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UNIONE TICINESE.

This Society held its customary Annual Concert and Dance, in aid of the "Fonds de Secours," on Thursday evening, the 29th ult., at the "Schweizerbund," and proved, as usual, a very successful evening from all points of view.

The concert opened soon after 8 p.m. with two comic songs by Mr. F. Dwelley, which were well appreciated. Miss Swan (no longer "little" Miss Swan) delighted us on this occasion again with a recitation and several speciality dances, in spite of the handicap of the limitations of the stage. Mr. Lionel King certainly proved he knew something about cards, or how to manipulate them, and even the "experts," our President Mr. Notari, Mr. Baume and Mr. Boehringer, who for some time occupied the stage, were thoroughly "twisted," much to their astonishment and that of the audience.

The "Lazzaroni" quartet (two mandolins, harmonium and guitar), presented by Signor G. Berni, introduced a most welcome "southern" atmosphere and left no doubt we were really at a Ticinese social evening. They provided also an appropriate background for the very fine songs of Signorina P. Rosselli, soprano, and Signor G. Berni, tenor. Even those who usually look forward to the time when the dance orchestra takes charge of the entertainment must have forgotten all about waltzes and fox-trots and must have wished that Signorina Rosselli and Signor Berni could have filled in the rest of the evening.

At the end of the Concert Mr. Notari addressed a few words of thanks to the gathering for the splendid response they made to the invitation of the Committee, in support of such a good cause as that of the Fonds de Secours. He had intended Mr. Dupraz to give an outline of the magnificent and indispensable work done by that society, but he was unavoidably prevented from being present. He welcomed, however, in his stead, Mr. F. M. Gamper and Mr. Baume, who have been for many years such staunch supporters of the Swiss Benevolent Society.

Mr. Notari also expressed the pleasure of the Ticinesi at the presence of Mr. Boehringer, accompanied by Madame Boehringer, and referred to the fact that closer contact with the Ticinese colony seems to induce our friend of the S.O. to believe we are not such bad fellows after all. "Headquarters," as our President said, was represented by our member and friend Signor Rezzonico, who unfortunately had to leave before the end of the concert owing to another important engagement. Mr. G. Marchand, without whom no Ticinese function appears to be complete, did not fail to keep the date open. It is a pity he does not enjoy the "privilege" of citizenship of some hamlet south of the Gothard, as he would have made a splendid member of the Unione Ticinese.

All present much regretted the inability of our Hon. Vice-President and unfailing supporter, Mr. Arturo Meschini, to be with us on that occasion, but greatly appreciated his good wishes for a successful evening.

The accommodation of the "Schweizerbund" was undoubtedly taxed to its utmost, but the Ticinesi rather like it as it gives, if anything, more scope for talking, and a thoroughly friendly and animated atmosphere prevailed during the whole of the evening. It is with regret that so many had to take the homeward way at 2 a.m., comforted only by the thought that it might not be very long before the Ticinese have another family gathering. The Committee deserve all thanks for the most enjoyable evening they provided, but, on the other hand, their task is made all the easier by the fact that they know they need only fix the date and arrange the programme and the "Schweizerbund" will be full to overflowing. O.B.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

F. Voser, Wohlen (Aargau): "Spain." M. Held, Berthoud: "England and Her People." A. Stadelmann, Basle: "World Peace." P. Hauselmann, Berne: "Thoughts About Sleep" and "Friendship." W. Schaad, Biberist: "Shakespeare." F. Hafter, Baden: "A Visit to a London Fur Store." J. Baumeler, Lucerne: "Modern Girls." P. Widmer, Gränichen: "London's Fish Markets." H. Strebel, Kemptal-Winterthur: "Sports." J. Kuratle, Zurich: "My Journey from Zurich to London." Miss E. Mahler, Madrid (Spain): "London's Zoo." W. Schaad, Langnau: "Schubert." A. Vollenweider, Zurich: "Is the Teutonic Race a Barbarian One?" W. Studer, Bienne: "My First Night in the Opera." F. Friedli, Thörigen: "A Teacher in a Little Village." B. Jegge, Eiken: "Early and Late Children." J. Ruffi, Eglishwil-Aargau: "With an Excursion Train to the Canton Ticino." E. Homberger, Wetzikon: "Seaside Pleasures." E. Wieland, St. Gall: "Impressions of Spain." P. Schonenberger, Rapperswil (St. Gall): "Belgium and the War." R. Lafont, Degersheim (St. Gall): "Under Arctic Skies." F. Christen, Berne: "Switzerland." W. Gröbli, Uzwil (St. Gall): "The Royal Mint."

H. Vetter, Zurich: "Some Aspects of Life and Civilisation in the Future" and "The Purpose of Existence." S. Wehrli, Davos: "Grisons." P. Barrelet, Neuchâtel: "Byron in French Literature." M. Knecht, Uzwil: "A Holiday Tour in Normandy." H. Engler, Zurich: "Karl Maria von Weber."

The debating classes dealt with the following subject:—

"Are you in favour of Capital Punishment?" Proposer, R. Châtelain; Opposer, J. Blaser.

Friday: A lecture, illustrated with lantern slides, was given by J. J. Hayward, Esq., M.A. on "A Tour in India."

Saturday: A great number of students visited the Tower of London.

Monday: A Student's Dance was arranged at the First Avenue Hotel, Holborn, over 200 being present.

L'ESCALADE.

Les Genevois se réuniront comme de coutume cette année, Mardi, le 11 Décembre chez Pagani à 7 heures précises pour fêter l'Escalade. Prière de s'inscrire d'ici au 10 courant auprès de M. R. de Cintra, 10 Charterhouse Street, E.C.1 (Téléphone: Holborn 7044).

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Abends : 7 Uhr, Gottesdienst; 8 Uhr, Chorpöbe.

Die Kirchenpflege und der Pfarrer der Schweizerkirche erbitten Gaben an Kleidern, Schuhen etc. oder Geld für die Weihnachtsbescherung unserer Armen und wären recht dankbar, wenn die Gaben in Naturalien c/o Pfarrer Hahn, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2 sobald als möglich geschickt werden könnten. Geldgaben sind dagegen an die Privatadresse des Pfarrers, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4, erbitten. Merzlichen Dank zum voraus !

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Sunday, December 9th, at 3.45 p.m.—SWISS GYM-NASTIC SOCIETY: Gymnastic Display at the Union Helvetia Club, 1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1.

Tuesday, December 11th.—DINER DE L'ESCALADE at Pagani's Restaurant, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1.

Wednesday, December 19th.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Council Meeting at 7.45 p.m., followed about 8.15 by a causerie by Mr. Henri Buchi entitled "A New Approach to Economics," at Swiss House, 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, January 26th, at 6.30 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at the Hotel Metropole, Northumberland Av., W.1.

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