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COLLEGE OF THE SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

On September 16th and 17th Mr. A. Schwander, "Chef der Sektion für berufliche Ausbildung" of the BIGA (Bundesamt für Industrie, Gewerbe und Arbeit) in Berne paid an official visit to the College at 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. The BIGA is the Federal Department which supervises all those schools in Switzerland that train young men and women for the Federal Certificate of Proficiency in various occupations. It is this Department which has granted an annual subsidy to the College of the S.M.S. in consideration of the part it plays in the education of young Swiss for a commercial career.

Accompanied by the principal of the College and the President of the Society, Mr. Schwander spent some time in all of the ten classes comprising close on to 200 students. He also visited the canteen installed in the basement, where many of the students take their luncheons, and he was shown over all parts of the two buildings which make up "Swiss House", and where the S.M.S. Employment Department and the Anglo Swiss Employment Bureau are also accommodated.

At an evening meeting at Swiss House representatives of the Council, the Education Committee and the House Committee surveyed with Mr. Schwander the administration of the College by the Swiss Mercantile Society. The problems which will arise when the lease of Swiss House expires in 1959 received special attention.

In the absence of the Swiss Minister, Mr. Schwander was received at the Swiss Legation by Monsieur E. Bernath, chargé d'affaires, and several of his collaborators.

The visit was brought to a conclusion by a dinner offered to Mr. and Mrs. Schwander at the Dorchester by members of the Council, Trustees and the various Committees of the Swiss Mercantile Society, some of whom were accompanied by their ladies.

W.M.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, October, 29th, 1954. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: J. Grueter, A. Wehrli, O. E. Simmooth, H. Waibel, Hans Berli.

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UNIONE TICINESE DANCE.

The summer, so the calendar informs us, has gone and the autumn, with its lengthening evenings is upon us once again. As we enter the tunnel part of the year we are comforted by the thought that it is the time for parties and other social functions. The Sezione Femminile of the Unione Ticinese this year set the ball rolling with an informal dance at the Assembly Rooms of the St. Pancras Town Hall on Sunday evening, September 26. Some two hundred and fifty members and their friends were arriving as Harry Vardon's band struck up the first fox-trot. The hall had been decorated for the occasion with British and Swiss flags, and also with the Cantonal emblems, while the Unione Ticinese banner hung above the stage.

There were no official guests but we noticed the presence of Dr. Guido Lepori, secretary of Legation (despite a cold) with Madame Lepori. All the Committed members of the male section were also there in force, as some of the ladies would have it, to criticize.

During an interval the Corale of the Unione Ticinese appeared on the stage to sing a few "canzonette" under the leadership of their new 'maestro' Mr. Luigi Bruni. Their colourful costumes, and their nostalgic singing took us back to the valleys lakesides of our homeland.

The informality of the proceedings and the charming company made the evening a most enjoyable one. While we congratulate the Sezione Femminile on their enterprise we wish them long life and many more successful parties.

J.E.

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