with 955 million francs (decrease of 1.0%). The table of export figures also shows the extraordinary diversity of Switzerland's manufacturing programme which comprise not only complicated appliances in the field of electrotechnics and precision engineering, but also heavy plant such as, for example, that designed for the chemical industry, and the loading and unloading of ocean-going vessels.

BIG ORDERS FOR A SWISS FIRM

The Mexican Federal Electricity Commission has ordered a large number of 245 and 420 kW circuit-closers, cut outs and transformers from Sprechen & Schuh, at Aarau (Aargau, Switzerland). In addition, the "Public Power Corporation" (Greece) had placed an order with the same firm for over a hundred groups of 170 kW circuit-closers, while the Swedish state concern "Vattenfallswerk" has done the same for an electrical distribution plant. These orders total a value of some 15 million Swiss francs.

SWISS TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN TUNISIA

The Swiss Ambassador in Tunisia signed a technical cooperation agreement with the Tunisian government concerning the building of a hotel school at Nabeul. Switzerland has already helped create a similar school at Sousse which, between 1965 and 1971, when it was handed over to the Tunisian government, trained some 1,000 students in hotelkeeping. These

two projects form part of Tunisia's development policy, one of whose basic objectives is the expansion of the tourist sector, involving in its turn an increase in the demand for qualified hotel staff and consequently the need for suitable vocational training. At the end of its first year, the new school at Nabeul will be able to take some 250 students. It will provide two-year courses for kitchen staff, waiters and room service personnel.

NEWS from the COLONY

CONCERT IN AID OF THE SWISS CHURCHES IN LONDON

The London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique sponsored a concert in aid of the Swiss Churches on Thursday, 18th October at the Swiss Embassy. It was arranged by the International Liszt Centre in London, and the concert was at the same time in honour of Franz Liszt's birthday on 22nd October.

The three artists Robert Bossert (violin), Ian Mitchell (clarinet) and Lennart Rabes (piano) gave an excellent performance in a very varied and demanding programme. o piano solo from Liszt's "Annélerinaglo" vvol. I. He wrote these during the five years of his stay in Switzerland from 1835 to 1840. The three pieces Lennart Rabes, a true Liszt expert, plated most competently, showed the composer's administration of Switzerland and his great love of nature.

The sonata by Beethoven, op. 23 in a minor, for violin and piano, dedicated to Count Moritz Fries, os one of the rarely-heard compositions — a great pity, for in it, as the critics said in 1802, "Beethoven's original, fiery and bold spirit was beginning ever more to be clearer and strictly and more pleasingly expressed."

Weber's "Grand Duo Concertant", op. 48 in E flat major, for clarinet and piano, was a delightful composition which gave one the feeling that the two artists thoroughly enjoyed the dialogue.

The second part of the concert opened with Liszt's "Grand Duo Concertant" for violin and piano on the romance "Le Marin" by the French violinist and composer Phillippe Lafont. It contains Swiss tunes.

Next came a short but pleasing sonatina for clarinet and piano by the Swiss composer Arthur Honegger. He wrote the three movements mainly in Zurich in the early twenties.

The concert ended with Bartok who also had strong connections with Switzerland. His "Contrasts" for violin, clarinet and piano was dedicated to the jazz clarinet player Benny Goodman and the violinist Joseph Szigety.

The audience showed great appreciation of the concert they were

privileged to enjoy. The president of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, Mrs. Mariann Meier, who had introduced each item, thanked them for their support, also on behalf of the Swiss Churches. Above all, she expressed gratitude to the three artists for giving their time, effort and their art to the audience without any fee.

Thus, a most enjoyable evening in very pleasant surroundings — the Ambassador kindly put some of the Embassy's fine reception rooms at the organisers' disposal — came to an end.

R.N.

E as in EMIL

An Evening of Fun and Laughter

Anyone resident in Switzerland does not need telling who EMIL is. In fact, Emil Steinberger is a household word. When it was known that he would give a performance at the French Theatre in Kensington on 9th October 1983, it was a "must" for any youngster temporarily in London. It was a pity that the belated appearance of the Swiss *Observer* did not allow for wider publicity. But even so, the theatre was full.

EMIL gave the whole performance single-handed and with a minimum of aids. The programme consisted of 15 numbers, each one portraying typical Swiss citizens in a variety of circumstances, such as the cloakroom attendant getting all the coats mixed up; an anxious father ordering the Christening lunch months before the baby is born; the fellow getting all muddled ordering a family ticket which he does not really want; a frenzied woman at a sale; a proud father soliloquizing about his much too indulged-in son; various members taking part on a foundation anniversary; the photographer who gets into incredible difficulties with his tripod and camera; the racing cyclist who does not realise that he has no hope; the staunch Jass player and the gourmand who — oh so typical — tells his neighbour of even more delectable dishes and more commendable eating places, displaying atrocious table manners all the time. Finally, there were Emil's incredible improvisations.

EMIL, it is said, is no actor. When