

Electronics to the rescue of the physically handicapped

Autor(en): [s.n.]

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **40 (1975)**

Heft [5]

PDF erstellt am: **22.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-945699>

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Swiss Electronic Fire Detectors On The High Seas

The new British helicopter-carrier, HMS Invincible, will be equipped with electronic fire detectors from Mannedorf (Zurich—Switzerland). These appliances will offer protection against fires by detecting them even before the first appearance of any smoke. At sea, a fire is much more dangerous than on land, because it is only possible to fight it from one side. That is why the early detection of fire is of even greater importance at sea than on terra firma. (SODT)

Electronics to the Rescue of the Physically Handicapped

Thanks to the "Linguaduc" range of appliances produced by a Swiss firm in Berne, specialising in the manufacture of medical articles, the seriously handicapped, and even the totally paralysed, can now—without any outside help—put on the light, telephone, turn the pages of a book and even type a letter. The "Linguaduc", in fact, enables people deprived of the use of their limbs to control various appliances with their tongue. It consists of a sensor placed near the patient's mouth, a mounting attachment and a housing containing the electronic and electrical control parts. Orders are transmitted by the tongue, or rather its moisture. All the disabled person has to do is touch the contacts



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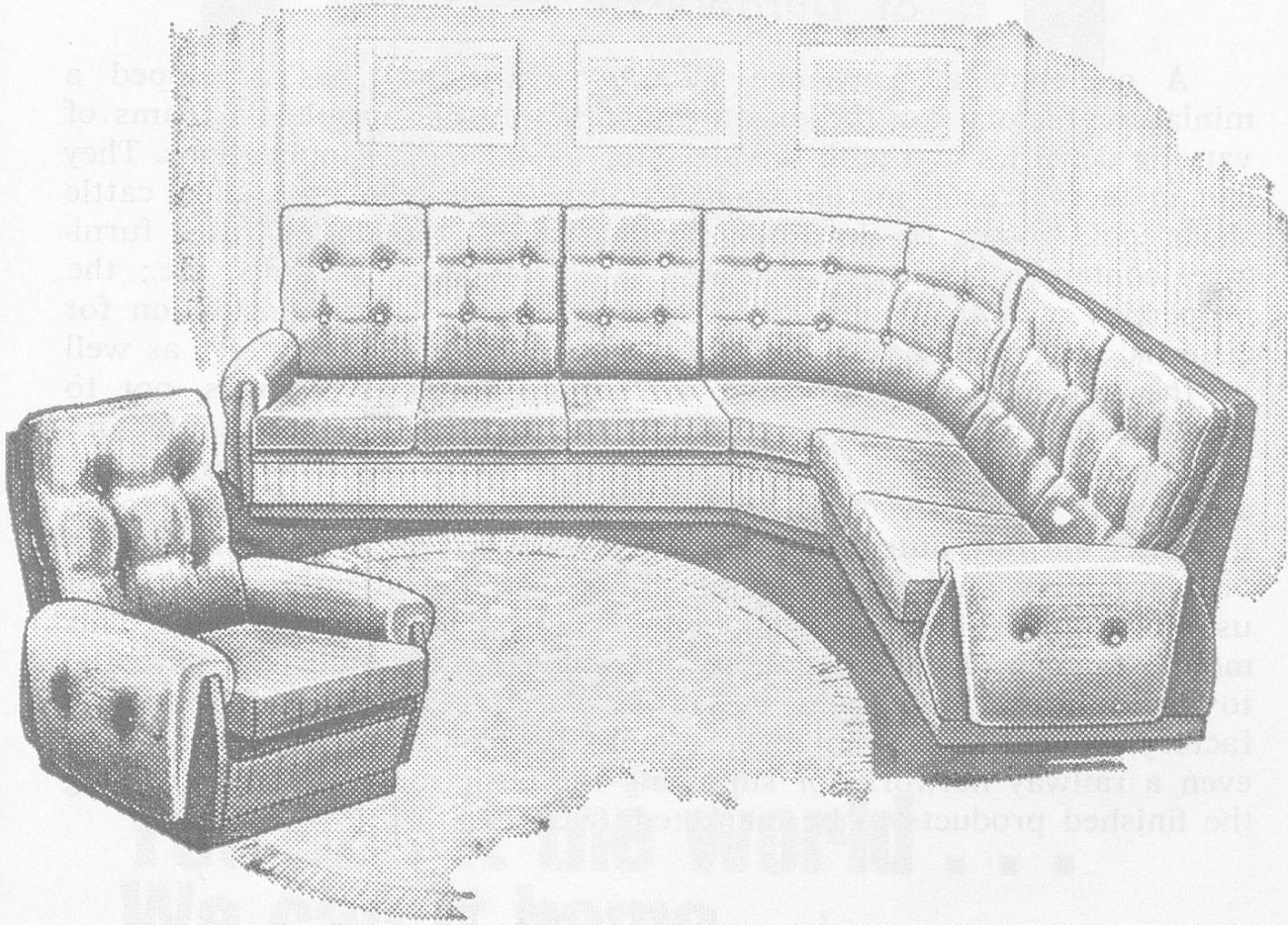
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of the sensor with his tongue, in order to control the various electronic circuits. With the "Linguaduc", a paralysed person can switch on the various electrical devices connected to the appliance such as, for example, a call bell or alarm signal, a radio or television set, a telephone, an electrical typewriter, the automatic opening or closing of a door or window, etc. The appliance can also easily be adapted for use at work points in industry. (SODT)

Mobile Factory for the Manufacture of Duroplastic Foams

A company at Lausanne (Vaud—Switzerland) has developed a miniature factory for the on-site manufacture of duroplastic foams of varying densities and with a wide range of industrial applications. They can in fact be used in the construction of rural dwellings, silos, cattle sheds, cold rooms or deep-freeze units, special foundation rafts, furniture, containers and special over-size packaging, boat hulls, etc.; the properties of these foams make them ideal as thermal insulation for cisterns, tanks, facades of buildings, roofing, mains piping, etc., as well as the anti-corrosion protection of ships and machine tools, not to mention the waterproofing of roofs and floors. The mobile factory developed by this Swiss firm can produce up to 200 cubic metres of foam a day with a density of 40 kg/m³. Thanks to its powerful generator, it works entirely autonomously. It can be driven at the speed of an ordinary lorry and can be equipped with special all-purpose tyres for use in countries whose road network is as yet undeveloped. This mobile factory enables countries building up their industrial potential to avoid heavy investment outlay on the building of a conventional factory, which would moreover require the construction of a road or even a railway network for supplying the basic materials and enabling the finished products to be marketed. (SODT)

Laugh a Little

EITHER—OR

"Would you like a whisky?" "No thank you, when I drink whisky I cannot go to sleep."

"With me it is just the opposite. When I am sleeping I do not drink whisky." —Nebelspalter.

Two hens talk about a third hen. "She must have a very high temperature," says one hen. "How can you tell?" asks the other one. "Well, since some time now she lays only hard boiled eggs."

—Nebelspalter.

All contributions must be in the hands of the Editor by the 4th of each month as we are getting the Helvetia out earlier.