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UNIONE TICINESE.

Tea Dance at Dorchester Hotel, on December 5th, 1948.

The crystal chandeliers of the Dorchester ballroom lighted a gay scene on Sunday when over 500 people attended the Tea Dance given by the Unione Ticinese. A gay and happy crowd filled the tables or danced to the music of Harry Vardon's band, while raffle tickets were sold by members of the Unione Ticinese in their bright Ticinese costumes.

The tea was excellent and it was not until after 6 o'clock that the President, Mr. C. Berti, rose to say a few words. He was given a great ovation when he mounted the platform, and he replied by welcoming all who had come to help make the evening a success. He said how glad they were to have so many friends there and extended a very cordial welcome to Dr. Egli, President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, Mr. Boos, past President of the S.M.S., and his wife, Mr. Siegrist, President of the Schweizerbund, Mr. Weist, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, and his wife, and Mr. Albertoli as one of the oldest members of the Unione Ticinese. Mr. Berti then made a spirited appeal on behalf of a *Swiss Centre* for London and asked all those present to support any scheme that might be proposed. He ended by saying that he felt sure such a Centre could be founded if everybody bore in mind the idea of service embodied in Swiss democracy "One for all and all for one."

Signora Berti then spoke as Head of the Ladies' Section of the Unione Ticinese, and welcomed all those present, hoping that they would enjoy themselves in every way.

The Master of Ceremonies then introduced the first performers of the Cabaret, Karinska and Vadie, whose dancing held the attention of all. Their grace and fluidity of motion was only surpassed by the acrobatic skill they displayed and when they returned later to give a Spanish dance from the Province of Andalusia there was a storm of applause.

Bobby Clanford, the Comedy Accordionist, gave an excellent show, and surprised all by his extraordinary voice. At times one could imagine there were two people — one bass and one tenor — on the stage.

Madame Papacini, well-known in the Unione Ticinese, gave two songs, grave and gay and received a well-deserved ovation which was only exceeded by that which followed the songs given by the Corale "Unione Ticinese." Their bright costumes gave a splash of vivid colour to the platform, and under their able Conductor, Mr. P. de Maria, they gave a most enjoyable programme of Ticinese songs, gay and sentimental, ending with their signature tune "Ciau."

Harry Vardon and his band returned to play and soon the floor was filled with happy couples dancing their way through the evening to tunes old and new. A well stocked bar had opened at 7 p.m. and a cheerful crowd gathered in the refreshment room to chat and drink the health of one another and success to yet another delightful evening such as is always associated with the name of *Unione Ticinese*.

R.W.

SPORTS EVENTS.

The International Soccer Game between England and Switzerland took place on the Arsenal Ground at Highbury on Thursday, 2nd December, and ended with a Swiss defeat, the score being 6:0 for England. The game had to be postponed from the 1st to the 2nd December owing to fog. This, however, did not help our Swiss players very much who arrived in this country by plane on the last day of November, but could not land at Northolt because of bad visibility. They had to be diverted to Bournemouth from whence they took the train to London which was involved in a minor accident. 48,000 spectators watched the game which was quite spectacular in the first part during which the Swiss succeeded in making some very nice and dangerous attacks against the English goal. In the second half, however, the English team played a brilliant game and found itself constantly in front of the Swiss goalkeeper. It must be said that the British football professionals played really clever football and it was a pleasure to follow their marvellous passings; against this the Swiss amateurs fought very hard but unfortunately without avail.

The Swiss players and officials as well as their English friends, the F.A. officials and many journalists were received after the meeting at a Cocktail Party given by the Swiss Minister and Madame de Torrenté

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at the Swiss Legation. It was a very happy gathering which showed in no uncertain way that winners and losers can be very good friends.

The Swiss team left London on Friday, December 3rd, for another international meeting with the Irish team in Dublin. There were some changes in the Swiss representative side which proved very successful; they won indeed the fight in Dublin with the score 1:0, this being the first Swiss victory gained in Eire.

SWISS CHILDRENS' ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY.

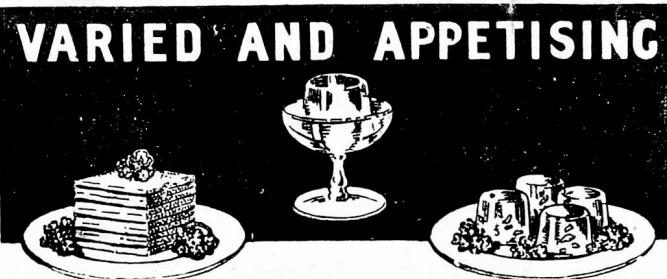
In our issue of October 29th., reference was made to the Party of all children of the Colony, at Victoria Halls, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1, on the First Saturday in the new year. —

Preparations are well in hand, thus we would like to advise the parents to apply at once for admission cards to Miss Ida Matthey, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6.

Donations would be thankfully received by Mr. C. Campart, 33, Heathfield Park, Willesden Lane, N.W.2.

We are informed that the "Little Black Book" has still "a few lines to spare," and may we remember the poet, who said :

" He who gives a child a treat,
Lights a lamp in Heaven's Street."



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EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

The Editor,
Swiss Observer,
23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

25th November, 1948.

Swiss Railways.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Last month, in my short article on The Swiss Federal Railways, I ventured to observe that the innate orderliness and cleanliness of the Swiss people were reflected in their railways and that many travellers could testify to the truth of this statement.

Since then two books have been published in which the Swiss Railways are mentioned. Mr. Tyndale, in his "Mountain Paths" pays them a tribute and writes "In Switzerland only fools travel other than third-class."

In Mr. Hamilton Fyfe's "The most civilised People in Europe" the following passage occurs: "The Swiss State railways are the cleanest of any in Europe at the present time; they run more smoothly and they have better restaurant cars as well as more courteous officials than any."

These unsolicited testimonials should rejoice the hearts of those in charge of the publicity Department of the S.F.R.

Yours,

J.J.F.S.

Gang lueg d'Heimat a !
Va revoir ton beau Pays !
Va a vedere il tuo Paese !
Va a vera teis Pajais !

.....and tell your English friends making holiday plans of the warm and sincere Welcome awaiting them in Switzerland.

Application for the "Basic Allowance" (maximum for adults £35.0.0., children under 16 £25.0.0.) should be made on the 16th of the month preceding the month of travel to the "Authorisation Office for Travel to Switzerland", 11c, Regent Street, S.W.1. (Office of the Swiss Bank Corporation where Travellers' Cheques and Swiss Money are obtainable).

Travel accommodation by Rail or Air should be applied for as early as possible.

For full particulars of fares and Services, please apply to :

SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS and SWISS STATE TRAVEL BUREAU,

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LONDON - S.W.1.