

Leon Rueff †

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LEON RUEFF †.

*Then with no fiery throbbing pain,
No cold gradations of decay,
Death broke at once the vital chain,
And freed his soul the nearest way.*

Leon Rueff passed away on Friday morning, September 18th, as the result of a heart stroke when he was getting ready to leave his home for the office. Slowly only, dismay gave place to the realisation that a life so full of intensive activity had to come to an end: he died in full harness at the age of eighty. But death does not end all things; his memory will be nurtured by a wide circle of personal and business friends and his social and charitable manifestations during the forty years of his London stay have handed down many living memorials. The London Jewish Hospital, of which he was the life-long treasurer can never repay his assiduous stewardship and the Benevolent Fund of the Entente Cordiale Lodge of which he was the founder and chief benefactor will perpetuate his name. In former years the Swiss Benevolent Society claimed much of his interest. Advancing age and the loss on active service of his only son have somewhat restrained his public activities.

Leon Rueff even to his intimate friends was never communicative about himself. We know he came from an old Alsatian family who emigrated to Basle after the Franco-German war in order to retain their French nationality. He was then about ten years old and after absolving the local schools he entered the banking business; at the age of 22 or thereabouts he was Manager of the Basler Depositenbank which later on was merged with the Schweiz. Bankverein. Leon Rueff was and remained a Bâlois to the bone; it always afforded him great pleasure and satisfaction — when in the appropriate milieu — to give some dialect recitals from J. P. Hebel, who was a popular local bard some sixty years ago; he commanded an exceptionally retentive memory. He had occupied important positions at banking houses in Paris and London until he was offered a Manager's post at the then well-known firm of S. Bleichroeder in Berlin. When the office of Managing Director of the Swiss Bank, London (which was established in 1898) became vacant, Leon Rueff was singled out to step into the breach being at the same time elected a member of the Board of Directors in Switzerland. His unique experience combined with a brilliant conception of the possibilities of his new field of activity and a concentrated attention to details which he understood to impart to his colleagues and staff may be said without fear of contradiction to have laid the foundation of the Swiss Bank Corp. in London. After 14 years, at the end of 1916, he left to join Messrs. Seligman Brothers as a partner.

We wish to tender sincere condolences to Mrs. L. Rueff of West Lodge Park, Hadley Wood (Herts) and to the members of his family.

A memorial service was held last Wednesday afternoon (September 23rd) at the New West End Synagogue, St. Petersburg Place, W.1.

PERSONAL.

We much regret to report the death on Monday, August 31st, at the age of 32, of Mrs. Adrienne Emma Liverton, whose husband is on active service. Mrs. Liverton, who was the only daughter of Mr. Cesar Campart, of 33, Heathfield Park, Willesden Lane, N.W.2, met with an accident at her home the previous Saturday.

His many friends will join us in tendering sincere sympathy to Mr. Campart and the family.

Minister C. R. Paravicini celebrated, on August 22nd, his 70th birthday, and on behalf of his many devoted friends in the London Colony we wish to offer congratulations and best wishes no less sincere if somewhat belated.

Mr. J. Paravicini, J.P., a relative of our former Minister, has been appointed Deputy Chairman of Turners Asbestos Cement Co., Ltd., and will be in charge of the Company's six factories employing between 5,000 and 6,000 operatives.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

We hope to publish our next issue on Friday, October 30th, 1942.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

TO LET — Self-contained flat, modern, select house and road, five minutes Tulse Hill Electric, 15 minutes City and West-end. Central heating, constant hot water throughout. Lounge, two bedrooms, tiled kitchen and bath-room. £6 10s. 0d. monthly; central heating at cost; small garage if required. On view any time; apply Owner Blackwell, "Kingsmead," 62, Palace Road, Tulse Hill, S.W.2 (Tel: 1878 Tulse Hill).

FOR SALE — Freehold house with large garage in best part of Chiswick, comprising lounge hall, two receptions rooms, breakfast room and kitchen, five bedrooms on one floor, bathroom, two W.C.'s. Well-stocked fruit garden. Price £1,700, mortgage can be arranged. Write E.M.B., Box 57, c/o Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

MAID for household duties, or as Companion help, small house, country district, easy access London, good wages suitable applicant. Box 11, Smith's Bookshop, Tunbridge Wells.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, 3rd October, at 3 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Tea Party at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. (See Advert.)

Saturday, 10th October, at 2.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, followed by a lecture by the Hon. Major Cripps on "Export after the war."

Saturday, 24th October, at 2.15 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, followed by Mr. G. Keller's talk on "Current Events."

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