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**UNIONE TICINESE MONTHLY SOCIAL MEETING.**

"Switzerland is so beautiful!" How many times have we heard this exclamation from our English friends fresh from their first experience of our homeland. Whilst we thus rejoice in the fact that Providence has been so kind to us, those among us who in the present circumstances of high taxes and low exchange rates have to keep to these shores give a deep sigh and envy our Friends' good fortune. For our patriotism never flags, but as the separation lengthens the heart grows weary and yearns for the stimulant of a sight of those snow-capped peaks, the idyllic lakes and, why not, the tinkling of the cow-bells!

Through the forethought of a visitor from the home country, the London-bound members of the Unione Ticinese were this year able to receive their "stimulant" without crossing the Channel, by merely putting in an appearance at Swiss House on the afternoon of Sunday, September 3rd.

As the President, Mr. Carlo Berti, explained to the other members, Mr. Erwin Freiburghaus of Berne, who was here on a holiday visit, had brought with him a collection of his best coloured photographs. These were the result of his favourite hobby in which he indulged to his heart's content during his vacations from the Federal Police Department.

Thanks to the courtesy of the Swiss State Travel Bureau, who lent the projector free of charge, Mr. Freiburghaus was able to take us on an extended tour of Lugano and its lake with a flying visit to Locarno. After an interval we went into the Loetschental, and

climbed up the Hockenhorn exhilarated by marvellous views of the surrounding peaks of the Valais-Berne border such as the Petersgrat, Doldenhorn, Sackhorn, Wilerhorn, with Bluemlisalp away to the North and the Weisshorn to the South. A further set of "shots" took us into the heart of the Bernese Oberland, around Muerren, with views of the three giants Jungfrau, Eiger and Moench, with a climb on to the Rottal glacier. The enjoyable session closed with homely views of the Freiburghaus residence in the Federal Capital.

While we are all familiar with black-and-white photography few realize the meticulous care required in the taking of colour photographs, which demand accuracy of exposure and careful camera setting. Some of Mr. Freiburghaus's pictures revealed the artist; indeed his shot of a swan won him a prize. We particularly enjoyed various views of flowerbeds in the public gardens of Lugano and Berne; the delicacy of an interior view of the Chiesa di Gandria, showing sunbeams pouring in through the stained glass windows. The majesty of the mountain scenery, both in winter and summer, was given its due although the subject is not as colourful as a garden in bloom. "Pin-up girl", a stolid Emmenthaler heifer had us roaring with laughter, whilst "Bernerplatte" nearly had us drooling.

Everybody fully endorsed Mr. Berti's thanks to Mr. Freiburghaus for his most enjoyable gift to the "Ticinesi" of London.

Secretary of Legation, Dr. Guido Lepori, also attended with Mrs. Lepori.

*J.E.*

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