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A RETIREMENT



E. SCHMID

The many Swiss visitors to the Sackville Court Hotel, Kingsway, Hove, which is closely connected with the Dudley Hotel, also at Hove, will be interested to hear that Mr. and Mrs. E. Schmid have retired from the joint management of the hotel, and we feel sure they will be greatly missed.

Swiss hoteliers have always enjoyed a great reputation all over the world, and it is no idle boast to say that at one time practically all the most important hotels in the world were managed by Swiss. Names like Ritz, Bucher, Bon, Wild, Walters — to name only a few — have become famous.

A hotelier's career is a rather chequered one, and requires, apart from professional knowledge and worldly wisdom, a great deal of tact and understanding of human nature. He has to be a diplomat as well as a hotelier.

Those of my compatriots who have at one time or another stayed at the Dudley Hotel or the Sackville Court Hotel have, no doubt, been favourably impressed by the congenial atmosphere which prevails, and which is in no small manner due to the personal attention and charm of both managements.

* * *

Mr. E. Schmid was born in Altdorf (Ct. Uri), but originates from the town of Zurich. His father was a silk manufacturer — and a well-known tenor and amateur actor, who for many years took the part of Melchtal in the famous Wilhelm Tell plays at Altdorf.

The writer well remembers a conversation which he had some years ago with our friend, when he related to him his experiences when taking the part of Tell's son, Walter, for three consecutive years, and as far as I could see he did not look the worse for it!

Mr. Schmid started his apprenticeship as a cook at the early age of 13 at the Hotel Nationale in Nice, and the Hotel Metropole in Geneva. Various seasons were spent at the Palace Hotels in Gstaad and Villars, the Hotels National, Lucerne, Schatzalp and Davos.

On the conclusion of his kitchen *étape* he entered the well-known Hotel School in Court nr. Lausanne for further tuition. On leaving the school he found employment successively as a reception clerk in the Bellevue Hotel,

Zurich, and the Metropole in Geneva, and as secretary at the Casino in Basle.

Then, as did so many of our compatriots, Mr. Schmid left his native land to go forth into the wide world to seek adventure and gain fresh experience. He arrived in this country in 1920, being engaged first as a waiter at the Ritz Hotel in London, and then as managing clerk. From the Ritz he moved to the Metropole in Brighton as second receptionist, and then became head receptionist. In between, he spent a term in the "reception" of the Savoy Hotel in London. Slowly but surely he climbed the ladder to success. We next see him as assistant manager at the Carlton Hotel in the Metropolis, and after three years, following his marriage, he took up the management of the following hotels, some of which he completely re-organised and brought up-to-date: Hotel Continentale St. Raphael South of France), the Grand Hotel, Folkestone, the St. Austell Bay Hotel (where the Duke of Windsor, when Prince of Wales, paid regular visits), and the Seabank Hotel, Porthcawl (South Wales) — which he managed for about fifteen years.

During the last war Mr. Schmid held the position of manager at the May Fair Hotel, London, for five years, returning to the Seabank Hotel, Porthcawl, for a further spell.

In 1954 Mr. and Mrs. Schmid took up the joint management of the Sackville Hotel at Hove (Sussex).

A career of much variety and success has now ended, the rolling stone has come to rest, and we wish Mr. and Mrs. Schmid a happy eventide of their lives, and a long enjoyable retirement in their new home in Hove.

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