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NOTES AND NEWS

Neuchâtel Calicoes

Madame Dorette Berthoud, the well-known Neuchâtel writer, has just published* a fascinating work under the above title with a wealth of illustration, and which gives a complete overall picture of the Neuchâtel calico industry. We have already spoken here (*Textiles Suisses* N° 2, 1950) of the manufacture of calicoes which flourished in the canton of Neuchâtel for roughly a century and a half, from the beginning of the 18th century until about 1860. Without neglecting the technical side of the question, Mme Berthoud has studied in detail the history of the different Neuchâtel manufactories, which were family concerns run on « family » lines, and she gives us at the same time a very detailed and lifelike picture of the period and society. We are shown the difficulties of the manufacturers, as well as the working conditions of the workers.

All those interested in the history of the textile industry, not only local but of the world, will read this work with profit — and not without pleasure — and will be surprised perhaps to learn of the influence the Neuchâtel calico industry exercised on the industry of the « toiles de Jouy » and of Alsace.

Among other reasons, Mme Berthoud's excellent book is also to be recommended to the reader for its impeccable presentation and wealth of illustration in black and white and in colour.

* « Les Indiennes neuchâteloises », Editions de la Baconnière, Boudry, Neuchâtel (Switzerland).

Trade Journals

Among the textile publications regularly received by us, we should like to call attention to some Swiss periodicals which seem to us to be particularly interesting. The periodical *Textil Revue* is published weekly in Zurich, in German, but for some time now it has contained some useful summaries in French of the main articles. Let us draw particular attention to the feature « Hints to Retailers ». Number 33 of this periodical (16th August, 1951) is devoted to *Zurich Silks* in honour of the 600th anniversary of Zurich's entry into the Swiss Confederation and of the « 600 Years of Zurich Silks » exhibition, to both of which events we devoted a large part of the last number of *Textiles Suisses*.

The *Textil Rundschau* (monthly, in German) is more particularly intended for textile and paper manufacturers anxious to receive information on very technical details of production (dyes, finishes, etc.). In the last few numbers we noticed among other things, articles on American « Aerosol » wetting agents (June 1951), the origin of calico printing in Switzerland (July 1951) and water in the textile industry to-day (August 1951). One very informative feature included resumés of interesting technical articles that have appeared in the foreign press, as well as book reviews.

Cahiers Ciba and *Ciba Rundschau*, which are published alternately in French and German each month, are always useful and well illustrated sources of information, presented in the most attractive form, easily understood by the layman and without any trace of pedantry. The articles are always written by experts in the fields covered. In the last few numbers published, let us mention « Ikats » (in French, No. 36, July 1951) and « Schottisch » (in German, No. 98, August 1951). We hasten to add that « ikats » are fabrics made by the inhabitants of the Sunda Isles, in which the traditional designs are produced by dyeing, before weaving, the warp or the weft on which « resists » are effected by knotting. The notebook in German on Scotch fabrics contains a series of articles on the Highlands, the history of Highland costumes, etc. by an author from Edinburgh. Among the previous publications, let us call attention to « French woollen manufactures in the time of Colbert (in French, May 1951), « Rubber » (in German, April 1951) and « Printing of Calicoes in Switzerland in the 18th and 19th Centuries » (in German, June 1951); coming features include « Crinolines and Bustles » (in French, September 1951) and « The Treatment of Surfaces and the Dyeing of Aluminium » (in German, October 1951). Each notebook also contains interesting technical articles under the general heading « News in Colour ».

50th Anniversary of the Ennenda Swiss Carpet Factory

To celebrate its first jubilee, this firm has published* a small booklet giving some interesting information about the attractive and picturesque district of Switzerland where it is situated. The canton of Glaris is one of the most curious in Switzerland; although completely hemmed in by high mountains, it has for many centuries now had commercial and social relations with the whole world, to which it has given leaders of industry, great soldiers and pastrycooks; to which it supplies cottons, the famous « Schabzieger » or herb cheese and many other products. Each village has at least one or two factories, while within earshot the peasants throw down the mountain sides the bales of hay they cannot transport to their barns because the slopes are too steep. The town of Glaris, a rather large village rebuilt as a town after the fire which completely destroyed it in 1861, offers, at the end of modern vistas, a view of peaks and glaciers so near that it almost seems as if one might be able to touch them with one's hands. In this wild country where man demands of industry the subsistence that nature denies him, a mechanical carpet-making factory has sprung up. The commemorative booklet — in which the traditional family portraits have been intentionally omitted — gives us, after an interesting description of the district of Glaris, a succint account of the stages in the development of the carpet factory. Some fine photographs, conceived in an attractive and original manner, complete the text. Our best wishes and congratulations to this firm for having succeeded so well in producing something new in the way of commemorative booklets.

* Publishers. Bibliothek Schw. Industrie-Betriebe, Zurich.

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