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COMMERCIAL NEWS

Chocolate by the thousandth of a millimetre.

The thousandth part of a millimetre is not a dimension used exclusively in respect of precision mechanics. For, when manufacturing chocolate, the film of the substance which passes between the cylinders of the pounding and rolling-mill has a thickness which does not exceed 7/1000 of a millimetre. An idea may be gained of the fineness of the chocolate from the fact that, prior to being moulded into tablets, it is kneaded in a special machine, known as a "Conch", during 72 consecutive hours, in order that its particles may be separated in the finest manner possible. It is this refining process which constitutes one of the reasons for the superiority of Swiss chocolate. This kneading machine is still being used today, although it was invented nearly a century ago by Rudolph Lindt, of Berne, and the "conches" which he made for his first factory are still being used, side by side with similar, but ultra-modern machines, in the new plants which have just been inaugurated at Kilchberg, near Zurich, by the chocolate manufacturing firm of Lindt & Sprüngli. (1 mm = 0.0394")

Lubrication is no longer a chore.

It is not possible, everywhere, to make use of motor-driven apparatus for greasing motor cars, tractors and other machines. Private individuals and, in certain cases garages also, are obliged to use hand-pumps, which are not always easy to handle, especially for the layman. This difficulty has now been overcome by a Swiss manufacturer of greasing appliances, who has put on the market a high-pressure grease-gun which, when manipulated with one hand only, makes it possible to attain a pressure amounting to 350 atmospheres and as much as 600 atmospheres when both hands are used. Thus, this device is powerful enough to clean those places which have become fouled with grease. In consequence of their studied and careful construction, and of the numerous accessories that are available, in particular a new kind of grease-box which fills the pump both rapidly and cleanly, these new grease-guns will render valuable service to all motorists.

An important contribution to public health.

The tremendous vogue for sport and for swimming-pools has caused an enormous increase in foot diseases, during the last few years, which are due to the presence of microscopic fungi which attack the skin and form extremely painful crevices. For various reasons, it is very difficult to combat these affections, which are extremely widespread. It would therefore seem expedient to mention a Swiss firm, well-known for its dietetic food products, which has succeeded in producing a highly fungicide ointment, that is extremely effective against mycotic skin infections and does not possess the drawbacks of the specifics used up to the present. The active substance contained in the "EDERPHYT" cream is a compound of undecylenic

acid, which the manufacturer has discovered, experimented upon and patented. Very satisfactory results have been obtained in Swiss hospitals from the use of this new remedy, which, in addition to its very effective action on skin mycoses, possesses the great advantage of being colourless and odourless.

A Swiss firm builds a plant in Vienna (Austria) for incinerating household refuse.

The Municipal Council of Vienna (Austria) has given an order to the firm of L. de Roll, Ltd., of Zurich, for the construction of an incinerating plant for household garbage. This plant will be able to destroy 600 tons of garbage per day, that is to say about 70% of the whole of the town's garbage. By means of a remote control heating system, the heat recuperated from the burning of the garbage will be used for the heating of the premises and the production of hot water for some large hospitals with over 5,000 beds.

A successful novelty for the home.

For some years past, some extremely practical trays have been on the market. They are made of finely grained wood, heat-pressed and impregnated with artificial resin. A firm in Sainte-Croix, which is known throughout the world for its ski fixings, is now launching trays of this type, decorated in a very original manner, on to the market. They consist of five layers of birch wood, which are pressed and stratified. They thus possess, when compared with articles of this kind already known to the public, a far greater resistance, which renders them practically unbreakable and an extremely hard surface, which protects the wood against heat and humidity. Neither burning cigarettes nor hot (even boiling) water can mark or deform the tray, the surface of which remains lovely and shining. Moreover, this article, which is enjoying considerable success both in Switzerland and abroad, is decorated by means of a printed fabric which is incorporated into the plasticised surface and coated by the protective substance which forms the surface. The ornamentation thus achieved — classical, modern or fancy — gives a remarkable artistic character to the "Platex" trays, which is allied in so satisfactory a manner with quite exceptional practical qualities.

Success of a Swiss printing-type factory.

A new type of cash register with figures operated by an electronic calculating machine at a speed of 250 characters a second called for a set of particularly legible figures for printing the amounts on the payment strips. The Norwegian manufacturer of these cash registers decided therefore to order the characters for his machine from a Swiss firm "Caractères Ltd." at Le Locle, the famous watchmaking centre known all over the world for the precision of its products.