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UNIONE TICINESE TEA DANCE.

A happy throng of some 250 members and friends assembled on the evening of Sunday, November 16 last, in the ballroom of the Criterion Restaurant in Piccadilly, W.1. for the Autumn Tea Dance of the "Unione Ticinese". Although one missed the spaciousness of the Dorchester Ballroom, to which this function had of late years become attached, the greater compactness at the new venue tended to enhance the friendliness, the informal gaiety we are accustomed to associating with this ever popular event.

Representing the Swiss Minister, Dr. Guido Lepori, with Mrs Lepori, was received by the President of the Society and Mrs. Peter De Maria, while youthful Gemma, with timid curtsy, presented to Mrs. Lepori a bunch of flowers in the national colours.

After the tea Mr. De Maria welcomed the official guests, and thanked members and friends for their encouragement and support. He was followed on the platform by Mr. Lepori, who spoke in Italian to his London compatriots. He appreciated the opportunity of being once again among them. As he had been "ordered" by the Entertainments Committee to speak for at least a quarter of an hour, he excused himself for broaching an official subject which was nevertheless of vital interest to all, namely the Citizenship Law which the Federal Chambers at home had recently adopted. This Law brought changes in the status of children of foreign-born Swiss, and of Swiss women who marry foreign nationals. Hearty applause thanked Dr. Lepori for having dealt with such a dry matter in a most entertaining manner.

Dancing thereupon resumed to the toe-teasing tunes of Harry Vardon's Band, whilst MC Virgilio Berti directed the award of prizes for the "spot" dances.

The organisers are to be congratulated on a most enjoyable evening.

J.E.

34th SWISS CHILDREN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY.

As always at this time of year, our small committee is busy preparing the Christmas Party for the children in the Colony. The programme has been arranged; in addition to Mr. Gandon and his accordionists and the films of the Swiss Federal Railways, there will be a Puppet Show, which will make the party even more enjoyable.

The only trouble is the funds. It takes money to entertain and feed each child and send him home with a gift. Owing to the death of Mr. Campart the usual collection has been delayed. He was in charge of the finances for many years and was devoted to the children of the Colony. Everyone loved him, and we must continue his work. The children look forward to their party.

"The little black book" is still with us and it must be filled. It will be passed round in each of our Societies, but everyone will not be reached in this way. Those who would like to send their donations directly may send them to Mr. R. Dupraz, 27 Tamworth Road, CROYDON, Surrey. Mr. Dupraz has undertaken to gather the funds we need and we are grateful to him and to those who will help us with their gifts.

If there are any children of Swiss origin who did not receive an invitation last year, Miss I. Matthey, 102 Hornsey Lane, N.6. would like to have their names and addresses.

The party is for all the children in the Colony and they will all be welcomed.

THE COMMITTEE.

XMAS GREETINGS.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to the announcement in this issue.

In order to avoid any disappointment, we should be glad to receive orders, enclosing 6/-, as soon as possible and not later than December 6th, 1952.

An Appeal . . .

The SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY and the SWISS CHURCHES in LONDON appeal once more to their compatriots for their kind contributions in kind or cash, in order to provide a little extra cheer for Christmas to our Swiss in need. All kinds of wearing apparel, household goods and furniture would be much appreciated and gratefully received.

Please send parcels, if possible not later than the end of November, to 31, Conway Street, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1, and cash remittances to :

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, 31, Conway Street, W.1. · The Revd. C. Reverdin, 7, Park View Road, Finchley, N.3. · The Revd. H. Spörri, 1, Womersley Road, N.8. The Revd. Father A. Lanfranchi, St. Anne's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1.

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