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FREDERICK M. GAMPER †.



On Thursday, June 29th, Freddie Gamper, as he was affectionately known amongst his large circle of friends, passed peacefully away.

Death came with friendly care and he went to sleep after toil and suffering, alas, all too soon.

The kindly eyes, which shone so brightly, are closed for ever, and the hands which gripped so warmly have grown cold, but the memory will linger on, the memory of an upright and courageous man, who in adversity or in ill health, never despaired — a brave fighter to the last. —

So we shall remember him, and shall honour his memory.

* * *

Freddie Gamper, was born in Zurich in the year 1881, the son of a stockbroker.

On finishing his schooling in his home town, he occupied various posts with commercial concerns in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Geneva and Berne, enabling him to acquire a thorough business training, which, in later years, stood him in good stead.

To offset his strenuous duties he found recreation in mountaineering and in the sport of football, then in the infancy in our country, in the latter sport he became very efficient and played as an "International," during the 1898/1899 season.

Throughout his life, F. M. Gamper followed the sport of football with keen interest, and he was never happier, than when he could exchange reminiscences of his experiences as a player, and later on, when residing in this country, as Vice-President of the Middlesex Football Club.

Then came the departure from his home land, early in this century, for England; after a short stay with a firm of stockbrokers in London, he obtained a position with the newly founded Banking firm of Bonn & Co., in Old Broad Street, E.C.2., which firm, later on amalgamated with the Banking House of Helbert, Wagg & Co., Ltd., of Threadneedle Street, where he was offered the post of chief accountant, and ultimately, thanks to his capabili-

ties and integrity, was promoted to the position of Office Manager, which position he held for many years until the outbreak of the last war in 1939, when he went into retirement.

The start of the first world war in 1914, saw him returning to Switzerland to join his old unit, the Infantry Battalion 68, where he occupied the rank of sergeant-major.

His Swiss army experiences, no doubt were responsible for the excellent services he was able to render, during the last war, as a member of the Home Guard.

Freddie Gamper had been a very happily married man for close on forty years, and both his wife (who also hailed from Zurich) kept open house, and many of his friends will remember happy hours spent at their home. He leaves a widow and two sons, one of whom is married, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

Although our departed friend became, owing to special circumstances, a British subject, he has never forgotten the country of his birth, and until ill health obliged him, to lead a more quiet life, he took an active part in the life of our Colony. He singled out the Swiss Benevolent Society for his principal field of activity.

He became a member of this Society in 1911, and thirteen years later (1924) he was appointed Hon. Treasurer, which post he held until 1930, when he was elected Vice-President, a post which he occupied until early this year. In 1930, he also joined the Finance Committee of this institution. From 1940-1950, F. M. Gamper was President of the "Swiss Home."

In his younger days he had had a hard struggle, and life was not always easy, and due, no doubt, to these times of hardship, a deep sympathy for all those, who often through not fault of their own had fallen on evil days, influenced his charitable work. All those, who had the privilege to work with him in the sphere of benevolence could witness how unselfishly and untiringly he worked to lessen the burden of the poor, and through his efforts many a heavy and anxious heart began to beat with new hope and restored confidence.

F. M. Gamper was also a member of the City Swiss Club, the Swiss Mercantile Society (Contributing Member), the Société de Secours Mutuels, the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and a founder member of the Helvetica Lodge and the former Swiss Institute.

* * *

A rich and useful life has thus come to its close, a life dedicated to service and duty; he was cremated on Wednesday, the 5th of this month at the Putney Vale Crematorium, where a large congregation of relatives and friends took a last farewell from him.

Mr. R. Dupraz, a life long friend, and co-worker of the Swiss Benevolent Society, paid a last and moving tribute to him and his humanitarian work.

And now, dear friend, may you rest in peace, we, who remain behind, will for ever keep you in affectionate remembrance, we shall remember you while the light lives yet, and in the night-time we shall not forget!

ST.