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## NEWS FROM THE COLONY.



THEO RITTER.  
80 Years old

On Friday, July 19th, Mr. Theo Ritter, of 61 Cheverton Road, N.19, will celebrate his 80th birthday, and we are extending to him now our heartiest congratulations coupled with the sincere wish that he may remain with us in perfect health for many more years to come.

Mr. Ritter has for many years played a conspicuous part in the life of the London Swiss Colony, and his long and faithful services rendered to the Swiss Benevolent Society will always be remembered with gratitude.

The "Jubilar" was born in Biel and was the youngest of a family of seven. When he was still quite young the family moved to Berne, where they lived in the Junkerngasse, from where he attended the Grammar School.



Wishing to improve his knowledge of languages, and to see something of the world, Mr. Ritter secured his first position as a Civil Servant in the French and Italian parts of our country.

In 1900 he decided to spend six months in London in order to learn English. He stayed on as Manager of Messrs. Barkentin & Krall, a firm of metal craftsmen, and it was there that he met Laura, whom he married in 1905. Having meanwhile decided to settle in this country he joined in 1911 the then Swiss Legation, where, during the first world war, he occupied the post of Chancellor under Minister Dr. G. Carlin. On the conclusion of the war he entered the commercial world, first as Manager of Messrs. de Trey & Co. Ltd., and later as Staff Manager the Lep Transport International Shipping Agents.

During most of these years Mr. Ritter had worked in a voluntary capacity for the Swiss Benevolent Society, becoming in due course its Hon. Secretary. In 1932 he was appointed full-time Secretary of this institution, a position from which he retired some three years ago, although his vast experience and knowledge of men and matters remains, as before, at the disposal of the Society for which he had worked so hard and faithfully.

In November 1955 Mr. and Mrs. Ritter celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. They have one married son and a daughter and two grandsons.

We are wishing him a happy and carefree even-tide in the company of his life's faithful partner.

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# Switzerland



ALFRED BRAUEN.

95 Years old.

On Saturday, June 29th, Mr. Alfred Brauen, of "Hill Lodge", Harmer Green, Welwyn, Herts, celebrated his 95th birthday in the intimate circle of his family and friends.

As far as we are aware Mr. Brauen is at present the oldest Swiss living in this country, and we here-with join all those who on this auspicious occasion presented to him their sincere congratulations.

For a great number of years the Doyen of the Colony has played a conspicuous part in the religious life of the Swiss community; his services, however, as will be seen, were not restricted to Swiss affairs, but were rendered also to many institutions both in this country and abroad.

\* \* \*

Mr. Brauen was born at Les Ponts-de-Martels (Ct. Neuchâtel) on June 29th 1862. He was educated in Switzerland and came to this country in 1883, where he has lived ever since.

For about forty years he was connected with the well-known chocolate manufacturing firm of Suchard, S.A., nr. Neuchâtel, as their London representative, and on the termination of his contract carried on a private business in the City of London.

Apart from his very active commercial engagements he took a lively interest in the welfare of young people. For 60 years he has been President of the "Union Chrétienne de langue française", and for 40 years he has served on the committee of the London City Mission. He held the post of President of the "Consistoire" of the "Eglise Suisse", Endell Street, for 20 years. In addition he was closely connected with various orphanages and hospitals.

Mr. Brauen was responsible for the publicity of the famous Torrey-Alexander Mission and for the Centenary celebrations of the British and Foreign Bible Society. With the latter Society, he has served since 1897, and was appointed in 1913 its Vice-President.

During the first world war (1914 to 1918) he was continuously crossing to Switzerland working unceasingly on behalf of British prisoners of war. Mr. Brauen also served for many years on the committees of the Paris mission, and the McCall mission, and in recognition of his work for French nationals he was honoured by the President of the French Republic, who nominated him a "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur", a distinction which he valued very highly.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Colony in Great Britain today honours rightly one of its compatriots, who not only remained faithful to his native land but also to his Master. His untiring and never flagging services for the welfare of young people, for those in distress and needing succour, will for ever secure him an honoured name in the field of humanitarian achievements.

Mr. Alfred Brauen can look back on a useful and active life, rich in fulfilment, and we sincerely hope that a kind Providence will allow him to remain amongst us for several more years to come.

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