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something of an institution, and it will interest his many friends to have a few details of his early years.

Mr. Ritter was born in Bienne and was the youngest of a family of seven. When he was still quite young, the family moved to Berne, where they lived in the Junkerngasse, from where Theo attended the Grammar School.

Wishing to improve his knowledge of languages and to see something of the world, he secured his first job as a Swiss Civil Servant in French and Italian localities. In 1900 he decided to spend six months in London to learn English. He stayed on as Manager of Messrs. Barkentin & Krall, a firm of Metal Craftsmen, and it was there that he met Paula whom he married in 1905. Having meanwhile decided to settle in England, in 1911 he joined the Swiss Legation where during the first World War he was Chancellor under Minister G. Carlin. After the War, he entered the commercial world, first as Manager of Messrs. De Trey & Co., and later as Manager with Lep Transport, International Shipping Agents.

During most of these years Mr. Ritter had worked voluntarily for the Swiss Benevolent Society, becoming in due course its Hon. Secretary. In 1932 he became full-time Secretary of the Society, a position from which he has only recently reluctantly retired, although his mature experience and knowledge of men and matters remain as before at the disposal of the Society which has always been nearest to his heart.

This brief outline gives a picture of a full life, much of which was devoted to the good of his compatriots.

Mr. and Mrs. Ritter have a daughter and one married son, and they have recently rejoiced over the birth of their second grandson.

M.R.

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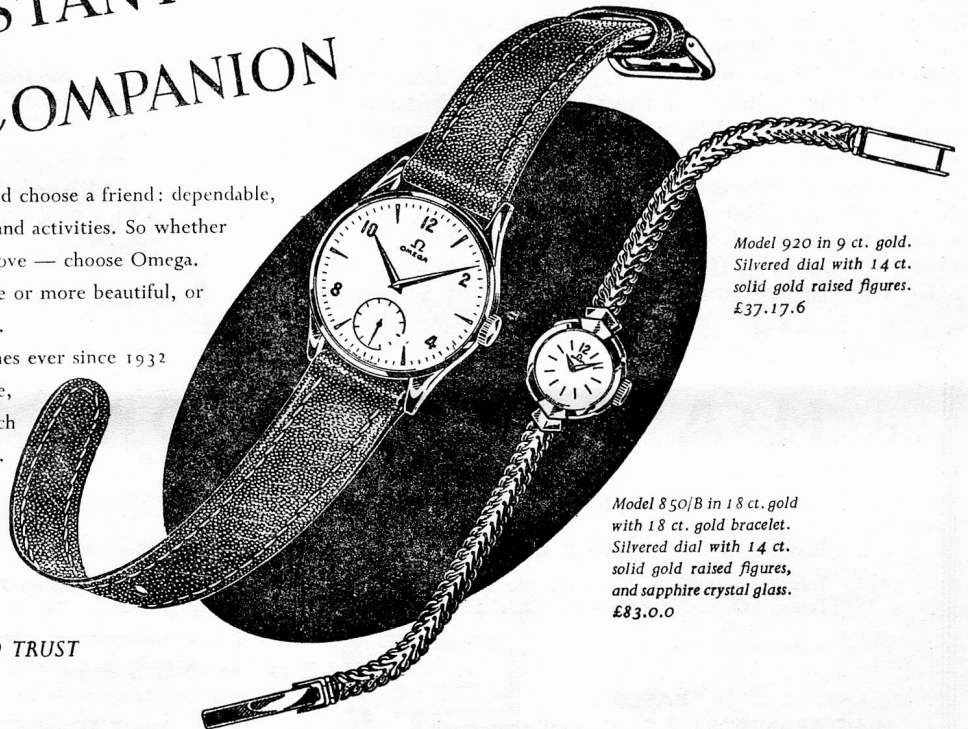
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