

Rudolph Alfred Bebie †

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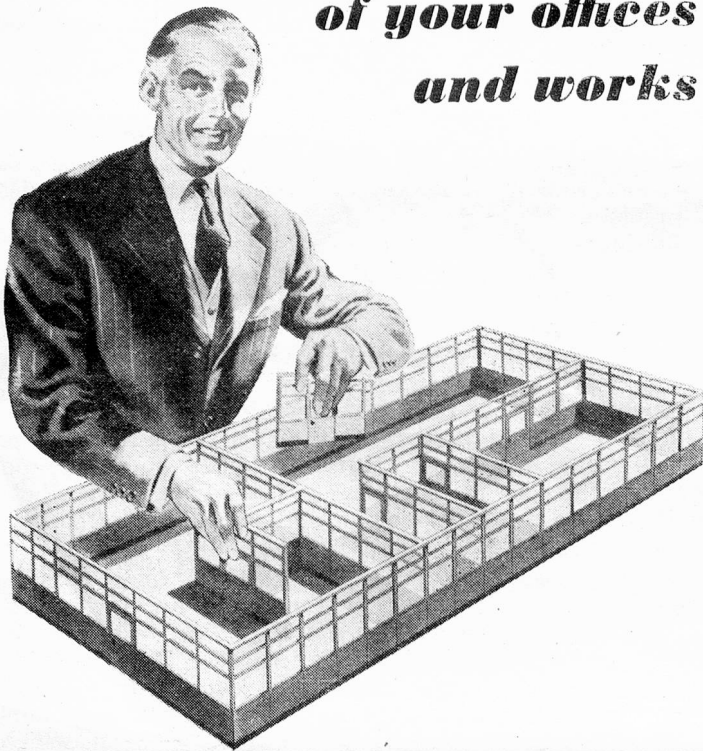
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RUDOLH ALFRED BEBIÉ †

Alfred Bebié, doyen of the Swiss Club Manchester, not by his age — he was only 76 — but by years of membership, died on Thursday 6th September at his home in Manchester.

To the Swiss Club and the Swiss Relief Society in Manchester the loss is irreparable. In Alfred Bebié we had an indefatigable worker; his guidance and advice was always sought for and proved invaluable.

He joined the Swiss Club Manchester in 1903, immediately on arriving in this country. In 1904 already he was elected to the Committee of the Swiss Club as Hon. Secretary and in 1910 and 1911 as Hon. Treasurer. But it is his work for the Swiss Relief Society that has been the touchstone of his unstinted collaboration. For the last twenty years and possibly even a little longer, he has, as Hon. Treasurer, carried the whole burden of the society. Only his failing health at the end of last year forced him to relinquish this work.

As to his character and disposition Alfred Bebié was the most pleasant companion. His prodigious sense of humour and his friendly approach made him a great favourite at all our social gatherings and if we add to this a great skill at "Jass" — of which he was our champion at several tournaments — we can visualize his great popularity in the Swiss Colony in Manchester.

Belonging to a family who came into Switzerland during the 15th. century at the same time as the Pestalozzis, the Orellis and the Muraltis, and who were instrumental in introducing the Silk Industry into Switzerland, he himself started life in Zürich where he went to the Gymnasium (Grammar School) at the Rämistrasse and in 1897 went through an apprenticeship at the firm of Steiner Hegerle & Co. after spending two years at the "Institut Delessert" at Lucens in Canton Vaud. From Steiner Hegerle & Co. he left for Lyons where he stayed two years learning all about the silk industry at the firm J. Rémond & Cie. Then in January 1903 he came to England to Messrs. Spinner Linton & Co. as Department Manager. When Spinner Linton & Co. reduced staff he joined the firm of E. Spinner & Co. with whom he joined forces until 1946 when conditions arising from the war caused the firm to close down his department (India). He then joined the staff of H. Monney and there, with Frederic Meyer also in the same suite of offices, made "Les Trois Suisses" of No. 5 Beaver Street, for many years a centre of Swiss Social activities in Manchester.

Alfred Bebié leaves a widow, two daughters, both married and a grandson. To them we extend our deepest sympathy.

H.M.