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A SWISS INVENTION SIMPLIFIES THE STUDY OF MUSIC

The reputation of Swiss scientists for inventiveness is firmly established. Many of them have won awards abroad, in particular at the last International Inventors Salon in Brussels. At this Salon, a gold medal was awarded for a system simplifying the reading of musical scores. It consists of two appliances, a Metrophone, designed for beginners, and a Directophone based on the same principle but for advanced students. In this system, each note is designated by a number appearing on a tablature fixed above the piano keyboard or on the finger-board or stops of a string instrument. On a special musical score the traditional symbols for the notes are replaced by dashes placed at a height corresponding to the number of the note to be played, their length being proportional to the time for which the note is to be held. As each note approaches a graduated scale the student sees at a glance the number of the note, the exact moment at which he must play it and the time for which it is to be held. In the instrument for beginners, it is the scale that moves from left to right over the score, at a steady adjustable pace, while in the model for advanced students, the complete score unwinds in front of the musician's eyes. This interesting invention is completed by the Prestidactyl, a device similar to a mechanotherapeutical apparatus and intended to increase the speed and independence of musicians' fingers.

[O.S.E.C.]

A SWISS SCIENTIST WINS A FOREIGN AWARD

The research into the properties of galvanic deposits carried out at the Swiss Laboratory of Horological Research in Neuchâtel and at Neuchâtel University has caught the attention of the scientific world. Many industries all over the world have also shown an interest in this work, whether in the field of surface protection, mechanical, physical or chemical properties, the adherence of the deposit, the appearance of the objects treated, the methods to be used, etc. A young Swiss physicist, Mr. Eric-M. Hofer of St. Imier, recently won the Francis Mills Turner award, which the United States Electrochemical Society awards each year to a young scientist for work carried out in the field of electrochemistry. The young Swiss scientist was selected for this year's award on the strength of his Ph. D. thesis on the radiocrystallographic study of galvanic deposits and catalysers by the analysis of the diffraction lines. It is interesting to note that after his studies in Neuchâtel, Mr. Hofer, who has specialised in research into the problems of galvanic deposits, spent two years carrying out further research in the United States, where in 1965 the Journal of the Electrochemical Society published two of his reports on the structure of copper deposits and their analysis.

[O.S.E.C.]

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