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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

MRS. CLARA MUELLER †

Barely a few weeks have gone by since Miss Olga Müller, the stepdaughter of Mrs. Clara Müller, of 49 Putney Hill, S.W.15, passed away, and now we have the sad duty to announce the death of Mrs. Clara Müller at the age of 84.

Mrs. Müller was the sister of the late F. M. Gamper — who was a well-known personality in the Colony — and was born in Zurich in 1879. She came to this country in 1920, after the death of her husband, and took up a temporary position with Dr. A. Laett, then permanent secretary of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, and in 1923 entered the firm of A. F. Suter & Co. Ltd., Shellac Gum Merchants, of Mark Lane, where she remained for twenty years (1942), later taking over and managing a private hotel in Putney. Unfortunately, for the last four years the departed had been in precarious health, so that death came as a welcome relief.

The deceased was a remarkable woman, who led a very active life up to a ripe old age. No small part of her activities was devoted to the London Swiss Colony. As soon as she arrived in this country she joined the Swiss Institute, in which she became in time a member of the committee. When this Society was wound up, she became a member of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. To this institution she rendered innumerable services, and although she had to earn her living, and bring up a family, she spent every available moment of her spare time working for the benefit of the N.S.H. She was heart and soul in this work, because she was a great patriot, who loved her native land very dearly. The writer well remembers with what enthusiasm she used to talk of her periodical holidays in our country, and especially of her visits to her native town, Zurich. Her long and faithful services to the Nouvelle Société Helvétique were duly acknowledged by conferring on her Honorary Membership. Mrs. Müller had also been a member of the Swiss Mercantile Society since 1923.

The love for the country of her birth — in spite of her long absence — never faded and was a constant inspiration to her to do, as she used to say "my little bit". For many years she spent a considerable time doing also work for the Swiss Benevolent Society. The poor of our Colony never had a better or more devoted friend. She often visited them, and by her kindness and cheerfulness brought a little sunshine into their drab existence. Although she experienced tragedy and sorrow in her long life, she bore no bitterness, nor did she ever complain. Indeed, faithful and loving she went through life, and well and truly deserves the epitaph "Life's race well run, Life's work well done, Life's crown well won, then comes rest".

During her illness, and when her life drew towards its journey's end, she was devotedly cared for by her three daughters living in this country. Her ashes will be taken to the country which she loved so much, and to which she gave so much. Her memory will be affectionately treasured by all who knew this kindly woman.

The deceased leaves two daughters and two stepdaughters, to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

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The cremation took place on Friday, 15th March, at Putney Vale, Putney, Pastor P. K. Wipf officiating. Amongst the congregation were: Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Suter, representing Nouvelle Société Helvétique; Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Sommer, representing Swiss Benevolent Society; Mr. and Mrs. R. Chappuis representing Swiss Mercantile Society.

MILTON MARTIN PFAENDLER †

The columns of the "Swiss Observer" have been only too painfully filled with obituary notices lately, and many an old friend has left the Colony never to be replaced. It hits particularly hard when the departed is a young man like Milton Pfaundler, of "The Chalet", 52 Pine Hill, Epsom, Surrey, whose death has just been announced. He died suddenly at his desk on 11th March, the cause being coronary thrombosis.

Milton Martin Pfaundler was born on 19th May 1921. He was educated at St. John's College, London N.4, from 1930 to 1936. A year after leaving school he started work with the Frederick Printing Company with which he stayed till 1941. He then entered the services of Messrs. Air Ducts Ltd. until he did his military Service with the R.A.F. from 1946 to 1948.

He then joined the Zurich Insurance Company in May 1948 as a clerk in their Maintenance Department, where he rapidly rose to Assistant to the Maintenance Manager.

Milton Pfaundler was a member of the Swiss Mercantile Society, where his father, Mr. J. Pfaundler, had played such an important part. Mr. J. Pfaundler was the London Manager of the Employment Department of the Swiss Mercantile Society and died in 1952.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the widow, Mrs. Joyce A. R. Pfaundler, and the daughter, Gay Jacqueline, in their sad and untimely bereavement. Our deep sympathy also goes to his mother, Mrs. Nina Pfaundler, of 61 Woodland Rise, Muswell Hill, N.10.