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HANS JOSS †.

The Swiss Colony has recently lost yet another of those members whose names are not always in evidence or widely known, but whose example helps so much to uphold the good name traditionally gained by the Swiss abroad.

A Memorial Service in honour of HANS JOSS was held at the Eglise Suisse on Tuesday evening, 4th March, attended by members of his family, relatives and a large number of friends, including representatives of the Ionian Bank.

Hans Joss was born in Bern on the 6th March, 1882, and would now have attained the age of seventy. After serving his apprenticeship with a firm of cloth merchants in his native city and spending some time with the Publishing firm of Zahn in Neuchâtel, he came to London in 1904 at the age of 22. He began his career in London with the Swiss Bank Corporation, whom he left to join a firm of hide and skin merchants in Bermondsey, with the special task of watching over the interests of the Swiss Bank. His task was completed with the dissolution of the firm and, when the Banca Commerciale Italiana opened their London Office in 1911, he was appointed as Sub-Manager of that Institution, which position he held until his resignation in 1924. After holding for a period of about two years a responsible post with a private financial house in the City, he was appointed in 1927, to the position of Manager of the London Office of the Ionian Bank, Ltd., which he held until ill-health compelled him to retire. He had thus gained a wide experience of banking and various branches of commerce, which stood him in good stead when, more than once in his career, he went abroad in the interest of his principals. He spent about a year in Istanbul, entrusted with an important mission by the Ionian Bank and he had some interesting experiences to relate of his travels.

An outline of his activities in the Swiss Colony was given by an old friend at the Memorial Service. Apart from being for many years a pillar of the French-speaking Y.M.C.A. and the Swiss Church, Hans Joss gave his time unsparingly to the development of the Foyer Suisse and the Swiss Institute, an earlier off-shoot of the Swiss Church. He had also been a member of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique since its inception. M. le Pasteur Reverdin expressed in words which came

from the heart the joy and confidence which he derived from the presence of Hans Joss at the services, and from his sound judgment in the deliberation of the Consistoire. He also paid a tribute to his profound knowledge of the Scriptures. The service ended with the singing of a favourite hymn of our departed friend.

In 1909, Hans Joss married Miss Hedwig Hartmann, and their union was blessed with three sons and two daughters, whose successes at school and later in their careers bear witness to their father's endeavours to give them all the benefit of a good education.

Hans Joss was always proud of being a citizen of Bern, and in his early days he had been an intrepid mountaineer. When climbing became too arduous, he went for long walks in the mountains, and there are not many corners of the Canton of Bern which he did not visit at some time or other. A severe illness in April 1949 put an end to his activities, but it was fitting that in the autumn of that year, when there seemed to be some ground for expecting his recovery, he was able to spend some months within sight of the snow-capped peaks of his beloved Oberland. The hopes of a recovery were not fulfilled and the illness took a fatal course, until he fell asleep on the 24th February, 1952.

Accompanied only by members of his family and near relations, Hans Joss was laid to rest on the 27th February, in a small grass covered old world churchyard, carpeted with snowdrops, amidst the wooded and soft rolling hills of West Sussex.

By the thirteenth-century church of Trotton and among Sussex folk, now lies a true son of Bern who, during his long self imposed exile, gained the respect and affection of all who came to know him.

A.S.

Mrs. Joss and family wish to thank all the friends who sent such kind messages of sympathy in their sorrow.

As the funeral was in the country, and arranged at short notice from a friend's home, the sending of flowers was not practical. However, Mrs. Joss feels that it would be in keeping with her late husband's interest in the work of the Eglise Suisse if those who would have liked to send a floral tribute would instead, send a donation to the Hon. Treasurer of the Eglise Suisse, 79, Endell St., London, W.C.2.

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