

A paradise of toys

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NEW HOTEL FACILITIES IN FOUR CITIES

During the past year, the number of available hotel beds in Zurich, Basle, Geneva and Lausanne has been increased by at least 1,500 due to the construction of new hotels and expansion of existing facilities. There are three noteworthy changes in Zurich and vicinity: A new wing of the *Dolder Grand Hotel*, with 100 luxurious rooms and suites; the newly completed *Seehotel Meierhof* at Horgen, on the shores of Lake Zurich, which can accommodate a maximum of 280 guests and features such refinements as an indoor swimming pool with infra-red sunlamp terrace. TV in all rooms, an elegant rooftop restaurant called "Rôtisserie l'Horizon", and a shopping arcade; and finally, "Europe's most exclusive small hotel", the forty-bed *Hotel Kindli*, located in a fifteenth-century patrician house in Zurich's old quarter. In Basle, two new openings have taken place: the sixty-bed *Hotel Bernina* and the twenty-four-bed *Rex*, both of them "garni" hotels (that is, where only breakfast is served). Geneva's hotel assortment has been enriched by several first-class houses, including the splendid *Ambassador* (140 beds) on the Quai des Bergues along the river Rhone, and two new hotels on the Rue de Berne, not far from the Cornavin Station and Air Terminal, the *Hôtel de Berne* (130 beds) and the *Windsor* (100), as well as the more modest, middle-class *Rivoli* (104 beds). Lausanne's most glittering new inn is the *Hôtel Continental* (180 beds), across from the main station, featuring several restaurants of different categories. In Lausanne-Ouchy, *La Résidence* (90 beds) has been reopened after a thorough renovation and a change of name, and a few hundred yards higher up in the centre of the town, rises the enlarged *Central* with 100 additional beds. A project for an additional 300-bed hotel in Lausanne is now being discussed.


[S.N.T.O.]

A PARADISE OF TOYS

With 23 branches in all parts of Switzerland, the firm of Franz Carl Weber ranks as the country's leading toy manufacturer and distributor. In direct connection with its seventy-fifth anniversary in 1956, the company, which is still headed by a direct descendant of the founder, came up with the idea of creating a standing collection of old toys. Now, nine years later, the concept has been realized. In what were former attic rooms of the five-storey main Weber building on Zurich's Bahnhofstrasse, there has been opened what the local press called "the city's most charming the late eighteenth, the nineteenth and early twentieth century museum". Twenty-eight showcases display toys from centuries, arranged thematically. Central to the exhibition is a copy of the first illustrated catalogue issued by Franz Carl Weber back in 1891. The first thing which greets a visitor to this paradise of toys is a group of still functioning, splendidly painted steam engines, model cars, ships and miniature versions of some of the earliest railways. There are various examples of French and English "magic lanterns", forerunners of modern home-movies and television. And, as survivors of the passing years, there are splendid dolls in precious, hand-sewn costumes, with artistic coiffures and adorable porcelain faces.

[S.N.T.O.]

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