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PAGANI'S RESTAURANT.

L'adesso centralissimo e sempre ben frequentato restaurant "Pagani" ha una storia tutta sua e forse unica nella vita intima londinese.

I proprietari ticinesi signora Linda Meschini e figlio signor Arthur Meschini, sono assai conosciuti ed apprezzati e non riposano certo sugli allori riportati in altri tempi.

Leggendo un interessante articolo sul "Corriere della Sera" del 18 febbraio u.s. su "Memorie e aneddoti Londinesi," là dove parla del famoso palazzo di Albany in Piccadilly rilevo:

"Il palazzo di Albany dove visse per qualche tempo, verso il 1800, Luisa Massimiliana Carolina, duchessa di Albany, consorte infelice del violento Carlo Edoardo Stuart e, in seguito, amante felice di Vittorio Alfieri, che la immortalò.

"Un altro Duca di Albany, figlio della Regina Vittoria, vi passò inosservato un brevissimo periodo, ottant'anni dopo; lo ricordano per le sue manie superstiziose e la sua passione per gli spaghetti alla napoletana, che condivideva con l'augusto fratello, il futuro Edoardo settimo. I due figli della grande Regina avevano l'abitudine di recarsi in stretto incognito, dopo la mezzanotte, da Pagani, in Portland Street, allora fuori mano, e vi incontravano Alessandro Pellegrini, spirito bizzarro di pittore e di caricaturista, e Tosti, che ancora balbettava l'inglese e perciò era costretto a tacere; se ne rifaceva mangiando di più.

"In una notte piovigginosa d'inverno, verso le due del mattino, dopo una abbondante spaghetata e alcuni fiaschetti di vino d'Orvieto il Duca di Albany mandò a cercare una vettura di piazza, a quel tempo molto rare e lontane. Pagani spedì due o tre camerieri alla ricerca e, dopo lunga attesa, ne tornò indietro uno, in serpa d'una carrozza cigolante trascinata da un ronzino bianco.

"Fra le superstizioni del Duca la più violenta era forse quella contro i cavalli bianchi; Pagani, che lo sapeva, si dispera, e, inosservato, informa il Pellegrini del contrattempo. L'artista ha un lampo di genio, fa cenno di tacere e si allontana un momento; corre nella sua "bottega di pittore" situata nella corte, vi prepara una grossa latta di vernice scura e, afferrato un grosso pennello da imbianchino, si precipita in strada. Contratta col vetturino e cinque minuti dopo il cavallo è diventato di un bel colore nerastro.

"I due Principi non si accorgono di nulla e tranquillamente montano in vettura."

E come il palazzo di Albany è un nido di memorie (ora ridotto ad appartamenti di affitto), così il proprietario del restaurant Pagani, potrebbe tessere una film interessantissima facendo sfilare su quel palcoscenico di vita vissuta e le persone celebri nell'arte e nella storia che visitano quelle sue sale.

T. L. R.

FOOTBALL.

11th March, 1934.

INTERNATIONALS.

In Paris:

France0 Switzerland1

In Lausanne:

Switzerland B.....2 France B.....1

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Bern1 Zurich0

Basel7 Locarno1

FIRST LEAGUE CUP (Semi-Finals).

Luzern3 Juventus0

Grenchen6 Racing2

And so, for the first time in history, France has been beaten by a Swiss Eleven in Paris, and it is all the more welcome as it could hardly have been anticipated after the poor exhibitions put up by our Reds recently. The teams stood as follows:—

Switzerland: Sèchehay (Servette); Minelli and Weiler (Grasshoppers), Guinchard (Servette), Liniger (Bözingen), Lörtscher (Servette); Laube, Passello, Kielholz (all Servette), Trello (Grasshoppers), Bossi (Bern).

France: Thépot; Van Dooren, Mattler; Charbit, Kauscar, Lietner; Aston, Alcazar, Nicolas, Rio, Korb.

Referee: R. Barlassina (Italy).

The defence, therefore, the "old guard." But what of the halves? Three new names, all youngsters. A very commendable action on the part of the selection committee. For forwards the right wing to centre-forward was picked complete from Servette, Trello was preferred to his brother Xam at inside left, and Bossi (Bern) was given another chance. To sum up, Servette, present champion, leader in the table and cup finalist, provided no less than seven players, Grasshoppers three, Bern one and Bözingen one, at centre-half, the only player from a club not playing in the National League.

Not all expectations were fulfilled. The defence as usual was safety itself, the only blemish being a somewhat shaky start by Weiler. But then you cannot play for weeks for your club at outside right, and all of a sudden become the perfect back again. Luckily it was only a matter of minutes for that change-over to become effective.

The experimental half line showed plenty of dash and pluck, but perhaps the steady influence of an old stager would have proved very useful. Still, if you are never selected, when are you to gain your experience? Lack of understanding between the left half and back almost led to disaster early on in the game. Of the forwards, it is to be said that the Servette trio seemed to forget there were two other eager players on the left wing; but whilst Laube was inclined to be rather selfish, Passello played an excellent game, and Kielholz was his usual opportunist self. Trello, neglected to some extent, yet played well, and so did Bossi.

The match took place in the Parc des Princes before about 22,000 spectators, quite a respectable number considering the atrocious weather conditions. The ground was sodden and in parts almost under water. The Swiss scored three minutes before half-time through Kielholz, who pounced on a low centre by Bossi and placed the ball hard into the net, the French left half impeding his own goalkeeper, who thus stood no chance to save. This proved to be the only score, and whilst Switzerland deserved to win, there was little to choose between the two sides.

Whether this success is due to a definite improvement in the form of our National Eleven or is merely a flash in the pan, we shall soon know. Austria is due in Geneva in a fortnight! I only hope we have sufficient pluck left not to give up the ghost before the ball is kicked off. Why not for once do the unexpected and beat the "Erbfeind," as we did so many times before in the long ago?

M. G.

LONDON SWISS RIFLE TEAM.

Though weather conditions were by no means encouraging last Sunday, the attendance at the shooting range at the Bisley Camp was very good. It has been found necessary to book another 300-yard target for the next practice meeting, which takes place on Sunday, March 25th.

Scoring results exhibited much better averages and more steady aiming; it was, however, noticeable that one or two members were still under the spell of a social function held the previous evening, one in particular locating the rifle range and incidentally the target with considerable difficulty.

PERSONAL.

We extend hearty congratulations to Dr. Walter Adolf de Bourg, of the Swiss Legation, on his promotion to Councillor of Legation.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, March 17th, from 4—6 p.m. (Reception 3.30 p.m.)—Social Afternoon—Sunday School of the Schweizerkirche, held under the patronage of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, at the Foyer Suisse, 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.

Wednesday, March 21st.—Grand Old Chums Réunion—Gala Night, at the Schweizerbund (Swiss Club). Yodelling, Accordeon Band, Artistes and Dance. Extension until 2 a.m. Tickets 2/.

Wednesday, March 21st, at 7.45 p.m.—Nouvelle Société Helvétique—Monthly Meeting at "Swiss House," 34, Fitzroy Square, W.1. To be followed by a talk by Dr. H. W. Egli on "Our Colonies and Swiss Democracy."

Tuesday, April 24th—Unione Ticinese—Annual Banquet and Ball—at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.

Thursday, June 21st, from 7—10.30 p.m. (Tea from 6 o'clock, buffet from 8—9 o'clock)—Fête Suisse—At Central Hall, Westminster (opposite Westminster Abbey).

Saturday, June 23rd, at 2.45 p.m.—Swiss Sports—At Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.

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Dimanche, 18 mars, 11 h. — Cécité ou Vision spirituelle? Luc xviii. 34 et 42. — M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6 h. 30. — Prédication, M. R. Desaulles.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE (Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

Sr. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 18. März 1934.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorphrobe.

BESTATTUNG.

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