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The 1968 **honey** production amounted to 19kg. per hive in the German-speaking part of the country. Only once this century was that quantity surpassed, viz. in 1918 by 0.7 kg.

The Swiss **chocolate** industry employed nearly 6000 people in 1967, and output totalled 128 million lbs of chocolate products. Three years before, production reached only 118m. lbs for a total number of 7063 employees. Thus, output increased by 8%, whilst manpower decreased by 16%.

The latest figures regarding alcohol consumption in Switzerland over the last five years are as follows: annually 121.7 litres **per capita** (1956-60: 112.3) of fermented beverages, 37.1 (34.9) litres of wine, 11.0 (17.3) litres of fruit wine, 73.6 (60.1) litres of beer and 4.46 (3.51) litres of spirits. Champagne exports from France to Switzerland last year totalled 15 bottles per 100 inhabitants. Switzerland is in second place as champagne consumer, behind Belgium, but before Great Britain and U.S.A., though in 6th place with regard to French champagne imports. behind Great Britain, U.S.A., Italy, Belgium and Western Germany.

(Agence Telegraphique Suisse and O.S.E.C.)

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—I am rather intrigued at the thought of new New Zealanders following too closely Hedy's suggested table etiquette (Helvetia, June 1969) — "what can be eaten with a fork only must not have the assistance of the knife". It would take a great deal of practice and patience to eat our Kiwi meals with only an "upside-down" fork and also to eat all manageable sweets with a fork only.

I have always thought myself an average New Zealander but have yet to eat a dinner in this manner in New Zealand. In fact the custom of eating "one-handed" at table is much more prevalent in Switzerland. Also my "average" New Zealand friends eat their sweets with a spoon and fork, although in a number of New Zealand homes only the spoon is used.

Whether one eats with a knife and fork or fork only is surely a matter for personal preference, except of course at a formal dinner where one should use the cutlery provided.

The only important difference I have found between New Zealand and Swiss table etiquette is in the eating of soup. Whereas in Switzerland the oval spoon is drawn through the soup towards one and is eaten from the end of the spoon, in New Zealand the spoon is pushed through the soup away from one and is then eaten from the side of the round spoon.

Good luck to Hedy, to everyone who makes "Helvetia" such enjoyable reading and all new Swiss Kiwis.

Mrs F. D. Bächler, Auckland.