

News at Random

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On 1st July the special festival of the University took place, which had been organised to raise funds for the new Hostel which should relieve the shortage of accommodation suffered by university students. The festival was a great success.

Finally, the traditional Bienne festival, the "Braderie", early in June, was favoured by excellent weather, and showed a specially large participation; Miss Jemima and her Cook's Tour of 100 years ago attended the "Braderie".

EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

It has been reported that the Canton of Berne is short of 220 primary teachers. The new scholastic year started with 54 newly opened classes. Special credits have been granted by the Cantonal Parliament for additional training facilities.

Two girls and two boys left school in Bienne and two "Lake District" communes (Bellmund and Orpund) with a remarkable record: All four never missed a single lesson during the nine years of attending school, and they all received prizes from the Commune authorities.

In April grammar schools ("Gymnasium") were inaugurated at Langenthal and Interlaken, a teachers' training class was opened in Bienne, and a new school and swimming pool at Ostermundigen.

The Bienne watch factory, OMEGA, have decided to give new scholarship grants to talented students in many parts of the country, especially for engineering and commercial sciences.

A scientific exhibition was opened in May at the high alpine research station, Jungfrauoch.

ART AND CULTURE

On 17th June 1913 the first evening concert was held in the Cathedral of Berne, and for fifty years these performances have been given regularly. On 22nd June this year, the Cathedral Square was the stage for the by now famous "Münsterspiele", which brought a first performance of the "Totentanz" after Niklaus Manuel with music by Heinrich Sutermeister and a participation of 500 artists.

Also in June the first performance of Mozart's "Betulia Liberata" was given at the Berne Municipal Theatre, and some 1,300 members of the "Caecilien" choirs met at Porrentruy for their central festival. Interlaken organised a Mozart week, and the Yodellers of the Canton of Berne held their contest at Muensingen.

The old town of Thun is to have a cellar theatre, and a Swiss premiere, "Heiraten ist immer ein Risiko" by Iren Saul O'Hara, was given an enthusiastic reception at the Studio Theatre in Berne.

The number of Art Exhibitions was so high that it is impossible to mention them all, and only a few will be enumerated. There was an interesting show of Utrillo works at the Berne Art Museum, and a large selection of Viktor Surbek's drawings was exhibited at Thun. In Bienne Federal Councillor Tschudi opened an exhibition of works of art which had received prizes under the Federal Art Grants Scheme. Some sixty Bernese women artists held an exhibition at the Kunsthalle in Berne. At St. Imier Roman Catholic Church a remarkable piece of art has been put up — fourteen stages of Christ's Passion hewn in slate by Georges Schneider, a local artist living in Paris.

The church of Vermes has been declared a protected monument, and the church of Kleinhochstetten, the cradle of Bernese Reformation, will be restored.

After the Castle of Hindelbank had been renovated last year, the lovely Schloss Oberhofen has been improved, too, and new acquisitions are now on show. One of the

most beautiful of Bernese Castles, Schloss Jegenstorf, housed an exhibition in June: Lamps of four millenniums.

NATURE

Parts of the shore of the Lake of Bienne near the Zihlkanal have been declared a protected area. The Alpine Garden on the Schynige Platte attracts more and more visitors from all parts of the world and the technical directors of Western European botanical gardens paid it a visit.

At the Schulwarte in Berne a special exhibition, "Our Forests", was opened on 31st May. It will remain open till the autumn.

NEWS AT RANDOM

Early in May the new power station Sanetsch started production of energy at the Innergsteig station near Gstaad.

Langenthal has a new Children's Home which was inaugurated early in July. When the little Roman Catholic church at Langnau (Emmental) received its four bells which had been provided by the Catholic and the Protestant communities jointly, the Protestant church rang a welcome with all its own bells. The Emmental is to be the seat of the International Protestant Radio Transmitter.

Eight hundred boys from the Alsace visited Bienne on a tour of the Suisse Romande early in July.

Sad news came from Berne a few weeks ago about foot-and-mouth disease in many parts of Switzerland and it was reported that 2,200 animals had had to be slaughtered.

On 2nd May the geranium market was held in Berne for the seventh time when 18,000 plants were sold. The sale was combined with festivities.

*(News received by courtesy of the
Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)*

A FESTIVE AUGUST FOR GENEVA

The pulse of international life beats strong in Geneva and never more so than during the three days of the "Fêtes de Genève" (9th to 11th August), which culminate in a procession and fireworks. At the Palais des Expositions at Geneva the commemorative exhibition entitled "Cent ans au Service de l'Humanité" is being held from 15th August to 15th September in honour of the Red Cross, which was founded there a hundred years ago. The Picasso exhibition at the Athénée, which will continue until 21st September, is also certain of enthusiastic patronage. Greek folk art will be on show at the Musée d'Ethnographie.

[S.N.T.O.]

ZERMATT REOPENED

After the completion of the necessary repairs and improvements to the water supply system and the thorough disinfection of hotels, pensions and restaurants, the authorities gave the green light for the reopening on 1st June 1963.

The International Hotel Association decided recently to hold their next meeting in Zermatt in September 1963.

VACCINATION

Contrary to recent reports, vaccination is not required for visiting Switzerland. There has been no new typhoid epidemic since Zermatt. In view of this, and as a result of increased vigilance everywhere, the danger of infection is now no greater in Switzerland than in other countries.

[S.N.T.O.]