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RETIREMENT OF J. J. SCHNEIDER.

After 22 years of faithful service, Mr. J. J. Schneider, F.I.A.C., retired from the post of Secretary of the Swiss Mercantile Society at the end of December.

Mr. Schneider first came to this country in 1905 and for many years was principal of a cane furniture factory. However, this line went out of vogue in the late 'twenties and forced him to liquidate what had once been a successful business.

In 1930, Mr. Schneider was elected Secretary of the Swiss Mercantile Society at an Extraordinary General Meeting. It was at a time when the Society had passed through a somewhat turbulent period which brought about a complete reorganisation. This resulted in the formation of a Company Limited by Guarantee in 1931, of which Mr. Schneider was appointed Secretary.

During the ensuing years, he devoted his full energy to the ever increasing administrative work of the College which showed a remarkable growth and became even more popular. He introduced many new features such as the College Magazine which, with his artistic flair he adorned with an attractive crest. This was also adopted for the College badge which was worn by hundreds of students who formed themselves into language clubs upon returning to Switzerland. It is in fact in use again to-day.

Soon after the outbreak of war in 1939, the College had to close its portals and the activities of the Society were reduced to occasional meetings. Mr. Schneider carried on the secretarial work on a part time basis

and it speaks well for the organisation that the College was able to re-open soon after the cessation of hostilities, although on a somewhat reduced scale. It has since gone from strength to strength and the experience gained in years has been of great benefit.

As ever, Mr. Schneider was imbued with a spirit of enthusiastic optimism, despite his advancing years. Together with the Principal, Mr. C. Slade, M.A., he compiled a book on British Commerce which was adopted as one of the official text books of the College.

Unfortunately, towards the end of 1951, Mr. Schneider had to undergo two operations from which he appeared to have recovered when he contracted a comparatively rare germ during his summer holidays last year. This resulted in a prolonged illness which, alas, brought his career to an earlier end than he would have wished.

Apart from the S.M.S., Mr. Schneider is a member of several other Swiss societies and has always taken a keen interest in the activities of the Colony. All his many friends will join me in wishing him many years of well deserved rest after a long and fruitful career. Ad multos annos!

WB.

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