

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

**Band:** - (1973)

**Heft:** 1669-1670

**Rubrik:** Technical items

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

**Download PDF:** 14.05.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

# TECHNICAL ITEMS

## IN SWITZERLAND, GAINFULLY EMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE MINORITY

In Switzerland, there are more people without a lucrative activity than there are with. During the twenty years from 1950 to 1970, the growth in the working population was less than that of the total resident population. In 1970 47.9% of the whole of the population was gainfully employed, compared with 49.3% in 1960 and 49.8% in 1950. This means that there are 1,086 persons without a profession for every 1,000 persons with. The proportion of non-working inhabitants is higher still if only Swiss nationals are taken into consideration: for every 1,000 employed Swiss the number of Swiss without a professional activity increased from 1,040 in 1950 to 1,210 in 1970.

## SWISS MEDICINES IN THE WESTERN WORLD

In 1972, Switzerland exported 1,342 billion francs' worth of pharmaceutical products, of which 299.5 million francs' worth was accounted for by vitamins, provitamins, hormones, antibiotics, etc., and 1,043 million francs' worth by medicines ready for use. A recent survey, based on OECD's customs statistics for 1971, shows the part played in international trade by Swiss pharmaceutical products. Switzerland is the biggest foreign supplier of

pharmaceutical products to the following countries: Germany (39% of all imports of pharmaceutical products), Portugal (28.6%), France (26.6%), Finland (18%). Switzerland comes second in the imports of the following countries: Greece (22%), Austria (21%), Norway (18%), Sweden (17.5%), Denmark (17.4%), Italy (13%) and Turkey (12.5%). Swiss pharmaceutical products are third in the imports of Great Britain (14%), Yugoslavia (14%), Iceland (13.6%), Holland (7.8%), Spain (7.1%), Canada (6%), Eire (4.5%). In Japan, Swiss medicines represent 9.6% of pharmaceutical imports and in the United States, with 3% of such imports, Switzerland comes fifth among the supplying countries.

## REDUCED BALANCE SHEET GROWTH OF THE BIG SWISS BANKS

In 1972, most of the big Swiss banks showed a marked slowing up in the growth of their balance sheets. The Union Bank of Switzerland's balance sheet total rose by 7% (1971: 26%) to Fr. 40.7 billion, that of the Swiss Bank Corporation also by 7% (28%) to Fr. 38.6 billion and that of the Swiss Credit Bank by only 2% (11%) to 31.7 billion francs. On the other hand, the balance sheet total of the Swiss Volksbank increased 14% (14%) to 8.6 billion and that of the Leu Bank 15% (10%) to 1.8 billion. The average growth of the 45 cantonal, regional and savings banks whose results

for 1972 have already been published amounted to a little over 11%. The relatively weaker growth in total assets of the three big banks is mainly due to the international currency crises, which seriously affected the foreign business of these banks. The domestic credit operations of the cantonal, regional and savings banks have also increased at a much stronger rate than those of the three big banks.

## THE SWISS ALMOST AS RICH AS THE AMERICANS

According to the gross national product per head of the population, the Swiss during the last three years have not only outdistanced Canada and Sweden and jumped from fourth to second place, but have also become as rich as the Americans. The German daily newspaper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* published a table showing that in 1960 Switzerland's gross national product per head of the population amounted to 62% of the United States' level and to 63.1% in 1970, making Switzerland fourth among all countries. But during the last three years, notable for their recurring currency crises, Switzerland has made a great leap forward: her gross national product per head of the population is almost equal to that of the Americans, now amounting to 98.8% of their figure. Switzerland now comes second. West Germany has risen from eighth place in 1960 (48% of the American gross

For the practical  
fastening of  
practically anything...  
use Velcro.

Velcro, the unique touch-and-close fastener that's the most useful addition to the work basket since the needle.

Available in  $\frac{5}{8}$ " and  $\frac{7}{8}$ " widths and 14 colours.

Ask for free sample and our 'Velcro' ideas booklet, full of exciting uses for this versatile fastener.

**VELCRO®**  
touch and close fastener



Sole U.K. manufacturers  
**Selectus Limited**, BIDDULPH, Stoke-on-Trent.  
Telephone Stoke on Trent 513316 (STD 0782)

Serve delicious  
**ST. GALL**  
RAVIOLI or CANNELLONI



These famous quality foods from St. Gall, are a meal in themselves. Simply heat for 15 minutes and they are ready. Buy them from your local supermarket and grocer.

Also from the Swiss Centre, Leicester Square, London W1.

national product) to third in 1973 (93.5%); Austria from 12th (34.2%) to tenth (62.3%); Japan from 14th (18.2%) to 12th (54.3%), while Great Britain has fallen from seventh place (51.3%) to 13th (42.8%) and Canada from third (65.3%) to sixth (75.1%). These figures should however be viewed with a certain caution, the calculations being somewhat distorted by variations in the rates of exchange.

#### A "EUROSTAR" FOR A SWISS FIRM

A Swiss firm, the Klausfelder Graphic Arts Co. at Vevey (Vaud, Switzerland) has just been awarded a "Eurostar" at the prizegiving ceremony of the European Packaging Competition. A "Eurostar" is the top award bestowed on packaging with characteristics that have been considered particularly effective by the jury composed of representatives of nine countries. It is more than nine years since a Swiss firm last won this distinction. The award-winning packaging is the Tobler chocolate factory's "Grisettes" chocolate box, which is printed in four colours with bronze-gold and embossed work on Cellchromo carton. The packaging is laminated and a sheet of polypropylene film is used for a window allowing the product inside to be seen. It should be mentioned that, particularly struck by this original production, the jury of the Swiss Packaging Competition had already awarded it an Oscar.

#### FOR WINE-LOVERS, THE "VINOMETER"

Connoisseurs are well aware that

wine should be drunk at a certain temperature; a few degrees over or under are enough to affect the bouquet of a great wine. Thanks to the "Vinometer" designed and made by a measuring instruments factory at Crissier (Vaud, Switzerland), it is now a simple matter to serve every wine at its optimum temperature. This bi-metallic wine thermometer is very easy to use; all one has to do, after removing the cork from the bottle, is to insert the end of the "Vinometer" into the neck until it comes in direct contact with the wine, and compare the temperature indicated on the dial with the optimum temperature suggested on the side of the instrument for the wine to be drunk. If the wine is too cool, the bottle must be placed in a warm room, and if it is too warm, in a bucket filled with ice or cold water until the temperature is exactly right. This instrument, which is presented in an attractive gift wrapping, will delight all wine-lovers.

#### SULZER TAKES PART IN THE CONVERSION OF A CANADIAN HEAVY WATER PLANT

The Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) heavy water plant at Glace Bay (Nova Scotia, Canada), at present undergoing transformation, will shortly be put into service again. The Swiss firm of Sulzer Bros. Co. Ltd. (Winterthur, Zurich) has been commissioned by Canatom Mon-Max, Montreal, to supply the jackets with sets of Sulzer linings for the final stages of the heavy water distillation columns, which are to be installed in towers about 6½ ft.

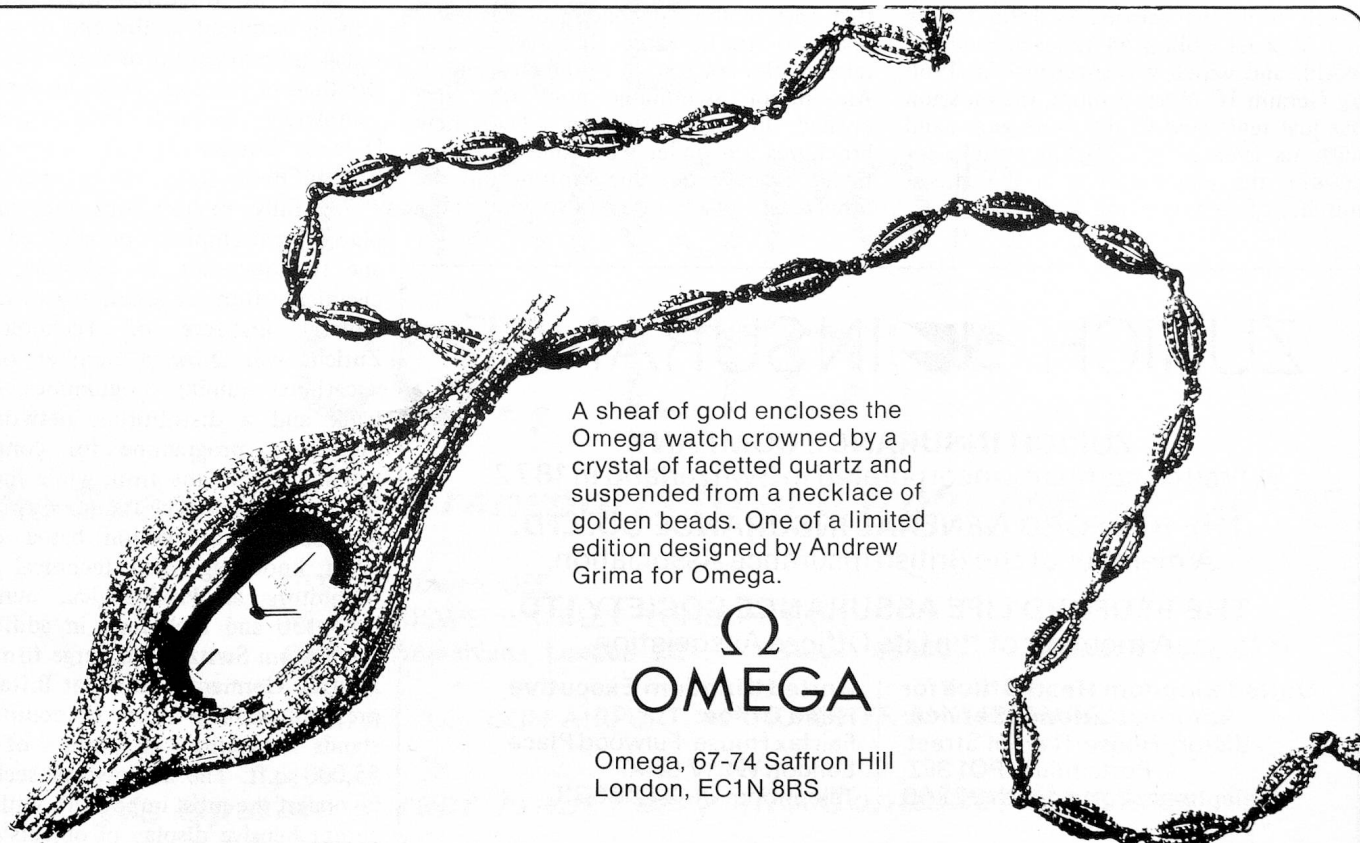
in diameter and 180 ft. high. The annual output is about 400 tons of heavy water, which will be used for various nuclear power stations. After searching trials, AECL reached the conclusion that the Sulzer lining makes it possible to reduce the number of distillation columns from five to two. As the towers contain large quantities of heavy water, costing about 60,000 dollars a ton, this reduction in the number of columns required will result in large savings.

#### WANTED

Retired lady, widow or married couple to take charge of house and two teenage daughters when parents are occasionally away on business trips. Must be dog and country lovers. Hertfordshire.  
Phone Potters Bar 56747.

#### MALLORCA

A three double-bedroom apartment, in new 1973 luxury block, with bath and shower rooms, immediately on the sea, facing South onto the Mediterranean; for long or short lets, cheap flights available. Please write, stating period and dates interested, to BOX No. 2.



A sheaf of gold encloses the Omega watch crowned by a crystal of faceted quartz and suspended from a necklace of golden beads. One of a limited edition designed by Andrew Grima for Omega.

**Ω  
OMEGA**

Omega, 67-74 Saffron Hill  
London, EC1N 8RS