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## The clash of needles



First price, white cossack blouse with orange trimmings, mittens and bonnet to match



A price winning-model : reversible ski-jacket



Junior price : orange and black pull-over  
Photos Max Roth, Zurich

The Swiss are often heard to say that knitting is one of their national sports. We do not know whether other nations make the same claim, but there is no denying that there is certainly a grain of truth in the saying. Actually Switzerland played quite an important role in the development of hand-knitting because it was this country that first had the idea of knitting stockings on five needles instead of two ; the first fully-fashioned stockings were put on the market here in 1560 ! At this early date knitting was an essentially masculine occupation. Even today there are men who knit, because they like to, for lack of something better to do or quite simply as a means of relaxation, and to judge by the results they do not do so badly : a man won second prize at the last Swiss hand-knitting competition organised jointly by the Zurich

office of the *International Wool Secretariat* and the *Swiss Wool Textile Association*.

1633 entries were submitted for this competition, 173 of which were awarded prizes. The two organisations responsible for the contest showed the prize-winning garments to the press at a fashion parade held at the beginning of February in the Silvretta Hotel at Klosters, the well-known winter-sports resort. The work entered for the contest was of a very high standard, which would seem to confirm our opening claim. During the show those present were also shown a certain number of professional models made by knitting wool manufacturers, some of which we reproduce here alongside the prize-winning models.

Trio wool model, Wälti & Stettler, Burgdorf

Trio wool model, Wälti & Stettler, Burgdorf

Photos Brenk, Bâle

