

A useful Christmas Gift

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CITY SWISS CLUB

Sir Ralph Perring who was to have been guest speaker at the City Swiss Club annual dinner on 27th November, will unfortunately not be able to attend. Sir Ralph is Vice-Chairman of the Exports to Canada Committee and has to be at a meeting in Ottawa at the time.

His place will be taken by Sir Robert Bellinger, an Alderman of the City of London. Lady Bellinger will also be present.

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A USEFUL CHRISTMAS GIFT

It is not easy to find suitable Christmas presents for everybody. Have you ever thought of giving a subscription to the "Swiss Observer" to some of your Swiss and English friends who are not already subscribers? Or perhaps you know someone who is no longer able to subscribe for reasons of economy?

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EXHIBITION

There is an exhibition of water colours, drawings and oil paintings by Floristella Stephani at the Grabowski Gallery, 84 Sloane Avenue, London S.W.3, until 20th November. The artist was born in Switzerland in 1930 and studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Geneva. Later he studied engraving in Paris with J. Friedlaender. He has won several prizes, the Calame-Prize and one of the Swiss Confederation Prizes in 1956. He is married and lives in Paris.

LAST MINUTE NEWS

We have just heard that an exhibition of batiks by Heidi Grieder-Mascarin, has been held at Primavera's, 149 Sloane Street, S.W.1, from 3rd to 14th November. Our compatriot is well known in this field of art, and if anyone has a spare moment on Saturday morning — last day — a visit would be well worth his while. (9.30 to 1 p.m.).

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AN IMPORTANT ANNIVERSARY

At Sainte-Croix, in the Swiss Jura, in 1814, Moise Paillard opened up a small workshop for making watches and musical boxes. Today the world-famous company that bears his name employs over five thousand men and women. Thus, in one hundred and fifty years, Paillard has grown to be the leading European manufacturer of projectors and ciné-cameras for sixteen and eight mm. films sold under the trade mark "Bolex", while one out of every twenty typewriters in use in the world today is a "Hermes". What is especially remarkable is that the biggest buyer of these articles is the country in which they were first mass-produced: the United States of America. Next in order come France and Western Germany, even though these two countries are highly industrialized and both powerful competitors.

To remain in the forefront of technical progress, Paillard Ltd. has created a research centre at Yverdon, one of the most modern of its kind in Europe, as well as research laboratories in Zurich, Lausanne-Crissier and Munich, which work in close collaboration with Swiss institutes of technology and the Swiss Horological Research Laboratory in Neuchâtel.

[O.S.E.C.]

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COMMISSION OF THE SWISS ABROAD

CORRECTION

In the report on the work of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, the text of the constitutional article concerning the Swiss living abroad was erroneously given in its first form as proposed by the Federal Political Department on 9th December 1963. The following is the amended text as proposed by the Executive Committee of the Commission on 6th April 1964:

La Confédération accorde son appui aux citoyens suisses résidant à l'étranger en vue de renforcer les liens qui les unissent entre eux et à la patrie, et elle soutient les institutions créées à cet effet.

La Confédération tient compte de la situation particulière de ces citoyens, et elle édicte les dispositions nécessaires en vue de déterminer leurs droits et obligations, notamment quant à l'accomplissement des obligations militaires et à l'exercice de leurs droits politiques, ainsi qu'en matière d'assistance; les cantons et les organisations qualifiées des Suisses à l'étranger seront consultés au préalable.

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WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

In a recent programme of B.B.C.'s "Top of the Form", one of the questions was from which country a car came which had a "C.H." plate. It was understandable that the boys and girls of the competing teams did not know the answer. What was surprising, however, was the Question Master's explanation that the car came from Switzerland, and C.H. stood for "Canton Helvetia"!