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UNIONE TICINESE MEETING.

Sunday, December 19th, what could be the attraction for such a throng of Ticinesi at Swiss House, Fitzroy Square, W.1. The General Meeting of the Unione Ticinese, or the meeting of the Ladies' Section of the Unione Ticinese? Or could it have been a talk on the Swiss Old Age and Survivors' Insurance, or yet again the 'Xmas Draw? We leave the kind reader to guess which.

The President, Mr. Carlo Berti, opening the meeting commemorated the departed members, and wished a speedy recovery to the Collector, Mr. Vincenzo Ratti, who had been already four weeks in hospital.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, and the meeting then confirmed the admission of three active members and one contributory member. Widespread regret occasioned the resignation owing to a disagreement of Mr. Carlo Valchera from the Vice-Presidency and the leadership of the Corale; it was unanimously agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Valchera in view of his valuable services. Satisfaction was felt at the nomination as his successor in the Corale leadership of Mr. Peter De Maria, who had already officiated at the Tea Dance on December 5th. In thanking for his appointment, Mr. De Maria revealed that music had been his secret ambition.

In his capacity as Secretary of long standing, Mr. De Maria subsequently reviewed the results of the functions organized during the past year which had brought a welcome increase in the funds of the Society. The brilliant record caused the Committee to be warmly congratulated by the octuagenarian "Socio Benemerito," Mr. Oscar Gambazzi. At this point the President reported that the memorial to the deceased members buried in Kensal Green Cemetery had been erected at a cost well within the original estimate.

Messrs. G. Eusebio, P. Jacomelli and E. Lucca were nominated auditors for the 1948 accounts.

As a result of a prolonged discussion the Committee were empowered to delegate two of their number to

the body which is to sit to examine, at the instigation of the London Group of the N.S.H., the possibility of taking over the present Union Helvetia premises, which have been offered for the proposed Swiss Centre.

A resolution calling upon the Committee to study and recommend to the next meeting special arrangements to suitably celebrate the 75th Anniversary of foundation of the Unione Ticinese, which falls this year, concluded the proceedings.

After refreshments, served by the Ladies Section, the members of both organizations gathered to hear a short talk by Mr. G. Eusebio on the Swiss Old Age and Survivors' Insurance as it applies to the Swiss abroad. The lively discussion that followed proved the keen interest for this measure in the Colony. It being generally felt that the scheme though devised to be of assistance to the Swiss abroad, on a quite unexpectedly generous scale, it did not, however, quite meet the needs of the Ticinesi in Great Britain belonging as a whole to modest wage-earning groups and who invariably retire to their native village in the Ticino. The gathering accepted and voted a resolution calling upon the competent authorities at home to enter into negotiations with their British counterpart with a view to effecting a reciprocal arrangements as provided for under Section 64 of the National Insurance Act 1946.

Thereupon two very young ladies, and two promising lads drew the winning numbers for the 1948 'Xmas Draw.

j.e.

UNIONE TICINESE. 1948 Xmas Draw Results.

1st: No. 3569, 2nd: 4569, 3rd: 2501, 4th: 4280,
5th: 13, 6th: 3025, 7th: 1395, 8th: 4233, 9th: 204,
10th: 1844, 11th: 2253, 12th: 906, 13th: 2203, 14th:
2226, 15th: 1320, 16th: 1467, 17th: 1437, 18th: 4875,
19th: 1079, 20th: 3711, 21st: 269, 22nd: 3616, 23rd:
1750.

Remember . . .

that some of our compatriots are less fortunate than you and if you have some spare cash, please bear in mind

THE SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

31, CONWAY STREET,
LONDON, W.1

will make good use of it on behalf of deserving cases.

They thank you in anticipation and wish you all the best in the New Year.

Space donated by The Berkeley Arms Hotel.