

R.J. Keller

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OBITUARIES

R. J. Keller

Robert Jacob Keller was born on 19th March, 1902, at Berg (Thurgau) in Switzerland. His early youth was spent on his parents' farm until at the age of 12 the family moved to Zürich. Shortly before that time his Father had died as a result of an accident on the farm.

In his early years at Berg he soon realised the value of meeting people and of extending to them a warm welcome. This he learnt at the restaurant in the village which was owned by his family, and those early impressions Robert carried with him all his life.

In Zürich the young Robert Keller undertook a banking apprenticeship. Later he moved to the former Comptoir d'Escompte de Genève, then on to Milan, but he returned to Switzerland soon after following the political difficulties in Italy at that time. He joined the Bank of Herisau (Appenzell) returning later to Zürich where he was persuaded to join a merchant bank in the City of London. Thus in 1927 Robert Keller came to Britain, the country which he made his second home. His merchant banking experience took him through the crises of the late 1920s and early 1930s, when after having successfully untangled the financial problems of an important company to the satisfaction both of creditors and shareholders, he was invited to join an important Scottish whisky distillery as Managing Director.

So our Robert Keller became a magnet in the Scottish whisky industry earning, as he did in whatever he undertook, a first-class reputation. A major American company in the whisky business tried to tempt him to move to America but he felt that his roots were firmly established in Great Britain. In 1954 the Crédit Suisse was able to tempt him to join them to establish their Representative Office to be based in London. Quickly he made his mark felt in City banking circles establishing for himself and his Bank many deep-rooted friendships. He will be long remembered by London City bankers not only for his professional knowledge and skill, but also

for the warmth of his personality. He took an active part in The Overseas Bankers Club Golf Society and the City Swiss Club, of which he was President of both. At the same time, he was a director of several important international companies.

In November, 1961, he was elected Chairman of the *Swiss Observer* Advisory Council when Mr. R-de Cintra died. On relinquishing this office, he was made Hon. President on 25th March, 1970.

In 1968 when he was about to retire, he had a serious operation. His great strength and courage helped to carry him through to continue an active life. Around the same time, however, he lost his wife, Betty, but his last years were greatly helped by his present wife, Mary, the widow of an old family friend of many years' standing. His daughter, Anna, is in the hotel business, something in which Robert gave her much encouragement. It is a great comfort that Mary not only has another daughter in Anna, but she has her own fine family, Richard and Ann.

A service was held at the Eglise du Prieure at Pully conducted by Minister C. Stacey Woods, General Secretary of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students.

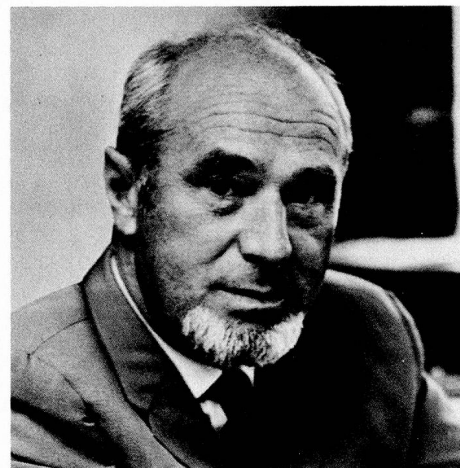
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H. R. Bolliger

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the sudden death of Dr. Hans Rudi Bolliger, of Fern Cottage, Mereside Road, Mere, Cheshire. He died in Lugano in the early hours of 15th December.

Hans Rudi Bolliger came from Basle and was educated in Neuchâtel and at the University of Basle where he got his doctorate in chemistry in 1946. Having studied under Prof. Reichstein, his interest in research had been awakened at an early stage, and after his graduation he went to the Iowa State College in U.S.A. for a period of post-doctoral research under Prof. Gilman. He became engaged in research work with CIBA Ltd in Basle in 1952, in the Dyestuffs Research

NEWS FROM THE COLONY



The late Dr Hans Rudi Bolliger who died suddenly on 15th December.

Division. And in 1955, he joined the Clayton Aniline Company Ltd in Manchester. He was Research and Development Director of the Company and a F.R.I.C.

He played a prominent part in the affairs of the Society of Chemical Industry, being Chairman of the Manchester Section from 1967 to 1969. At the time of his death he was the Society's Honorary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the first Chairman of the Industrial Health and Safety Group, which he helped to found. He was also a Council member of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society.

His activities included sailing, golf and rifle shooting, and he was greatly interested in art and music. Readers of the *Swiss Observer* will remember an article in the July issue last year, in which his appointment as Chairman of the

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