

A new Swiss invention

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1967 opened early in December, followed in January by three more on posters, table clocks of the sixteenth century, and photographs. The Library Edmond Privat left to the town a few years ago, was officially opened in November. An experimental theatre and the first private art gallery "Le Manoir" have been started, and the largest school centre is now in use. The longest road in Switzerland, the Avenue Léopold-Robert was decorated by 12,000 candles for Christmas. The prisoners helped with the preparations for this imposing Yuletide decoration. The site where the "Hôtel Central et Paris" used to be, has been taken over by an insurance company for offices.

At Les Geneveys-sur-Coffranes in the Val-de-Ruz, the new youth and education centre "Le Louverain" was opened in the early autumn. It was built by the Church. It houses 80 people and contains a cinema, a library and various meeting halls. Sports and recreation facilities are yet to come.

The third Commune in the Canton of Neuchâtel after Marin-Epagnier and Le Landeron, Hauterive, has a woman President of the General Council. Le Locle now has 15,000 inhabitants. The Rousseau House at Môtiers was re-opened after having been renovated.

(Compiled from information received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

REPETITION OF THE MECHANICAL HANDLING EXHIBITION

"Rationalise goods conveyance — increase productivity" was the motto of the International Fair for Mechanical Handling organised for the first time in February 1966 in Basle. The result of the exhibition provided adequate proof that it meets a clearly defined need. Having regard to the wide range of means of conveyance offered in Switzerland, it represents an important factor in the marketing of such goods, and the holding of the first exhibition secured for it a high degree of international recognition, so that its motto now has more than ever a direct application to modern conditions.

275 manufacturers of both European and overseas origin were represented with 154 stands on an exhibition area of 35,000 sq.m. The range of industrial exhibits covered cranes and hoisting appliances, continuous conveyors, cableways, goods lifts, floor conveyance equipment, industrial vehicles and special railway transport material, accessories to machinery and technical gear used for goods conveyance purposes, as well as storage equipment in its many forms. The exhibition was visited by more than 27,000 people from Switzerland and abroad. It aroused great interest amongst all classes of traders and was given appreciative mention in technical papers.

The organisations forming the patronage committee and consisting of the Swiss Materials Handling Society (SSRG), the group "Materials Handling" of the Swiss Association of Machinery Manufacturers (VSM), the Materials Handling Association, and the Association of Swiss Manufacturers and Traders of Construction Equipment (VSBM) decided, together with the Swiss Industries Fair, which carried out the actual organisation of the show, to repeat the technical fair in two years' time, that is to say from 7th to 14th February 1968. This allows the IFM to take place at a suitable time in the schedule of similar exhibitions held in Europe, and enables the groups of machinery manufacturers, who alternate their participation in the Hanover Fair, to be present in Basle. A feature of the 1968 exhibition will again be the holding of various technical meetings.

A NEW SWISS INVENTION

A "personalised" perpetual calendar for watches

A Geneva inventions laboratory recently presented to the press a new perpetual calendar movement for watches. Unlike simple calendar movements, which have to be corrected five times a year, this "personalised" calendar requires manual adjustment only once every four years (end of February in leap years) and is, in addition, much less bulky than the usual perpetual calendar movements. Without any correction, it indicates the date throughout the four years of the cycle and, for certain dates of the year which one particularly wishes to remember, can be provided with coloured reminder marks.

[O.S.E.C.]

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