

Alfred Renou †

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ALFRED RENOU †

The stormy petrel is dead and the Colony will never be quite the same again.

Alfred Renou came to this country in 1920 and was the owner and managing director of Buser & Company, a very important representative of the Swiss knitwear industry. He was the founder and president of the Confrérie Vaudoise, honorary secretary and later president of the Swiss Economic Council, for many years president of the Fête Suisse, and our Colony's chief representative at the French Hospital. He represented the Swiss Boy Scouts Association in Great Britain, and at the beginning of the war worked hard for the establishment of a Swiss centre for bombed-out compatriots. He took an active part in the Swiss Church and led the appeal for funds in Switzerland on the occasion of the bi-centenary in May 1962. He was actively associated with the creation of a Swiss centre in London.

On 31st December 1962 this dynamic personality closed his eyes for ever. We all knew Renou. Like all of us he made both friends and enemies, but all of us admired and envied his boundless energy, his enthusiasm and tenacity of purpose whenever he devoted himself to a new deal. Yes, the man was full of ideals and strove with all his might to realize them within the limits of his powers, never counting the cost, be it in time or energy or money. Not only our Colony, not only our country, but the world at large needs people with such inexhaustible vitality. He was intensely patriotic and, like all true Vaudois, was gifted with acute perception and quick repartee. It was a delight to listen to his speeches, even when he attacked you; they were clear, decisive and to the point. He was at his best when addressing the Colony at a Fête Suisse, using fluently all our

national languages. Nor must we forget his talent as a *raconteur* and the gay laughter of this man who loved life.

Many of us knew Alfred Renou for up to forty years, yet few were his intimates. I was granted a moment of deeper insight into his personality the first time I met him again after his illness a couple of years ago. There was a hurt look in those usually sparkling and flashing eyes — a look of non-comprehension. He had had a heart attack and been told to go slow. He could not grasp the fact that he was getting on in years and that his body, which up to then had been the perfect servant of his stormy temperament, could refuse to give any longer that uncomplaining service which he had demanded of it.

The memorial service took place on Friday, 4th January, at our church in Endell Street, and Renou's ashes have been interred at Clarens on the shores of his beloved Lac Léman. The stormy petrel has found peace.

E.M.Bi.

PERSONAL

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mrs. Charlotte Louise Smith, *née* Zeerleder, of 18 Stafford Place, London S.W.1.

We also have to inform our readers with deep regret of the death of Mr. J. Tache, of 12 Wakefield Road, Brighton, Sussex.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to both the bereaved families.

* * *

Mrs. A. Renou would like to express her warmest thanks for all the floral tributes and kind letters of condolence in her sad bereavement. Owing to her recent eye operation she is unable to write personally at this stage.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on 8th February. We shall be glad to receive manuscripts or news items for publication by Wednesday, 30th January.