

Correction

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Corrections**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **24 (1961)**

Heft [6]

PDF erstellt am: **12.07.2024**

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WORLD'S MOST INTERNATIONAL CITY

Geneva, largest French-speaking city in Switzerland, started its brilliant career as the world's most cosmopolitan meeting place no less than 2018 years ago. This is shown in a booklet written by M. Albert Picot, a former member of the Geneva Cantonal Government. It was then that Geneva had its first historically important visitor "from abroad"—Julius Caesar. He came with his soldiers to stop the Helvetii advancing southwards. Geneva is the European headquarters of the United Nations which, with its affiliated institutions today gives employment to a staff of nearly 4000 such as the International Labour Office, set up in the city in 1920, fifty-one member States and three non-member States maintain permanent delegations in Geneva. In addition the city is the headquarters of four world-famous organisations which were founded by international conventions, the best known of these being the International Red Cross Committee. Besides these, about 70 private international organisations have made Geneva their permanent home. Among them are the World Federation of Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, the European Cultural Centre and the Carnegie Foundation.

FINAL REPORT OF INDUSTRIES FAIR

The 45th Swiss Industries Fair in Basle, which closed its doors on April 25th last, was once again attended by nearly 800,000 visitors. The number of foreign visitors was considerable, since 11,672 from 87 different countries, were recorded at the reception service placed at their disposal. Once again the general prosperity had favourable repercussions on the Fair. In almost all sectors the demand was brisk and lively from both Swiss and foreign buyers. The 46th Swiss Industries Fair will be held from March 31st to April 10th, 1962.

UNIQUE WORKS CANTEN

A big Geneva firm, the Charmilles Machine Works, has just opened a brand-new canteen, which is unique of its kind in Europe. As the consumer enters, he orders the hot dish of his choice by pressing on a button, which avoids all possibility of error and is completely silent in operation. He then helps himself to the cold dishes he wants: hors-d'oeuvres, salad and dessert, which he places in the special compartments on his tray. By this time the hot dish he ordered is ready and is automatically delivered to him. These warm dishes are pre-cooked in a big central kitchen in the middle of the town, then wrapped in isothermic containers and sent to the canteen where they are heated in a special series of infra-red ovens. The consumer pays for the whole meal as he passes with his loaded tray into the dining section. This new plant makes it possible to serve as many as 600 top quality cooked meals during each lunch break.

DIVER'S NEW WORLD RECORD

Thirty atmospheres is the amount of pressure to which a body is exposed at 958 feet below sea level. The Swiss Professor, Hannes Keller, who holds the world record for free diving, is the first man in the world to experience this formidable pressure, with the aid of a simple diving equipment, in a super-compression room filled with water, owned by the French Navy, at Toulon. It is thanks to a special system, perfected by himself in collaboration with a doctor who is a specialist for respiratory mechanism, that Professor Keller can accomplish these exploits. His method makes it possible to shorten, to a considerable extent, the time taken for the descent and, more especially the ascent, without suffering from the phenomena of decompression which always accompanies the latter. He has thus been able to progress up to a pressure of 30 atmosphere, in the extremely short time of 34 minutes, which constitutes a world record.

CORRECTION

In the Wellington Swiss Club's report of the Annual General Meeting, which appeared in the May issue of "Helvetia" a printing error occurred which read . . . "membership had dropped from 78 to 75." This should have read . . . "membership had dropped from 78 to 57."

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