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Two families in the little Swiss village of Raefis exchanged sons as Christmas presents — thereby correcting a four-year-old error.

The boys were mixed up a few hours after birth in hospital in 1947, but this year the family resemblances were too strong to ignore. The mothers took blood tests and discovered the mistake.

* * *

The première of the opera, "La Botte Rouge," was recently given at the Stockholm Opera. Afterwards a dinner was given at the Swiss Legation in honour of the Swiss composer, Sutermeister.

* * *

A group of Swiss banks has concluded an agreement with Mr. Havenga, the South African Finance Minister, for a loan to South Africa of 300 million Swiss francs (about £24,500,000) at 4 per cent., repayable in 18 years. It is expected that the loan will be issued two months after the approval of the agreement by the South African Government. Bondholders will have the choice of being paid either in Swiss francs or in South African currency.

* * *

The doubling of the Zurich-Sargans-Buchs main line is proceeding rapidly. The Reichenburg-Ziegelbrücke and Unterterzen-Flums sections were doubled in 1950. The second track has been completed on the 1¾-mile Schübelbach-Buttikon-Reichenburg section, on which double-track working began on December 18. In the 36 miles between Zurich and Ziegelbrücke, only 4½ miles are still single, between Lachen (25 miles from Zurich) and Schübelbach-Buttikon. This section is to be doubled within the next two years.

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SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR BASLE.

19th — 29th April 1952.

The 36th Swiss Industries Fair takes place in Basle from the 19th to 29th April, 1952. More than 2,000 firms are taking part as exhibitors in this great display of goods which emphasises the international importance of the products offered by the leading Swiss export industries.

Switzerland depends more than almost any other land on the exchange of goods between different countries. She herself has practically no raw materials and only limited quantities of foodstuffs and hence obtains the necessary commodities from all over the world in exchange for industrial products which are the result of immense labour and applied skill. The 36th Swiss Industries Fair, due to take place from 19th to 29th April, 1952, in Basle, offers an excellent display of the extremely varied production of Swiss industry, where those national industries such as the watchmaking industry, the textile industry, the machinery industry, the electrical industry and various other industries which specialise in export, concentrate their goods and offer them to the world's markets.

2,147 exhibitors on a total exhibition area of 1 million square feet; 670,000 visitors, of whom 30,000 came from abroad (11,750 recorded at the Foreign Visitors Office as coming from 72 different countries), those are a few figures from last year's Swiss Industries Fair in Basle. They illustrate the importance of this greatest of all Swiss commercial fairs, at which it is principally the export industries which are represented with their wide range of high class products, which in itself explains the great attraction of the Fair for the business world.

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Nouvelle Société Helvétique (LONDON GROUP)

OPEN MEETING

Tuesday, 29th January, 1952, 7 p.m.

Dr. ERNST MOERGELI

Joint Director of the Secrétariat des
Suisses à l'Etranger, Berne,

will speak (in German) on

"AKTUELLE AUSLANDSCHWEIZER FRAGEN"

as an introduction for a discussion, followed by the showing
of some new films.

at the

Vienna Café, Berkeley Arcade,
opposite Baker Street Station, N.W.1.

All Swiss and Friends are heartily welcome.