

Technical items

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a glove. Strong and impossible to lose its rigid shape, the shell opens outward on hinges like a cigarette case and requires absolutely no looking after. Once the joys of skiing are over, the outer shell can be removed leaving the skier wearing an after-ski boot which fits the foot like a second skin, allowing him to drive a car or dance with equal ease. (OSEC)

A minor "revolution" in the watering of plants

Is the tiresome chore of the traditional watering of lawns, trees, shrubs and flower-beds doomed to disappear at last? This would seem to be the opinion at any rate of a Montreux inventor, who has designed and perfected a new system for the underground irrigation of roots. It requires no special installations, consisting as it does of a hollow metal rod with a large number of holes in the bottom through which the water soaks into the surrounding earth. A system of valves makes it possible to regulate the flow and the pressure. This new method of watering has the advantage of avoiding any chalky deposit on the leaves. In addition, it makes for a considerable saving of water, evaporation being greatly reduced, even practically nil. After having successfully passed the experimental stage, this new system of underground watering has been patented in Switzerland and abroad and will shortly go into mass production. (OSEC)

Two new products of the Swiss electronics industry

The leading Swiss manufacturer of typewriters, accounting and office machinery has just presented two new office machines: a desk-top electronic printing calculator and an electronic invoicing machine, both operating on integrated circuits. The Hermes 114

calculating machine adds, multiplies, divides and calculates with 7 registers. In addition, an internal programme makes it possible to store and then repeat up the 50 functions and figures, for carrying out repetitive work more quickly and without mistakes. By means of this programme, the machine automatically calculates percentages, compound interests, mortgage plans, roots, exponents, trigonometric functions, etc. Easy to operate, it calculates at a speed of 2 to 40 milliseconds and prints 5 lines of 16 figures and signs per second. Outstanding features of the Hermes F-4 invoicing machine are its small size, its high speed of calculation (6 to 50 milliseconds for a multiplication) and printing (17 signs a second) as well as for its simple and rapid programming. It can be equipped with 2 to 5 registers, as required. (OSEC)

A Swiss chairlift for an American zoo

Visitors to San Diego Zoo (USA) will soon be able to admire their favourite animals in complete comfort and with no risk of getting tired. The Swiss firm of Von Roll Co. Ltd. is at present building the first "zoo chairlift" in the world. Some 1,650 feet long, it will blend inconspicuously into the vegetation, the four intermediate pylons being designed to look like palm trees. The four-seater cabins will glide smoothly over the zoo at a speed of 8.2 ft/sec., ensuring a capacity of some 1,200 passengers an hour. (OSEC)

Growth of the Swiss Chemical Industry in Asia

Starting next year, the Basle chemical firm of Hoffmann-La Roche will manufacture pharmaceutical products in the Philippines. The parent firm will spend several million dollars on the construction of a modern factory in Manila. This new branch

will produce pharmaceuticals only and no chemical products. Previously Hoffmann-La Roche only had an agency in Manila. In addition, the Indonesian government has signed a contract with Ciba for the purpose of stepping up its rice production. The agreement stipulates that the Swiss firm will supply Indonesia, in the form of a loan, with 121,912 dollars' worth of fertilizers and equipment for rice growing. The programme provides for the development of production over an area of just under 1,000,000 acres in the east, centre and west of Java. This new contract is the third signed between CIBA and the Indonesian government. (OSEC)

THE SWISS BANK CORPORATION INCREASES ITS CAPITAL

At an Extraordinary General Meeting held in Basle on the 21st October, 1969, it was decided to increase the share-capital of the Bank in two stages. The capital will first be raised from S.Frs. 330,000,000 to S.Frs. 348,000,000 by the issue of 36,000 new bearer shares of S.Frs 500.-, cum coupon No. 5 and ranking for dividend for the financial year from the 1st January 1969, to shareholders of the Société Suisse d'Industrie Electrique (INDELEC) in respect of the share-exchange offer. These shares also include entitlement to subscribe to the new shares offered under the second stage through which the capital will be increased from S.Frs. 348,000,000 to S.Frs. 406,000,000 by the issue of 116,000 new bearer shares of S.Frs. 500.- cum coupon No. 6 and ranking for dividend from the 1st October, 1969 (one quarter of the dividend for 1969) to be offered to shareholders at the price of S.Frs. 1000.- in the proportion of one new share for every six old. In all other respects the new shares will rank *pari passu* with the old.

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