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WITH OUR BRETHREN FROM THE SOUTH.



P. JACOMELLI.
President
Unione Ticinese.

Within the span of seven days I lunched with the Swiss Philatelists, attended a cocktail party, dined with the City Swiss Club, and was present at Sir Gavin de Beer's lecture and at the General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and, lastly, was at a piano recital at Wigmore Hall.

After this somewhat hectic week, I was looking forward to a Sunday's rest by the fireside, but it was not to be; I suddenly remembered that in my pocket I had an invitation to attend the Tea-Dance of the Unione Ticinese at the May Fair Hotel.

I debated in my mind whether to ask to be excused, but I decided otherwise; and I am glad I did so, because to be with our *cari ticinesi* acts as a tonic. They are good company, happy, jolly and carefree, and imbued with a spirit of patriotic fervour.

On my arrival at the May Fair dancing was already in full swing. The attendance, which on some occasions has reached between six and seven hundred, was this time less numerous, but what was lacking in "quantity" was gained in "quality".

On social occasions like this, speech-making is restricted to a minimum, which is a good thing; therefore, the young and vivacious President of the Society, Mr. P. Jacomelli, contented himself with a few words of greeting to the official guests, and a short patriotic address in Italian. He mentioned the presence of Monsieur M. Luy, 1st Secretary of Embassy, and Madame Luy, Mr. A. Gandon, Chairman of the

Presidents' Assembly, and Madame Gandon, and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer", and Mrs. Stauffer.

The only other speaker was Monsieur Luy, who thanked the President for his invitation and delivered the greetings of the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker, who were unable to be present. He referred to the close bonds which exist between the Embassy and the Unione Ticinese. "The departure", he said, "of my good friend and former colleague, Monsieur Alberto Albertini, has certainly left a great gap in your Society; I can, however, assure you that the Embassy is taking the keenest interest in your activities and in the welfare of our Italian-speaking compatriots." Monsieur Luy concluded his short address with a few words in Italian.

The Ticinesi are not only "bravi soldati", but also fine singers, and, in order to bring some diversion into the proceedings, the "Corale" — which is so well known in the Colony — lustily and harmoniously rendered a number of "canzonette" from their large *répertoire*. They were attired in their becoming national dress, the ladies looking particularly charming. I noticed that the President himself is a member of the choir, and it always puzzles me, being surrounded by so much beauty, how he manages to remain a bachelor.

As a contribution to the programme from their brethren from the other side of the Gotthard, Master Jean Michel Gandon, accompanied by his father on the accordion — both dressed in smart "Mälcherchutti" — gave a number of yodelling songs. He possesses a sweet melodious voice, and both his and his father's performances were much applauded.

Mr. Virgilio Berti acted throughout with much competence as M.C.; he even gave an involuntary demonstration of how to fix an *écharpe*.

Dancing to Harry Vardon's lively band was then resumed until shortly before 11 p.m., when a most enjoyable evening came to its conclusion.

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Nouvelle Société Helvétique
(LONDON GROUP)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

and

ANNUAL DINNER

on Tuesday, 18th March, 1958,
at the Swiss Hostel for Girls,
9, Belsize Grove, N.W.3.

The Swiss Ambassador and Madam Armin Daeniker will be our Guests of Honour.

6.15 p.m. Annual General Meeting
7.15 p.m. Reception
7.30 p.m. Dinner (dress informal)

All Swiss and friends are cordially invited. Those intending to be present at the Dinner (price 8/6 inclusive) should inform the management of the Hostel preferably by letter (address as above) or by telephone (PRImrose 6856) not later than Monday, March 17th.



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