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CANCER TREATMENT BY ELECTRON THERAPY

Asklepitron 35, the first medical Betatron, for the treatment of cancer to be installed in England completed commissioning and was handed over to the Radio Therapy Department of St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford, Surrey, on 28th June 1967.

The machine was ordered by the Betatron Cancer Trust which raised money by voluntary contributions to erect a special building to house the Betatron and pay for the machine and ancillary equipment. The building was opened by HRH Princess Alexandra and dedicated by the Bishop of Guildford early in May.

The Regional Hospital Board accepted the installation as a gift from the Trust, and the Ministry of Health have now ordered another Asklepitron 35 for the University Hospital Bristol.

There are more than 30 installed throughout the world, in Switzerland, where they were developed and manufactured by Brown, Boveri & Company, Limited, Baden, in France, Belgium, Austria, Italy, Yugoslavia, West Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Hongkong, Canada and USA. The last Betatron to be delivered is now being erected in Peking, China.

Due to the success of these Betatrons, Brown Boveri are developing a higher powered machine to give 45 MeV for even wider applications than the 35 MeV.

The Betatron can also be arranged to give two parallel beams for radiography of steel castings or other heavy engineering materials. One of these has been in use at the Steel Foundry of F. H. Lloyd & Company Ltd., Wednesbury, for the past four years, while five others are in operation in various parts of the world.

DO YOU KNOW THAT . . .

. . . 295,694 persons were examined by medical officers at the Swiss frontier last year; and that of these 116 had to be sent back because they suffered from Syphilis and 545 (1965 : 835) of TB.

. . . the Federal Health Office examined 16,105 litres of vaccine and 8,784 litres of serum last year.

. . . the newly formed Toxicological Information Centre of the Swiss Society of Apothecaries examined its 3,493rd case exactly a year after opening its 24-hour service. It is used by doctors, the Army chemists, etc., and private individuals, of these a large majority are children who have been poisoned.

. . . the Swiss tobacco harvest 1966 resulted in 18,000 *Doppelzentner*; not quite half of it came from the Broye Valley, one-fifth from the Rhone Valley and 15% from the Ticino.

. . . the Swiss cigarette industry produced 15,605 million cigarettes in 1966, as against 19,073 in the previous year. In 1955, the total production reached only 8,387m. and five years later 10,909 million. 2,350 people are employed in this industry, and output per worker has been nearly trebled since 1955.

. . . 455,000 tons of paper and 175,000 tons of cardboard were produced in Switzerland in 1966. Since the lowering of EFTA customs tariffs, import has increased by 400%.

. . . the number of motor vehicles in Switzerland increased by 7% in 1966. The total number is 1,300,521, of these 1,007,000 are private motorcars. The number of motorcycles and scooters have gone down again.

. . . according to a survey made by "Blick", Switzerland's popular "rag", over half of the Swiss population

spend their holidays at home, 31% of these in the Ticino. Only 1% apparently cannot afford any holiday at all.

. . . the Swiss population spent 17.49 francs *per capita* on lotteries in 1966 (16.25 in 1965). In the Canton of Vaud alone, 185 lotteries were licensed. The Canton of Berne comes second and Geneva third. It must be remembered, however, that two national lotteries have their seats in Lausanne and Berne respectively. Of the total lottery sum of 105m. francs, 68m. were used on "sport — toto games".

. . . the Swiss deep-freeze consumption increased by 5.7% in 1966, to a total of 34,678,000kg. of 5.8kg. per hear of population. Thus Switzerland is still in second place in Europe behind Sweden with a *per capita* consumption of 9.1kg., next Denmark with 5.4 and Great Britain with 4.7kg. In USA, however, 27kg. of deep frozen food is consumed per person.

. . . the winegrowing area in Switzerland was increased by 53 ha to 11,902 ha in 1966. More red wine and less white wine was grown: over 302,000hl. red and nearly 530,000hl. of white wine were produced. In addition, nearly 1½ million litres of wine in barrels and 12,288kg. of bottled wine were imported. Nearly 830,000kg. of Swiss wine in bottles and nearly 224,000hl. in barrels were exported.

. . . the Swiss Federation of Master Butchers numbers 3,563 members.

. . . 16.98 million litres of ice cream were consumed in Switzerland in 1966, an increase of 25.55% as compared in 1965.

. . . every Swiss used an average of 3,820 kwh of electricity in the last hydrographic year (1.10.65-30.9.66). This is 1.3% more than in the previous year. Thus Switzerland is in first place ahead of Germany, France and Italy. The biggest increase was registered in agriculture, where there is still scope for electrification.

[A.T.S.]

NEW HOLIDAY VILLAGE ON LAKE LUCERNE

Next November, at the Western end of the town of Brunnen on the Lake of Lucerne, construction will begin on a large tract of land which will eventually house a new holiday village designed by the Basle architect Karl Poka. The project will include 150 one-family homes of various size, 16-two-family units, several multiple dwellings, and a 22-storey structure which will front on the lake and will contain 130 privately owned apartments.

[S.N.T.O.]

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