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dency of the stamp exhibition (IMABA) which will take place in 1948 in Basle under the auspices of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie." [A.T.S.]

In spite of the alarming increase of motor accidents in Switzerland, caused by reckless driving, sentences passed by various Courts are ridiculously low.

A motor-cyclist who at an excessive speed and with faulty brakes ran into a cyclist killing him, was condemned by a Bernese Court, to two months imprisonment on probation (!).

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60 years): Mr. and Mrs. E. Längin-Grether, Muttentz, Mr. and Mrs. P. Seiler-Schilt, Bönigen; Mr. and Mrs. K. Schwyter-Ruoss, Galgenen nr. Siebnen; Mr. and Mrs. Ruffieux, Crésuz; Mr. and Mrs. Sprenger-Bollinger, Neftanbach. [A.T.S.]

The University of Lausanne has just honoured a remarkable lady by conferring upon Sister Julia Hofmann the degree of doctor, *honoris causa*. In a smaller way Sister Hofmann has been a Dr. Barnardo of Switzerland. Her work began in 1899, when she took into her home two destitute children. It was a spontaneous action prompted by pity without any thought of what the future held in store for her. But neighbours were aware what she had done: soon it was common gossip that there was in their midst a lady who cared for poor, sick children. Other children were brought to her and succoured. Larger, and still larger quarters became necessary. Then a home was built for these abandoned children, but more opportunities

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came her way. There followed a home for women and then a home for men. To-day "Ebenezer," as the institution is called, cares for three hundred men, women and children. Hundreds have been rescued and transformed by the love and labour of Sister Hofmann, now in her eightieth year. Funds have been provided by friends and well-wishers, and so the work has been maintained. Now the time has come, greatly to her sorrow, for her to pass the work to other hands, but not before the University has given testimony to the appreciation of the Swiss people.

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THE SWISS MINISTER'S JOURNEY TO INDIA.

As already mentioned in the English Press, Monsieur Paul Ruegger has left London for India.

The following *communiqué* concerning the Minister's journey has been published in Berne:—

"Le 8 octobre 1947, l'Assemblée Fédérale a donné son approbation au message du Conseil Fédéral proposant l'établissement de représentations diplomatiques suisses auprès de l'Inde et du Pakistan, du Royaume de Siam et d'autres Etats voisins.

Cette décision de l'Assemblée Fédérale pourra prendre effet le 14 janvier 1948, lorsque le délai de référendu facultatif, prévu par la Constitution, aura expiré.

A la suite des contacts préliminaires entre le Gouvernement Fédéral et le Gouvernement de l'Inde et au cours desquels M. Krishna Menon, actuellement Haut-Commissaire de l'Inde à Londres, a été reçu en février dernier à Berne, le Conseil Fédéral a autorisé et chargé M. Paul Ruegger, Ministre de Suisse, de se rendre dans la seconde moitié de décembre, pour une mission spéciale, à la Nouvelle Delhi pour préparer l'établissement de rapports diplomatiques futurs et en vue de développer les relations d'amitié entre les deux Pays. Cette décision répond à une invitation adressée au Ministre Ruegger, par l'entremise du Haut-Commissaire de l'Inde à Londres, de la part du Gouvernement de l'Inde.

Il est prévu que le Ministre Ruegger étendra sa mission spéciale aussi au Dominion du Pakistan. Son absence de Londres sera de quelques semaines."