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UNIONE TICINESE — SEZIONE FEMMINILE.

The Annual General Meeting of the Ladies' Section of the Unione Ticinese was held at the Swiss Club, Charlotte Street, W.1, on Sunday, the 30th January, 1944. The attendance was a very good and encouraging one and a sure indication that, in spite of the many handicaps and difficulties created by the War, our Ticinese women had not been deterred from retaining their active interest in the Society.

The usual formalities of the meeting having been concluded the President, Mrs. T. Lunghi-Rezzonico, addressed the members.

She thanked the Committee for its support and unceasing efforts during the preceding year and added that the Society might well congratulate itself on having achieved as much as it had. She spoke with gratitude of the hospitality enjoyed by the Ticinesi in Great Britain and of the freedom and privileges they had always received here. The War was now entering upon its fifth year and one's thoughts were constantly turning to "il nostro caro paese nativo," but it was satisfying to know that the opportunities the Society had offered to its members of frequently meeting and conversing in the Ticinese tongue and of exchanging reminiscences of the homeland had, in some measure, compensated for the long enforced exile.

Mrs. Lunghi then referred to the various activities of the Section during the preceding year, of which a ramble in Surrey during the summer, a film-show, a "tea party," a Thé-Dansant at the Dorchester Hotel (this in collaboration with the Men's Section) were but

a few items. She was happy to announce that the Section had again been industrious and had been able to send a large parcel of knitted contributions to the Red Cross Comforts Fund; it was further contemplated that in the near future yet another parcel would be sent to this well deserving organisation. The proceeds of a successful Christmas Draw had also been sent to the Swiss Benevolent Fund.

The President also spoke of the monthly social meetings at Swiss House, Fitzroy Square, which had proved such a success and which had been the means of renewing many old and founding many new friendships.

1944 promised to be a very active year for the Society, plans were now being "hatched" and it was hoped that all members would continue to co-operate as much as possible.

A vote of thanks was then passed to the President for her guidance and untiring energies during the year and, in fact, ever since she had founded the Society in June, 1939. It was noted with pleasure that Mr. and Mrs. Lunghi had but recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary and the members of the Society had, therefore, been afforded the truly "golden" opportunity of expressing their appreciation, thanks and affection to Mrs. Lunghi for all that she had done for the Society. It was hoped that she would continue to be its President for many more years to come.

The 1944 Committee was then elected and it was an appreciative gesture to the 1943 Committee that, apart from one retirement, all members were re-elected. The Entertainment Committee and the auditors for the year were also elected.

After a very successful and agreeable afternoon, the meeting then terminated. R.A.

* * *

Applications for membership or for particulars of the Unione Ticinese Sezione Femminile should be addressed to its Secretary at 17, Bryanston Mansions, York Street, W.1.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

The London Group of the N.S.H. gave a film show at Conway Hall on Saturday, February 5th, featuring the Swiss Red Cross film "Flag of Mercy," as well as some of the latest Ministry of Information films.

Members of the British and Allied Red Cross Societies in London were invited and were present to the number of about 300, the rest of the audience being made up of compatriots.

Miss Warner, O.B.E., Director of the Foreign Relations Department of the British Red Cross, addressed the audience, expressing the thanks of the visitors and speaking most appreciatively of the work of the International Red Cross Committee.

The Monthly Meeting of the N.S.H. was held at Swiss House on Saturday, February 19th. Mr. Gottfried Keller, who was to have given his usual talk on "Current Events," was unable to be present. The President, Mr. A. F. Suter, stepped into the breach by giving members a *résumé* of the report for 1943 of the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger, as well as an account of his visit to the Manchester Swiss Club. Dr. H. Revilliod also imported some interesting information recently received from Switzerland, which concluded a well attended meeting. WB.



LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The first Annual General Meeting of the London Swiss Philatelic Society was held at the Glendower Hotel, South Kensington, on Saturday, January 29th.

Over forty members and friends were present and in the unavoidable absence of the President and principal founder, Mr. P. F. Boehringer, the Chair was occupied by Mr. F. Streit, Vice-President.

A personal message from the President was read, which the meeting decided to answer with a suitable telegram.

The accounts were presented by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. O. Grob. The financial result of the first year's working was considered most satisfactory and it was evident from the figures submitted that the Society is being run on sound lines. The accounts were unanimously adopted.

It was the Chairman's pleasant duty to give a short account of the Society's activities since its foundation in January 1943. He was able to record that the membership, from a mere handful of enthusiastic collectors had grown steadily month by month and that by the end of the year the Society numbered fifty members. As a natural consequence, the exchange business transacted had gone up in leaps and bounds and five exchange groups were now handling on an average well over 200 exchange booklets running into a cash value of several hundred pounds.

The Chairman thanked all those who had helped to make this venture successful and was pleased to announce that all Committee members had offered themselves for re-election. In order to cope with the increasing volume of work involved, it was decided to elect an additional member to the Committee, Mr. P. Jacot being duly proposed and seconded.

Mr. J. J. Boos, President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, took the Chair during the election. He congratulated the Society on its fine progress and expressed the hope that it would continue to prosper.

The Committee is now constituted as follows:—President: Mr. P. F. Boehringer; Vice-President: Mr. F. Streit; Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. J. Schneider; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. O. Grob; Hon. Packet-Superintendent: Mr. W. Burren; Members: Messrs. K. E. Ammann, G. Wahl, P. Jacot.

Five applications for membership were submitted and accepted and finally the meeting discussed the programme of future activities. It was decided to publish a monthly "News Sheet" with lists of wants and offers. Talks by members with specialised knowledge and exhibitions at Monthly Meetings also figured on the programme.

This concluded the official part of the meeting and the members adjourned to the dining room, where an excellent luncheon was served. The proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. A. Schmid, proved themselves perfect hosts and deserved every praise for the manner in which they looked after the welfare of their co-philatelists.

After the loyal toasts, Mr. Streit addressed the members and friends present. He was able to assert that the "Baby" Society of the Colony, as the Philatelic has been dubbed, had got over its teething troubles and was well on the way of creating for itself a name, not only in Swiss but also in English philatelic circles, hence the many English friends who have already joined our Society despite the fact that they belong to some of the leading and old established Philatelic

Societies. Mr. Streit delighted his audience with some humorous asides and generally proved himself a witty after-dinner speaker. Mr. Boos suitably replied on behalf of the guests.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in admiring some fine collections, including a number of treasured Swiss "Classics." A few special lots were put up for auction, the proceeds of which were handed to the Swiss Benevolent Society.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at Swiss House on Saturday, February 26th, at 2.30 p.m.

WB.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The February Monthly Meeting was held in form of a "Bierabig" at the Dorchester Hotel on the first Tuesday evening of the month, and again over 130 members and guests attended.

The atmosphere was from the beginning one of the best, a splendid supper even increasing the enthusiasm for the things to come and indeed the audience did not have to wait too long.

The President, Mr. A. Bon, in a few words welcomed members and guests wishing everybody an enjoyable evening. Mr. R. Waugh, replied in very eloquent words for the guests. The ordinary Club business was not being dealt with at this meeting as a full entertainment program was waiting.—

After a short interval the *compère*, Mr. Binggely, opened the program part with Mr. Luterbacher giving us Swiss songs and yodels to his own piano accompaniment and his welcome contribution was greatly applauded.—

Mr. A. Ferber, our great Swiss pianist, then mounted the platform and played to us Concert Etudes by Smetana, Chopin and Liszt. There is no doubt that the assembly were captivated by Mr. Ferber's individual style of playing and deep interpretation which put him in a class of his own. From the fiercest fortissimo to the finest pianissimo and all other shadings are within Mr. Ferber's power to a very high degree. Later on Mr. Ferber again played, and this time as a tribute to his master some Preludes by Rachmaninoff.

Nor will we forget our two friends Messrs. Senn and Kern who played to us four sonatas by Dvorak with great skill and devotion.

Mr. Jobin succeeded very well in singing an old French-Swiss dialect song supported by his table friends with a very catchy refrain and Mr. Heimerdinger surprised us all with a splendid and very original recitation which put the Committee and many members through the hoop.

Mr. Renou gave us in a short eloquent and witty speech a critical Revue of the Club, mixed with a "dream suggestion" to raise a fantastic sum of a few thousand pounds for a "Maison de Suisse." Nor must we forget a Swiss Potpourri by Mr. Bon at the Piano and Mr. Oboussier with his accordeon. Great and well deserved applause awarded all these fine efforts and time went so quickly that 10 o'clock had arrived nearly unnoticed and with a farewell speech in "Schwyzerdütsch" the President thanked all for their attendance and especially the various talents for their contributions.

P.M.