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NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND



FIRST HELICOPTER WAS SWISS

Switzerland numbers several pioneers in the field of flying. It was a Swiss watchmaker, Jacob Degen, for example, who between 1806 and 1817 made the first practical trials with a flying machine with flapping wings, propelled by muscular force. Others like Bocklin, Segantini and Steiger-Kirchhofer worked on the same problem along different lines. But the first helicopter in the world was built in Geneva. This machine, the work of the brothers Henri and Armand Dufaux, was driven by a petrol engine weighing just under 10 lb. It can still be seen today in a Paris museum.

VETERINARY SURGEONS IN SWITZERLAND

Today there are 732 veterinary surgeons practising in Switzerland, 62 of them being women; in addition to these there are 202 "vets" employed in official positions, as for example in meat inspection, the fight against epizootic disease, the army veterinary department, agriculture or scientific institutes. The Swiss Veterinary Surgeons' Society recently celebrated the 150th anniversary of its foundation. (OSEC)

HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL OPENS

On January 30th in Geneva, 400 new hotel rooms with private bath became available, as a result of the opening of the new 18-storey Hotel Intercontinental. Largest hotel in Switzerland, the Intercontinental also contains many suites as well as halls to house all manner of functions.

THERMAL SNOW-MELTERS INTRODUCED

Presto-chango! Snow becomes water, thanks to the action of the Heinkel Thermal Snow-melter just introduced in Davos. Highway engineers, civil authorities and members of the press gathered at the Fluela Pass to watch five tons of snow being melted down in only half an hour. This technique holds out promise of substantial reduction in snow removal costs in urban areas, since it makes snow-ploughs and trucks unnecessary. The snow is simply melted on the spot, and the resulting water runs off through normal drainage channels.

● RECIPE

Roll out one packet feather flake pastry to $\frac{1}{8}$ th inch thickness. Chop finely a medium onion and grate $\frac{1}{4}$ lb mild cheese. Cut into small cubes a few slices sausage, ham or any other left over meat, add pinch of salt. Mix all together and spread on to pastry. Roll up tightly, chill for a short while and slice into $\frac{1}{4}$ inch slices. Bake in a hot oven till nicely brown. Equally nice hot or cold. —L.O.