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G. E. DE BRUNNER †.

As briefly mentioned in our last issue, Mr. G. E. De Brunner, passed away on April 21st, at Orselina, above Locarno, where he was convalescing from a serious illness.

The Swiss Colony in London has suffered a grievous loss by the death of our friend, who, for over a half century, played a conspicuous rôle in the life of the Colony.

Mr. G. E. De Brunner, was born on January 23rd, 1878, at Strohwillen (Ct. Thurgau); before he was 20 years old he came to London, where he obtained a post with the well-known firm, Paul Walser & Co. Ltd., of "Reslaw" fame.

In 1904, he took over the management of the Employment Department of the Swiss Mercantile Society in London, which post he occupied for five years (1909). Whilst holding this office he placed many hundreds of young Swiss in commercial houses all over England.

He then became connected with the Investment Registry Ltd., which firm he left during the first world war to enter the Syndicate Publishing Co. Ltd. (Publishers of Dictionaries and Educational works) and shortly afterwards he started his own firm under the name of De Brunner, Lang-Sims, manufacturing Electric Boiling plates. He held the leading position in this firm until his retirement a few years ago, when he bought an old English mansion, "Abbey Hall" at Winchester, and ran it as a private Hotel.

G. E. De Brunner was a great worker, and in the

real sense of the word, a self-made man. Retirement did not agree with him, he sold the hotel at Winchester, and at the age of nearly 70, he started in 1947, building a factory in Weymouth, under the name again of De Brunner & Lang-Sims, manufacturing Electric Boiling plates. Owing to labour trouble and shortage of building materials, etc., he encountered great difficulties and the worries connected with it sapped his strength, and for the last two years he became a sick man.

On the 26th of April he was cremated at Lugano, and according to his wishes, his ashes were scattered on the Rutli, the birthplace of our country, by his eldest son Stanley. G. E. De Brunner was a great patriot, who loved his native land dearly and no better place could have been found to dispose of his earthly remains. He leaves behind two sons and a daughter (his wife having died some years ago) to whom we extend our deepest sympathy in their loss.

* * *

A very active business life did not prevent him from taking a great interest in the life of the Swiss Colony in London. In 1897, he entered the Swiss Mercantile Society, section of the S.K.V., and after having been a member of the Committee of this Society for a number of years, he became President in 1899, and again from 1902-1904. In 1918, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Swiss Mercantile Society he was elected an Honorary Member of the London section for the great services he had rendered them, and when the Society became a Limited Company by Guarantee, he was nominated a Trustee; in this capacity, thanks to his experience and organising talents, he became one of the pillars of the Society. Later on he was again elected President of the S.M.S.

Although his main interest was devoted to the Swiss Mercantile Society, he occupied himself also with the work of other Societies. G. E. De Brunner, was one of the Founder's and first President of the Swiss Rifle Association and for many years, he was a generous supporter of the Swiss Benevolent Society and the Union Helvetia Club.

A life rich in achievements and service to the Swiss Colony in particular and our country in general, has thus come to its close, and all those, who have known our friend will keep him in grateful remembrance.

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