

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1950)

Heft: 1149

Nachruf: Dr. Albert Wander †

Autor: [s.n.]

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DR. ALBERT WANDER †.

Dr. Albert Wander, Chairman of the Board of Dr. A. Wander, A.G., Berne, and Messrs. A. Wander, Ltd., London, died on Wednesday, November 22nd, in Lugano.

With the passing away of Dr. A. Wander, our country has lost one of its leading industrialists, a great benefactor and most lovable man.

As a former member of the staff, both in Berne and London, the writer has had many opportunities to study this great man from close quarters. What has always struck him most forcibly was his kindness, sense of fair play, and tolerance towards even the most humble of his employees.

On the occasion of his 80th birthday anniversary, the writer sent him his congratulations; he must have received thousands of messages from all over the world, yet this letter received an acknowledgement, in his own handwriting, couched in most cordial terms.

* * *

Dr. Albert Wander, was born in Berne in 1867, where he received his schooling, he studied afterwards pharmacology at the Universities of Berne, Zurich and Geneva and at various universities abroad.

On the death of his father in 1897, he took over the management of the firm, which was founded in 1865, he did so reluctantly, as he would have preferred to follow an academic career; it was his early ambition to become a teacher at one of the Universities in his country. However, with untiring energy and farsightedness, he took over the reins of the parental business, which was, at that time, a modest, but sound concern, to lay the foundation of a world-wide known industrial combine.

In 1904, he brought on the market, apart from his well-known Malt products, an article called "Ovomaltine" (known in this country as "Ovaltine") a preparation which has since become a household word in almost every country. Factories were built in many foreign lands under the personal supervision of Dr. A. Wander.

On attaining the age of 70, he retired from actual management leaving the business in the hands of his son, Dr. George Wander, but almost to the last days of his long and successful life, he took a keen interest in the firm.

The personnel of his many enterprises have good reason to be grateful to their late chief. Dr. Wander has been a generous employer, who has, by his kindness and tolerance endeared himself to all; he was one of the first industrialists in our home country, who introduced a scheme whereby the employees shared in the profits of the firm. His foundations and donations went into many millions of francs, and in most cases the beneficiaries were unaware who was their benefactor. The Swiss Colony in London too has benefited by his generosity.

In 1913, the University of Berne honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* and the same degree was bestowed on him in 1940 by the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH). For many years he was a member of "Zunft zu Schmieden" one of Berne's oldest guilds.

* * *

A life rich in fulfilment and great in achievements has thus come to its close, a great heart has ceased to beat, and all those, who have known Dr. Albert Wander, will keep him in everlasting remembrance.

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OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, January 12th, 1951.

We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions:— J. J. Huber, A. P.

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