

LOUIS LOHMAN SANDER (1877-1936)

LOUIS L. SANDER.—On the 27th August, Mr. Louis L. Sander passed away at St. André, Bruges, at the age of 58 years. With his death the horticultural world in general, and the Orchid world in particular, have lost a great personality. Mr. Louis L. Sander was born at St. Albans, Hertfordshire, on the 10th of April, 1878. He was the son of the founder of the firm of Sander & Fils, which he controlled for many years. He was apprenticed at St. Albans, and later went to the south of France, where he worked for some years in the gardens of the late Baronne Alice de Rothschild, after which he went to Germany, to complete his training and knowledge of horticulture. During the last years of the nineteenth century, Mr. Louis L. Sander commenced at Bruges, with the foundation of the Belgian house, his business career and standing as a horticulturist and Orchid expert. While desiring so much to perfect himself in that branch in which he was to make his name, the knowledge of Orchids, Mr. L. L. Sander had no less a longing to popularise the culture of these beautiful plants. He therefore travelled up and down Europe, which before the war he had already opened up to his firm. Not only Europe, but the United States and Canada were visited by him, where he represented his firm on many occasions at the greater horticultural events ; he was also intimately associated with the Ghent Quinquennial Floralies. When the great war broke out in 1914, Mr. Louis Sander remained at Bruges to direct the business ; his status as an Englishman, however, forced him to leave Belgium, when the English were expelled a few weeks later. Returning through Holland, he reached England, where he offered his services to the British Army. When the cavalry corps were disbanded he was sent to the front lines in France,

where he experienced the terrible winter of 1916-17 and the battle of the Somme, where his health suffered severely. He endeavoured on two occasions to join the expeditionary forces to Russia, but was not accepted. The end of the war saw him an officer. Directly after the Armistice he began at once the reconstruction of the Bruges business which had suffered such great damage during the war. All his strength and energy he put into this considerable task, and his work was rewarded with success, for, not many years later, the Bruges house not only regained its pre-war prestige and eminence, but soon

also increased in every direction, becoming the world-famed establishment of MM. Sander et Fils. Mr. Louis L. Sander paid particular attention to the raising of Orchids from seeds and we know how proud he would have been of the results he obtained. His considerable knowledge and confidence in his work caused him to be chosen by the Belgian Government to protect the interests of Belgian horticulture at Washington. During his travels he made numerous acquaintances and friendships, which have resulted in great enthusiasm for Orchids and horticulture. In America, and in many other lands, including Spain, Italy, Scandinavia, etc., Mr. Louis L. Sander made friends who were not only able to appreciate his fine character and sense of humour, but also his clear and square dealings, his business knowledge of horticulture in general, and the culture of Orchids in particular. Always kind, seeking ever to help, animated by a truly proverbial goodness, Mr. Louis L. Sander leaves us and his many friends and acquaintances the remembrance not only of a perfect, honest gentleman, but also of a thoughtful and kindly man. He was Administrateur-Directeur of the Bruges house of Sander & Fils, S.A., Belgium, and Director of Messrs. Sanders (St. Albans), Ltd., St. Albans, and of Messrs. Sanders (Southgate), Ltd., Southgate. Married on the 21st February, 1921, to a young Belgian lady from Liege, Miss Nelly Sladden, who was herself the daughter of a keen Orchid amateur, Mr. Louis L. Sander had the joy of four charming children, in whose laughing happiness he took intense pleasure. This happiness has, alas, not been of great duration, for he has gone, leaving sadness at home, and sorrow among all those who knew him. We offer his widow and family our sincere and deepest sympathy.