

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1952)
Heft: 1182

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F. von BERGEN. †

We deeply regret to announce the passing away, on May 17th, at his home "St. Pierre", 7, Berceau Walk, Watford, of Mr. F. von Bergen.

Our departed friend was for many years a well-known personality in the London Swiss Colony.

Who, amongst our readers, does not remember his appearance year after year, on the concert platform on the occasion of the "Fête Suisse" or the 1st of August celebrations, dressed in his "Mälcherchuttli" singing and yodling some of our treasured folk-lore songs.

Mr. von Bergen was a gifted singer with a pleasant voice and a fine technique. Apart from appearing as a soloist at many social functions in the Colony, he was an appreciated member of the London Philharmonic and B.B.C. choirs. In fact, gardening and singing were his hobbies, and by the latter he has given much joy to untold listeners and for this he greatly deserves to be kept in grateful remembrance.

He was born on the 27th of September, 1887, in Bienne (Ct. Berne). After his schooling he entered an apprenticeship with the "Vereinigte Drahtwerke" in his native town, and afterwards took up a position with the "Bernische Kraftwerke". Having served in the Swiss army, where he reached the rank of lieutenant, he came to this country in 1908. On having been employed in various commercial concerns and in the offices of the College of the Swiss Mercantile Society, he obtained in 1937, a position with the Omega Company in London as a book-keeper and accountant.

In January, 1949, he unfortunately suffered a stroke which left him partly paralyzed and from this date onward ill-health mercilessly pursued him. In spite of his disability he bore his illness with courage and fortitude, and his cheerfulness during the most trying times was a constant comfort to those nearest and dearest to him. More than once he expressed to the writer his appreciation for the many kindnesses he had received from his employers and friends during his long illness.

Mr. von Bergen leaves a widow, a married son, who is on the staff of the Standard Telephones & Cables Ltd., a daughter who is reading medicine at Newnham College, Cambridge, and a brother in London, to whom we tender our most sincere condolences in their sad bereavement.

During his long residence in this country, he made many friends, who enjoyed his always cheerful company, and who will keep him in affectionate remembrance.

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OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, June 13th, 1952. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and most helpful donations over and above their subscription: A. W. Sommer, P. Lambert, H. Hofstetter, Giron Frères, Miss H. Buchmann, C. Aeschmann, H. Andrea, H. Pfirter, E. A. Grau, G. Ashley, J. J. Boos.

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