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BUSINESS IN SWITZERLAND

Great Success of Swiss Electronic Apparatus

At the present moment, the firm of Brown Boveri & Co. Ltd. at Baden has over thirty Betatron appliances either in the process of construction or on its books. These particle accelerators are used mainly for therapeutic purposes, the examination of materials in depth, and research in the nuclear field. (OSEC)

Radiation from the Dials of Luminous Watches

A lot of fuss has been made about the supposed danger of luminous dials due to the radiation given off by them. The Eterna Watch Factory at Granges recently published a report in booklet form devoted to this subject. In short, it would seem that the radiation given off by the luminous dials of good makes of watches is well under the internationally permitted limits. Only certain special types of watches, with particularly luminous dials, used for example, for aqualung diving and other out-of-the-ordinary sporting activities, give off stronger radiation; the dials of these watches — which in any case are never worn continuously are nevertheless still within the limits tolerated. Furthermore, as a general rule only part of the wrist on which the luminous watch is worn is subject to a radiation stronger than that normally experienced by the whole body as a result of the natural radiation given off by the earth. In addition, at a distance of a foot, the radiation given off by a luminous dial is twelve times less than that normally given off by the earth, so that in no circumstances can watches with luminous dials exert any harmful effect whatsoever on unborn generations. Consequently, as we have already said, one can wear a high quality Swiss luminous watch with complete impunity. (OSEC)

Success of Swiss Weaving Machines in the U.S.A.

Sulzer Brothers Ltd., the famous Swiss engineering firm, supplied weaving machines to the United States for the first time at the end of 1960. The technical and economic results obtained with these machines were so satisfactory that the four largest textile enterprises in America placed orders for 1,133 units of this type, at a total value of 55 million Swiss francs. These machines are mainly destined for existing factories in the southern states and are intended less to increase production than to improve mill efficiency. (OSEC)

A New Fire-Lighter

In our press-button era, there are still quite a number of occasions on which it is necessary to light a fire, and this is not always so easy, especially if the wood is damp or one has no paper at hand or proper kindling. In order, therefore, to render service to countless campers, tourists, housewives, etc., a Swiss manufacturer has put a new crown-shaped fire-lighter on the market under the trade name of "Pronto". It consists of a small crown of substance resistant to damp and easily lighted with a single match. Once alight, its flame is unaffected by wind or rain and burns for about eight minutes with a heat of 180 calories, which is quite sufficient to light a fire of wet logs, a heating installation, an oil burner, a coal fire or even, in an emergency, to boil water. As the crown can easily be divided into two, four or eight pieces, it is possible to use just the right quantity for the purpose, thus making it extremely economical to use. It should also be added that

the Pronto fire-lighter crown presents no danger of spontaneous combustion, is absolutely non-toxic and burns with very little ash. On the same principle, the manufacturer also makes weather-resistant combustible blocks which are ideal for signalling road accidents and simulating fires during fire drill or air-raid practice. (OSEC)

Big German Town Orders Plant from Switzerland

The town of Frankfurt-on-Main has ordered a garbage incinerating plant from the Swiss firm, von Roll, in Zurich. The first stage in the construction of this plant consists of two ovens with a nominal capacity of a total of 600 tons of garbage in 24 hours. The second stage comprises two extra ovens, which will make it possible to incinerate 1,200 tons of garbage a day. This garbage disposal plant is to be combined with a heating plant. The heat recuperated from the incinerating plant will be supplied in the form of steam to the heating plant and converted into electricity for the heating of some 6,500 apartments connected to the system. (OSEC)

A New Swiss Watch-Cleaning Machine

A new, entirely automatic, watch-cleaning machine has just been placed on the market by a Swiss manufacturer. The whole cleaning cycle consists of five operations automatically following each other in a closed circuit: one cleaning, three rinsing and one drying. The time of the cleaning operation can be set to last from 8 to 12 minutes; the heating of the first bath is regulated by means of a thermostat and all containers are hermetically sealed, so as to reduce evaporation in the workshop to a minimum and thus avoid any danger of fire if the liquids used are volatile.

The basket in which the parts to be cleaned are placed is moved around in the cleaning liquid, which is supplied to the cleaning jar by a special pneumatic system. Between cycles the liquids are carefully decanted so as to avoid any dirt removed by the cleaning from getting up into the jar. The apparatus is extremely simple to operate; it is very stable and weighs only 57 lb. complete. In order to increase the efficiency of cleaning, it is possible to add an ultra-sound generator by fixing its head, which transmits the vibrations, to the cleaning jar. (OSEC)

Switzerland and the Development of India

On 30th July 1960, an agreement was signed in Berne, authorizing a Swiss bank consortium with the backing of the Confederation to issue long-term credit loans to India for the purchase of Swiss producer goods up to a total of 100 million Swiss francs in value.

At present, the first instalment of 60 million Swiss francs has been almost completely used up by the orders India has placed with Swiss firms. After an exchange of notes between the head of the Swiss Department of Trade and the Indian Ambassador in Berne, the second instalment of this loan was recently issued, the amount even being raised from 40 to 50 million Swiss francs. The total value of the loan thus issued under the terms of this agreement has consequently risen from S.Fr. 100 million to 110 million.

The issue of this second instalment will enable India to purchase Swiss production goods required for the fulfilment of her development projects. (OSEC)