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future", and that its aim — which has become a necessity — was to bring about an exchange of ideas between the producers of man-made textiles and their users. Then M. Hermann Staudinger, Professor at the University of Fribourg-en-Brisgau, Nobel prize-winner for chemistry in 1953, made an excellent speech on macromolecular chemistry and artificial and synthetic fibres.

In addition to the four public lectures given by personalities of international fame, several working committees were organised, divided into two sections, one economic, the other technological. The meetings and discussions made it possible to express opinions which will doubtless lead to great progress.

The problems under discussion, which can only be solved with the good will and understanding of all those concerned, covered all aspects of the question, from the initial stages of manufacture to the final use. In fact, the relative novelty of these fibres has meant that it has not yet been possible to explore fully their possibilities of use and improvement. By mixing different man-made fibres it is possible to combine their qualities and when added to natural fibres they can also increase the wearing qualities of the latter. They will make it possible to meet the world textile requirements — which are increasing more rapidly (as a result of the

increase in the population of the world) than it is possible to increase the production of natural fibres.

The personalities who presented reports or who presided over meetings came from Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

In addition to the meetings, a certain number of receptions and galas were held, and we are pleased to call attention to the great success and the perfect organisation of all these events.

Switzerland was officially represented at the congress by Minister Hotz, Head of the Trade Division of the Federal Department of Public Economy; M. de Salis, Switzerland's Minister in Paris, also honoured several meetings with his presence.

Professor A. Bosshardt, Head of the Swiss Institute for the Study of International Economic Relations at the School of Higher Economic and Administrative Studies at St. Gall, was a member of the Scientific Patronage Committee, as were M. E. Honegger, Professor at the Federal Technical Institute in Zurich and Professor A. Engeler, Head of the Federal Laboratory for Testing Materials and the Research Institute, St. Gall, each of whom had the honour of presiding over a session of a working committee in the technological section.

## NOTES AND NEWS

### A Fine Anniversary

Mr. *Eduard Heberlein* recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Fifty years ago, Mr. Heberlein, who is still very active, together with a cousin, took over the dye-works founded by his grandfather in 1835. Today he is chairman of the board of directors of this firm, which has been transformed into a limited company. We are happy

to be able to extend here our congratulations and best wishes for the continued health of the head of the great finishing concern of Heberlein & Co. Ltd. at Wattwil, which is so well known to our readers.

### Switzerland at the Milan Fair

Once again, Switzerland participated on a large scale at the 32nd Milan Fair this year (from April 12th to 28th). Some 300 Swiss firms from all branches were represented in the different sections of the Fair, and Switzerland also had an official section in the International Pavilion, in which some thirty institutions and associations as well as several individual exhibitors took part.

Here we see some Swiss personalities in this official section, in front of the display of embroideries and fine fabrics of St. Gall: from right to left, Minister Jean Hotz, Head of the Trade Division of the Federal Department of Public Economy, Madame E. Primault, Mr. E. Primault, President of the Swiss Watchmaking Chamber and of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, and Mr. A. J. Staehelin, Director of the Zurich branch of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade.

For some twenty years now, Minister Jean Hotz has headed the Trade Division in Berne, of which he was previously assistant director. He has therefore played a decisive role in Swiss commercial policy in the particularly difficult war and post-war years and has won the gratitude not only of the Swiss economy in general but of the Swiss textile industry in particular.



We wish here, on the occasion of his retirement, to extend to him the thanks and good wishes of our periodical, in which he has always taken such great interest and which he has continually supported in his capacity as a member of the Board of Directors of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade.

T.S.

**OBITUARY.** — We regret to announce the death this spring at the age of 71 of Mr. *J. G. Nef*, an important manufacturer and exporter of embroidery and fine fabrics, and head of the firm of *J. Nef & Co. at Herisau*, which is numbered among the faithful friends and supporters of our periodical. We wish to express here our heartfelt sympathy to the family and collaborators of the deceased.

T. S.