

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 20 (1957)
Heft: [6]

Artikel: E.C.N.R.'S. synchro-cyclotron in Switzerland is now working at maximum power
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942465>

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A FAMOUS SWISS WATCHMAKING TOWN CELEBRATES ITS 300TH ANNIVERSARY

La Chaux-de-Fonds ranks as the tenth town in Switzerland, in regard to the number of its inhabitants. In spite of this, it is known throughout the world because of its watches and it claims for itself—and not without reason—the title of the “Metropolis of Watchmaking.” La Chaux-de-Fonds, the name of which was mentioned for the first time in the Chronicles, some six hundred years ago, is celebrating, this year, the three hundredth anniversary of its constitution as an autonomous Commune. At that time it was only an agricultural market-town, and it was only at the beginning of the eighteenth century that the watch-making industry was started there; today, it is a modern town of some 40,000 inhabitants, equipped in a manner worthy of its economic importance.

E.C.N.R.'S SYNCHRO-CYCLOTRON IN SWITZERLAND IS NOW WORKING AT MAXIMUM POWER

The synchro-cyclotron of Meyrin, near Geneva, which is the first of the two big apparatus for imparting high speeds to electrified particles, belonging to the “European Centre of Nuclear Research” for the use of the scientists of Europe, is now operating at the maximum of its power. After rather more than two years of intensive work in the laboratories of Meyrin, it has proved possible to proceed with tests of the functioning of this accelerator, at its maximum power which amounts to six hundred million electronators of this type, in the world.

IN THE SWISS MACHINE INDUSTRY

The Swiss machine and apparatus industry continues to show an astounding vitality. In increase in orders is to be observed in almost all the various branches. As a result, there is an appreciable increase in the reserve of work, varying from three to eight months, according to the branch in question. Thus, in order to avoid delays in deliveries, which might lead the customers to turn to other competitors, the plants have been obliged to have recourse to rationalisation. The most difficult problem to solve remains, nevertheless—and this in spite of the employment of a great foreign workers—the finding of sufficient labour, the penury of which, at all stages, has forced the firms to start training their personnel, themselves. This situation also raises the question of the extension of existing technical schools and the creation of new colleges, this, all the more so as the development of technique constantly puts forward new requirements, especially in those two fields of the future, namely automation and nuclear energy.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Hamilton Swiss Club is holding the regular monthly evening every third Sunday in the Masonic Hall, Frankton. Next evening: 20th October. All welcome.

Just a reminder to all our Swiss friends in Auckland.

Don't forget that the Auckland Swiss Club holds its monthly Social at the Epiphany Church Hall, Gundry Street, Newton, on the first Tuesday in the month. Come along and spend an enjoyable evening among friends. Everybody is made most welcome.

Mr. Tony Loetscher,
Box 608,
HAMILTON.

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed £1, being subscription for “Helvetia” and membership fee, Swiss Society.

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