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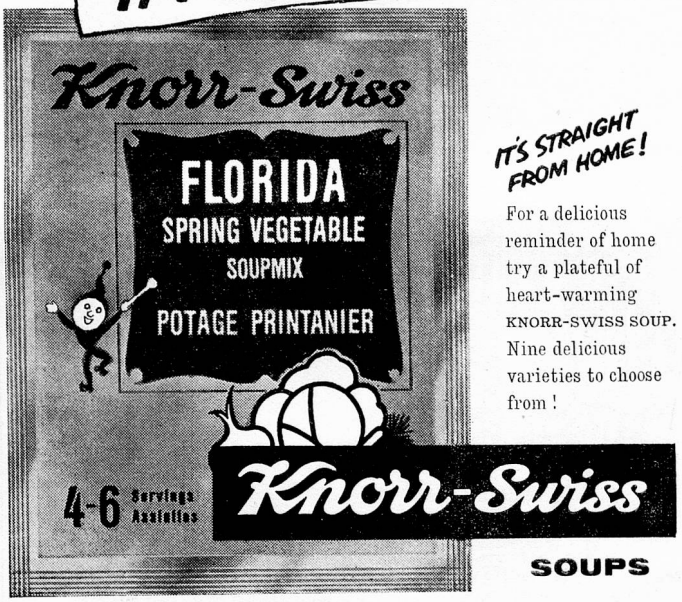

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HENRY PFIRTER, — 80 Years Old.

It has been my melancholy duty so often lately to bid a last farewell to departed friends that it becomes all the more pleasing to offer an affectionate tribute to one who for more than fifty years has been a well-loved and much respected member of the Swiss Colony.

I refer to Mr. Henry Pfirter, of 22, New Farm Avenue, Bromley, Kent, who, hale and hearty at the ripe age of 80 years, is still with us and who, on 20th June, will celebrate his 80th birthday.

Born and educated in Bâle where he also served his commercial apprenticeship, Mr. Pfirter, like so many young Swiss of his generation, felt the urge for wider horizons and, after spending several years in France, came to London in 1903. He entered a firm of Stock Exchange brokers in which, thanks to his efficiency and much hard work, he rose to a position of trust and responsibility. In 1946 he retired — without, however, giving up altogether his interest in the firm which he continued to serve until quite recently in an advisory capacity.

In the meantime he had married and experienced the joy of seeing three daughters grow up. The Pfirters were a happy and united family. They kept open house and many a young Swiss enjoyed the warm hospitality they offered in their home in South London.

Mr. Pfirter's retirement was, alas, overshadowed by the loss of his wife, an English lady of great charm, a devoted wife and mother, in whose company he had hoped to spend the rest of his life. Her untimely death was a bitter blow to him. Many years earlier, another tragedy had befallen the Pfirter family: the youngest daughter, a lovely girl of great promise, away in Switzerland where she attended a finishing school, collapsed and died without warning while bathing in the lake near Lausanne.

In the Swiss Colony Mr. Pfirter is liked and respected by all who come to know him. He is a member of the City Swiss Club and has always taken a lively interest in the doings of the London Swiss.

Of a quiet and unassuming nature, Mr. Pfirter is gifted with a keen intelligence and an orderly, logical mind. His outstanding qualities are integrity, an absolute dependability, and a capacity for friendship which endears him to all who come into contact with him.

We rejoice in seeing him attain his 80th year and offer him our heartiest congratulations. May he be spared to be among us many more years, a veteran to be proud of.

Editor.

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