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NEWS FROM THE COLONY



E. P. DICK

70 years old

On Wednesday, 25th November, Mr. E. P. Dick, of 39 Hillcourt Court, Belsize Avenue, N.W.3, will celebrate his 70th birthday, and we send him now our heartiest congratulations and best wishes.

During his long séjour in this country (he arrived in London in 1910), he has rendered many conspicuous services to the Colony, which will always be remembered with gratitude. Amongst the many posts which he has held in the various institutions and Societies are:— pianist of the Swiss Institute from 1914 to 1919, organist for three years at the Eglise Suisse at Endell Street. During 1918/19 Mr. Dick was conductor of the "Männerchor Helvetia", which post he vacated to become conductor of the Swiss Institute Orchestra (the name was later changed to Swiss Orchestral Society). This post, which was an honorary one, he filled for thirty-three years; until the orchestra, owing to pecuniary circumstances, ceased to exist. On the occasion of the thirtieth jubilee of the Orchestral Society (1949), a dinner was held in his honour at the Dorchester Hotel, under the chairmanship of the then Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, when tributes were paid to him for his work.

When in 1938, the Swiss Choral Society was revived, he was chosen as its conductor, which post he occupies still, although the Society—which later on changed its name to Swiss Male Choir—has in recent times, owing to lack of younger members, become "dormant".

Apart from the various posts he has occupied at one time or another, he has always taken a great interest in the social life of the Colony, never refusing his collaboration at such patriotic celebrations as the 1st of August, the "Fête Suisse", and many others.

These short biographical notes show that our friend has, apart from his profession (he was a signature holder of the Swiss Bank Corporation, since retired, but still in harness with the Howship Travel Agency) devoted a life time to music.

In a world where waves of cynicism and materialism sweep through the nations of the earth, friend Dick has devoted his spare time to the Arts, in which sphere he has given us so much well worth to be remembered.

The writer, who sat with him on the same "Schulbank" in our home town of Berne, who made, or tried to make music with him in the same school orchestra, is thanking him to-day for many years of friendship, and many golden hours of enjoyment derived from his music making, wishing him, what he would wish himself, that when the hour of parting comes, that he will leave this earthly abode heavenwards, and on "Wings of Song".

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