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THE sixth International Fair for Mechanical Handling, IFM 84, will be held from February 21 to 29, in the halls of the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle.

Once again, the exhibits will be in the classic sectors of conveying and storage equipment – with innovations alongside tried and tested products. In view of the progress in systems technology, automation and control equipment the range has been expanded to include the sector, "Handling and Robotics, Automation".

This takes into account the demands for increasing integration on the factory floor between conveying equipment and industrial manufacturing installations, including robots.

From September 11 to 14, the ponderously titled International

Basle Fair – robots raise their heads

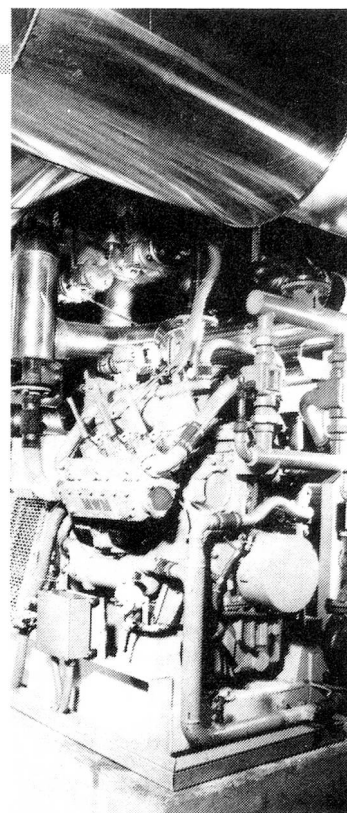
Chemical Exhibition for Laboratory Techniques and Chemical Engineering, Measurement Technology and Automation takes over.

Laboratory techniques, chemical engineering, measurement, control and automation technology are expected to be on show.

The sectors of biotechnology,

laboratory animal handling, accident prevention and factory safety, information and services will also be represented.

Chemists and engineers, plus doctors, pharmacists, physicists, biologists, zoologists – specialists in research, development and practice – will be among international experts visiting the exhibition.



Swiss-built Sulzer Escher Wyss heat pump with six-cylinder gas engine at the research laboratory of Philips GmbH in Hamburg, West Germany

TRAVEL OBSERVER

Tourists splash out

TOURISTS in Switzerland – foreigners and the Swiss themselves – spent a total of Sfr 14 thousand million last year.

Latest official figures show that just over a quarter of a million people are employed directly or indirectly in Swiss tourism which is the third biggest foreign currency earner behind the engineering and chemical industries.

Switzerland now has 7,500 hotels with about a quarter of a million beds.

Bookings rise

OVERNIGHT bookings by visitors

to Lucerne increased from 408,000 to 413,000 or one per cent in the first six months of this year.

This meant a further success for the city, which last year recorded its best-ever figures, with more than one million overnights for the first time.

Lucerne and Interlaken are the only major Swiss destinations to have improved overnight figures in the first half of this year.

Hire cars do well

HERTZ Rent-a-Car Switzerland expects to increase turnover by 12 per cent this year, reaching Sfr 40 million for the first time.

"In particular, we did very good

business from June to August, with a turnover rise of 17 per cent", said Peter Karg, chairman and chief executive of Hertz Switzerland.

Mr Karg added that Hertz had 39 per cent of the hire car business in Switzerland, making it the market leader.

Christmas cheer

THE Hotel Beau-Rivage Palace in Lausanne has published special Christmas and New Year offers.

At Sfr 574, the Christmas offer runs from December 23-26 and includes three nights with breakfast buffet, two dinners and traditional Christmas lunch.

The New Year arrangement,

from December 30 to January 2, costs Sfr 682.

Art show at Zurich

DRAWINGS by Leonardo da Vinci from the collection of the royal library at Windsor Castle will be on show at the Zurich Kunsthau (Museum of Art) until January 22.

These drawings represent almost the entire inventory contained in the collection and include the "Botanical Studies", "Landscapes", "Studies of the Movement of Water" and the most famous series of all his drawings, the "Visions of the Flood" and the "End of the World".