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AN INTERESTING SWISS APPLIANCE FOR COATING SURFACES WITH EPOXY RESINS

A Swiss firm in St. Gall has produced a new electrostatic pulverizer for spraying powdered epoxy resins on metal surfaces. This system possesses great advantages over the use of resins in liquid form: no need for a solvent, hence avoiding any danger of explosion and poisoning, elimination of waste, the powder that does not adhere to the object to be coated being recuperable, speeding up of the whole process, which can now be carried out in a single passage, simplicity of operation, greater thickness of the layer of resin deposited on the edges than on the faces, possibility of spraying evenly into corners and even blind pipes. The absence of solvent also simplifies subsequent baking in the oven. Let us mention too the many practical advantages of epoxy resins, the possibility of obtaining them in all colours, their great resistance to chemical and physical agents, etc. It is easy therefore to understand the interest shown by the most varied industries in this new method of surface protection, which is interesting not only from the technical but also from the economic point of view.

[O.S.E.C.]

EXPORTS OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS: SWITZERLAND FOURTH

According to the figures published by SITC (Standard International Trade Classification), the figures for world exports of pharmaceutical products in 1965 were as follows (expressed in millions of pounds sterling): United States 91.3 (previous year: 103.9), Western Germany 80.5 (68.1), Great Britain 66.8 (59.1), Switzerland 65.1 (57.9), France 49.3 (42), the Netherlands 25 (22.1), Italy 21.7 (18.7), Denmark 12.2 (11.1), Belgium 10.7 (8.7). In spite of the recent tendency to effect mergers in this field, there is very keen competition in pharmaceutical products on the world market and the firm that takes first place for the whole world, the Swiss firm of Hoffmann-La Roche, meets only 3 to 4% of the world demand. Three other big Swiss firms, Ciba, Geigy and Sandoz, are among the eleven next biggest firms.

[O.S.E.C.]

SWISS MACHINES

The only steel-works in Australia, which is at the same time the biggest industrial concern in the country, recently put into operation a machine for drawing out cast steel with an annual capacity of 150,000 tons, which makes it possible to cut out three steps from the traditional process of steel manufacture. This machine was supplied by the Swiss firm of Concast Co. Ltd., in Zurich.

The Indian Government recently ordered a rolling mill from the Swiss metallurgical works of Von Roll Co. Ltd., for rolling the metal used in the manufacture of currency. This machine weighing 37 tons, with rollers 450 mm. in diameter, exerts a rolling pressure of 200 tons and requires a power of 200 h.p.

One of the biggest textile groups in the United States has ordered 500 looms from the Swiss firm of Adolphe Saurer Co. Ltd., at Arbon.

[O.S.E.C.]

OVER TEN YEARS DEVOTED TO THE TRAINING OF EXECUTIVES

IMEDE — Management Development Institute — has just published the programme of its 12th annual business management refresher course, due to start in September. It should be remembered that this institute, founded in 1957 by Nestlé Alimentana Co. Ltd., in co-operation with and under the patronage of the University of Lausanne, was created for the purpose of helping international concerns speed up and improve the training of their young executives and prepare them by pragmatic instruction for their careers as managers. IMEDE, which was one of the first institutes of its kind in Europe, offers two main programmes, viz. a course for top executives, lasting three weeks, and the annual programme comprising an eight and a half months' course for medium-ranking executives.

[O.S.E.C.]

AUTOMATION OF TYPE-SETTING: A SWISS ACHIEVEMENT

In co-operation with a big printing machinery manufacturer, a Swiss electronic equipment manufacturer has succeeded in producing ordinating equipment specially designed for the automation of type-setting and destined to render invaluable service to printing works with a sufficiently large volume of work. This equipment consists of a type-setting unit producing a perforated ribbon whose coded messages will be dealt with by the following units: a correction unit for inserting changes in the original text, which replaces, adds or cancels single words or whole lines; a syllabic division unit, for dividing words up at the end of lines; a justification unit watching over the exact length of lines, which also comprises the directions for changes of type and layout; finally, an electronically controlled type-writer, for transcribing the corrected text in clear. The finished perforated ribbon is inserted in a type-setting machine producing the lines. This system known as GSA, with an output of 300,000 signs an hour, opens up interesting new possibilities. Whether it is a question of a complete chain or a smaller plant with a limited number of units, the financial investment remains reasonable and acceptable even for medium-size printing works.

[O.S.E.C.]

PROTECTION OF WINDOW DISPLAYS AGAINST ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS

In order to protect shop-window displays against the effects of ultra-violet rays, which take away the freshness of the articles on display and tend to make colours fade, a Swiss manufacturer offers absolutely transparent plastic sheeting, for sticking invisibly on windows and window panes by means of a special glue. "Antisun-UV-Tint" sheeting is able to filter ultra-violet rays and protect the objects displayed in the shop windows from their harmful effects. Thanks to this invention, it is no longer necessary to lower shop blinds at the first sign of sun. This new system offers various advantages over ordinary protective varnishes. In addition, Antisun sheeting is easy to apply perfectly; it remains completely invisible and in no way affects the transparency of the glass.

[O.S.E.C.]