

# Roundabout Switzerland

Autor(en): **Meakin, Derek**

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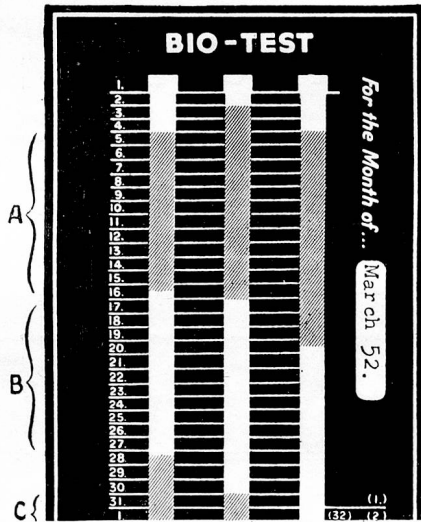
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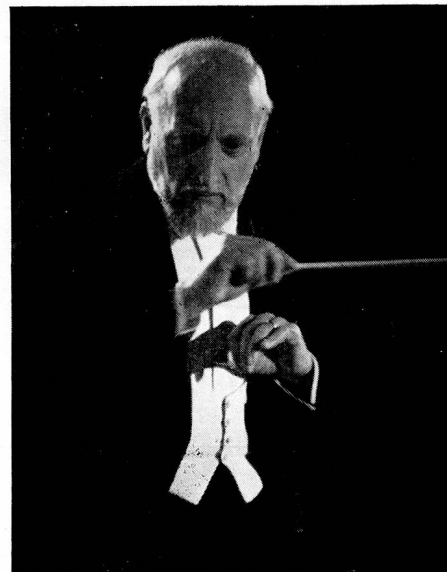
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**DECEMBER** puts the accent on indoor events, with an impressive programme of concerts and exhibitions in all the principal towns and cities.

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Ernest Ansermet

but kept it together when its future was in jeopardy. Ansermet, born 71 years ago in sleepy Vevey, showed early musical talent, but as he was also good at his sums it was thought figures would be safer than fiddles as a career. So while studying the piano and the violin, young Ernest was also diligently preparing for a more mundane existence.

At 22, his university training behind him, he started in Lausanne as a teacher of mathematics. Fortunately for music this episode did not last long. In 1909 he threw up his job and went to Berlin to learn how to be a conductor. Two years later he was back to take over the Montreux Casino orchestra, and was spotted by Stravinsky. Then Serge Diaghilev, exiled in Ouchy and preparing for his triumphant American tour, needed a conductor. Ansermet got the job — and from then on he never looked back.