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PETER DE MARIA,
President, Unione Ticinese.

On the occasion of the Annual General Meeting of the Unione Ticinese, which was held on Sunday, February 11th, 1951, at "Swiss House", 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, Mr. Peter De Maria was elected President. He is succeeding Mr. Carlo Berti, who for the last four years has guided the destiny of this Society with great enthusiasm.

The Unione Ticinese enjoys the reputation of one of the most patriotic Swiss Societies in the London Colony, and their always willing and helpful collaboration in matters which concern the Colony as a whole, has been and is always much appreciated.

Many of our readers will, no doubt, recall the splendid Banquet which was held at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, on Sunday, October 23rd, 1949, under the Presidency of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, when the Society celebrated their 75th anniversary in the presence of the former Federal Councillor, Dr. E. Celio, at present Swiss Minister in Rome.

To succeed such a popular President, as Mr. C. Berti was, is no easy task, but we feel sure, that the Unione Ticinese has chosen the right man for the job, in the person of Mr. De Maria.

He was born in London in the year 1898, of Swiss parents. They came from Leventina and had emigrated from their native Ticino in their teens, they met in London and subsequently married.

At the age of ten, Mr. De Maria, was sent to Switzerland for his schooling which he received at the "Collegio Francesco Soave" in Bellinzona. Later on he entered the "Scuola Cantonale di Commercio" where in 1918 he obtained the diploma of "Licenziato in Scienze Commerciali".

On his return to London, he joined his father at The Walbrook Restaurant of which he was the owner. In 1936, Mr. De Maria left the catering trade to take up a position as foreign correspondent with the firm of Messrs. H. R. Munns & Co., Ltd., textile agents and shippers, of which concern he is now a Director of their associated company, Messrs. H. R. Munns (Overseas), Ltd.

Mr. De Maria joined the Unione Ticinese in 1924, and subsequently held the following appointments: 1925, Member of the committee; 1927: Assistant Secretary; 1931: Secretary, 1951, President.

In the twenties he acted for seven years as Secretary of the Swiss Sports, and three years ago he took over the leadership of the "Corale" of the Unione Ticinese.

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Society in 1949, Mr. De Maria was nominated an Honorary Member for the long and faithful services he had rendered.

We extend to him our best wishes for a successful year of office.

ST.

" SCHWEIZERBUND " (SWISS CLUB).

The Annual General Meeting of the "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club) took place on Thursday, February 22nd, 1951, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Mr. W. Schneeberger was in the Chair, and there were about 60 members present.

The President reported about the activities of the Club during the last six months. According to his *exposé* the Club has once again made progress, and although the position has considerably and steadily improved since 1949, a more active collaboration on the part of the Colony is greatly desired. Mr. Schneeberger, said, that the Committee is exercising a strict control over the social functions held at 74, Charlotte Street, so as to keep out any undesirable elements, "it is our intention", he said "to make this Club a place fit for decent people."

Mr. E. Ritzmann, Hon. Treasurer of the "Schweizerbund", explained the various items in the Balance Sheet, and it is greatly due to his hard and conscientious work, that the financial position of the Club has vastly improved.

The catering which is in the capable hands of Mr. and Mrs. L. Portman shows actually a profit, and once the loans made, at the time, by various members, are repaid, the Club should prove to be a profitable undertaking.

As in other Swiss Societies in London, considerable difficulties were encountered in finding members to fill the various offices in the committee, owing to the scarcity of new and younger arrivals in this country.

Mr. W. Meier, who acted as President *pro tem.*, was, however, able to announce that Mr. Schneeberger was unanimously elected for a new term of office, Mr. Ritzmann, Hon. Treasurer, declined to retain his office, owing to his approaching departure to Switzerland, the meeting elected Mr. A. Finger to this post. The Secretaryship which was held by Mr. E. Schorno will also change hands in the near future. The assembly was unable to fill all the posts in the Committee, and it was left to the latter to find suitable candidates.

Before the conclusion of the Meeting, appreciation for services rendered to the Club were voiced with reference to Messrs. Schneeberger, E. Ritzmann, Mrs. Schneeberger, Mrs. Ellenberger and Mr. and Mrs. L. Portmann.

ST.