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CANDIDE BONVIN †

Remorselessly and without mercy, death is causing heavy breaches in the Colony, and thus many a friendship and acquaintance of long standing has been broken.

On Sunday, 11th January, Candide Bonvin, of the Montana Hotel, 67 Gloucester Road, S.W.7, suddenly passed away in his 74th year. Barely a month before his death he attended a social evening of the City Swiss Club, apparently in fair health and good spirit, and everyone thought that he had fully recovered from a serious operation which he underwent some months ago — amputation of his right leg — and which he had borne most courageously. His sudden demise, therefore, came as a great shock to his family and friends.

Candide Bonvin was born on 25th December 1884 at Lens (Ct. Valais), and was educated at the Ecole Normale at Sion, and later underwent training as a school teacher. Like so many of our young compatriots he felt the urge to see the world, and consequently in 1905 came to London, obtaining a position in the hotel trade, in which profession he remained all his life. From 1907 to 1913 he resided successively in Germany, Switzerland and Italy, occupying various posts, amongst them being Restaurant Manager at the Montreux Palace and Grand Hotel Florence.

At the outbreak of the First World War (1914), when he held a position at the Mont Cervin Hotel in Zermatt, he was called up for military service, but a year after was released, and returned to London, where he found employment with Messrs. J. Lyons, obtaining the post of Manager in turn at the Trocadero and the Strand Palace Hotel; he also reopened the Royal Palace Hotel for this concern.

In 1919 Mr. Bonvin purchased a house in Gloucester Road, which in time became the well-known Montana Hotel. In 1932 he was at Whipsnade Zoo, together with his good friend, A. Schorno. Later on he opened the house at Gloucester Road as a hotel, which in 1940 was partly destroyed by bombing, but was reopened two years later. In 1947 he went to live at Sunbury-on-Thames, leaving the management to his son, Mr. E. Bonvin. Eleven years later (1958) the deceased sold his home at Sunbury and returned to the Montana Hotel, undergoing in November of that year the above-mentioned operation.

The departed had a successful career in the hotel profession, and by his ability and cheerfulness made many friends who will sadly miss him. Mr. Bonvin was a member for many years of the Union Helvetia, and he joined the City Swiss Club in 1929. He leaves a widow and a son, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

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The funeral took place on Wednesday, 14th January, at the Golders Green Crematorium. Amongst the numerous mourners were Messieurs J. J. de Tribolet and E. M. Bircher of the Swiss Embassy, and his life-long friends Messrs. Alfred Schmid and A. Schorno.

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