

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 31 (1968)
Heft: [4]

Rubrik: News from Switzerland

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News from Switzerland

TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR WATCH DEALERS

The Central Committee of the Watch Federation (Federation of Swiss Associations of Watch Manufacturers) has decided to set up a commercial training institute for watch dealers in New York with a view to extending to the United States the work carried out by the Swiss Watchmaking Industry's International Centre in Lausanne. This institute will also help to promote the sale of Swiss watches in the United States.

SWISS DIESEL ENGINES FOR OCEAN-GOING VESSELS

During recent years, a quarter of all diesel engines used to propel ocean-going vessels were made by Sulzer of Switzerland. In 1966 alone, out of 789 ocean-going vessels (with displacements of 2,000 tons and over) fitted with diesel engines representing a total of 7,066,910 HP, some 200, totalling 2,481,440 HP, i.e. over 35%, had chosen Sulzer diesel engines. This Swiss manufacturer thus becomes first for the total power installed, far ahead of his rivals in other countries, an achievement that is all the more remarkable as Switzerland, although possessing a merchant fleet of her own, has no direct access to the sea.

FOR THE INDOOR PLANT LOVER

A Swiss manufacturer is launching a patented flower pot, which greatly simplifies the care of indoor plants and is consequently very popular with householders as well as proprietors of public establishments. The "Floribel" patented hard plastic flower pot, which comes in three different sizes and five attractive colours, contains a second pot provided with openings ensuring proper ventilation of the roots. An ingenious device keeps the earth at the most favourable degree of humidity, without any danger of the roots rotting, while a special patented pipe makes it possible to supply the potted plant with the required quantity of water without risk of overflowing or stains. Owing to the reserve supply of water, the plant can continue to thrive for 1 to 3 weeks, depending on circumstances, without the addition of any water — a considerable advantage when it comes to holiday time.

Perfectly designed from the biological point of view and thoroughly tested by competent horticulturalists, the Floribel pot solves several difficulties involved in the growing of indoor plants. Let us add that the manufacturer also makes standardised flower stands for linear or corner arrangements, each holding from 3 to 7 Floribel pots to the best advantage.