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accelerator, which will impel protons with hitherto unattained energies into targets whose recoil and scattering will give new insight into the innermost secrets of matter, is being built at a cost of 1.5 billion Swiss francs by those countries which are members of CERN (Centre Européen de Recherches Nucléaires). They include Britain and Switzerland. The tunnel, which has a diameter of 4.80 metres and is dug 46

metres underground beneath the border between Switzerland and France, was started on 3rd March last year and completed 20 days in advance of schedule. Nine men working round the clock was all the work-force needed to service the "Mole" which progressed an average of 20 metres a day, evacuating rock and laying support struts automatically. The new synchrotron will be operational towards the end of 1976.

students are frequently sponsored by their employers for this course in Lausanne. Students, who must be prepared to study hard, must also be able to speak English fluently.

## MILLIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Contrary to what is often believed, and according to recent estimates, industry as a whole can be blamed directly for only 8 per cent of the pollution of the soil, 50 per cent of that of water and only 17 per cent of the pollution of the air. Even so these figures are too high and must be reduced as much as possible. During the last few years, the Swiss machinery and appliances industry has spent large sums on the protection of the environment in which we live. From a survey in which some 200 firms belonging to the Swiss Machinery Manufacturers' Association (VSM) co-operated, it appears that expenditure on plant for the protection of the environment totals 96 million francs. The annual cost of running already existing installations amounts to 31 million francs. As far as the Swiss chemical industry is concerned, it spends 11 per cent of its current investments on equipment designed to combat pollution; the cost of running this equipment represents 7-15 per cent of total production costs.

### Foreign deals

Ermanno Tech Co. Ltd. of Feldbrunnen (Solothurn) will supply the People's Republic of China with two big watchmaking assembly lines. Their highly developed automation will make it possible to assemble and check nearly 10,000 watches a day.

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The People's Republic of China has commissioned the firm Sulzer Bros. Co. Ltd. of Winterthur and a French firm, the Electro-Mechanical Company (CEM), a branch of Brown Boveri & Co. to construct a power station developing 300,000 kWh. The contract was signed in Peking by the representatives of the China National Import Corporation and a consortium formed by CEM, responsible for the technical and commercial side of the new power station, and Sulzer, the suppliers of the boiler.

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The "Ateliers de constructions mécaniques de Vevey SA" (Vaud) have received an order for a giant gantry (118 metres radius, 100 metres high, 1,200 ton load) for the naval shipyards at Quincy, near Boston, in the United States. This order represents some 30 million francs.

# TECHNICAL ITEMS

## RATIONALISATION IN MECHANICAL HANDLING

Previously no mechanical handling device was capable of introducing, by its own means, a heavy, bulky or fragile load into a roofed building. A Swiss firm has just been created at Morges (Vaud) for the manufacture and sale of new patented mechanical handling devices that are capable of transferring any load up to 4.2 tons in one operation from the ground to any place wanted in a building — through the opening in the face of the building corresponding to the storage place desired. The new device comprises a lifting beam, hung from the hook of any crane; by means of its jib, this device is able to introduce loads horizontally into buildings. It is in fact provided either with a counterweight which moves automatically along the jib to restore the balance, or a footstand enabling the load to move horizontally along the jib. Apart from the saving of time and manpower achieved, this new device also possesses the advantage of offering every guarantee of safety, and providing a freedom of movement not known before.

## REFUSE + IMAGINATION = BUILDING MATERIALS

The "Environment 72" prize, created by the Swiss branch of the Bank of Paris and the Netherlands to reward the best invention in the field of recycling household or industrial refuse into new objects of obvious utility, was recently awarded to an industrialist at Neuenhof (Aargau, Switzerland). The latter had invented an original process for manufacturing building panels out of the contents of domestic rubbish bins, or trash cans. After being crushed and dried, the refuse is bonded together with glue, before being pressed into sheets of varying thicknesses. The building or facing panels thus obtained have properties in every way comparable with those of traditional products, from the points of view of resistance to pressure and traction, flexibility and rigidity, phonic insulation or resistance to fire. They also possess the advantage of being much more economical. The new process devised by the Swiss contractor has so far made it possible to produce from household refuse — preferably of organic origin (sometimes mixed with wood

shavings) — building panels 2 to 100 mm thick, which have been submitted to various material testing institutes in Switzerland and abroad. The density, strength and flexibility of the panels can be varied, according to their ultimate use.

## SWISS AGRONOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE IN EGYPT

At Kaha, just under 20 miles from Cairo, the Egyptian Minister of Agriculture recently inaugurated a new agronomic research centre dependent on the Swiss chemical firm Ciba-Geigy. Of Egypt's 35 million inhabitants, about 20 million are employed growing cotton, rice, corn, wheat or vegetables. Consequently, pesticides, in particular insecticides, fungicides and weed-killers, play a big part in the country's economy. The new research centre will be run jointly by the Swiss firm and the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and will remain in very close contact with the universities in the country. The agronomic station is situated in the heart of a cotton-growing region; the chemical preparations developed there will be submitted to extensive laboratory and field tests, which will considerably shorten the time elapsing between the development of a promising active substance and the wide-scale use of the new product.

## GETTING ONE'S MBA IN SWITZERLAND

Today it is possible to become a "Master of Business Administration" (MBA) in Switzerland. IMEDE, the well-known Management Development Institute in Lausanne (Vaud, Switzerland), encourages talented young men and women to pursue a career in business, by providing them with a solid basis in the form of an intensive year-long post-graduate study programme. The 30 participants enrolled in the present programme (average age: 28) come from 15 different countries. When they pass their MBA in December, they will, like their colleagues of the two preceding years, be able to fill challenging positions in industry, commerce or administration. IMEDE graduates are no newcomers to business life, since one of the conditions for admission is a minimum of two years' professional experience. That is why

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