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UNIONE TICINESE.

The first Annual General Meeting of 1959 was held at the Schweizerbund on Sunday, 8th February, at 5.30 p.m. By one of those queer tricks of fate, the meeting was unintentionally arranged for the same day as the 85th Anniversary of the Society. The President, Mr. Peter Jacomelli, opened the proceedings by welcoming those of us present, reminding us that the ideals which prompted the formation of the Society 85 years ago were basically the same to-day, namely, the fostering and maintaining of interest in our mother country and mutual help between members.

The President then called on the Assistant Secretary, Miss A. Bozzini, to read the minutes of the last meeting. This was followed by the Committee's report, made by the Secretary. Describing the past year as 'a rather favourable one', Mr. F. De Maria continued with an explanation of the accounts as presented, and a résumé of the activities of the Society during the previous twelve months. Several functions had been held, ranging from the informal Festa Famiglia, at the Schweizerbund, to a Tea Dance at the Dorchester, and while they had not all been unequivocal successes financially, nevertheless, the enjoyment and enthusiasm of those taking part had acted as an encouragement to the Committee. A big expense during the past year had been the purchase of three new headstones for the Society's graves at St. Pancras Cemetery, Finchley, but this was the sort of expense that the Society was only too proud to bear. The Secretary concluded his report on an optimistic note. He thought that the coming year would be an even better one for the Society than 1958 had been.

The elections for the 1959 Committee then took place. It was in some degree a mark of confidence in the outgoing Committee that practically the same members were elected for 1959. They were as follows:— President: Mr. P. Jacomelli; Vice-Presidents: Mrs. L. Bruni and Mr. C. Berti; Secretary: Mr. F. De Maria; Vice-Secretary: Miss A. Bozzini; Treasurer: Mr. V. Berti; Collector: Mr. U. Hauswirth; Members: Miss R. Ferrari, Mr. A. Orelli, Mr. M. Diviani, Mr. F. Bassi, Mr. F. Allegranza, Mr. J. De Maria, Mr. C. Rosselli and Mr. L. Bruni.

The remaining items on the agenda were then quickly dealt with, and the President concluded the meeting with a few words of thanks to those who had shown an active interest in the affairs of the Society during the past year, reminding us that we had every reason to be proud of our link with Switzerland and particularly with our own Ticino.

The meeting was followed by a Polenta and Risotto Supper at which the 85th Anniversary was appropriately celebrated.

J.B.D.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

In order to save both money and time, the Publishers would be much obliged if subscribers who are in arrears with their subscription would kindly send their remittance as soon as possible.

Specimen copies of the "Swiss Observer" will be gladly sent to addresses, supplied to our office, of likely subscribers.

JOSEPH FISCHER †

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing away, on February 4th, at the Waid Hospital in Zurich, of Mr. Joseph Fischer, a partner in the firm of Hommel Pharmaceuticals, of 121 Norwood Road, Herne Hill, London S.E.24, at the age of 55.

The deceased had been ill on and off for the last three years, and after a recent illness decided to go to Switzerland for convalescence, but he peacefully passed away there.

Mr. Fischer started with Hommel Zurich in 1923, and between December 1928 and September 1931 he paid frequent visits to London; in September 1932 he joined the London Office, first as Manager and later (1938) as Partner — a post which he held with distinction until his untimely departure. He was held in great esteem by the staff of the firm, and by his personal friends.

The departed had been since 1940 a member of the City Swiss Club, where he was often seen, and a contributing member of the Swiss Mercantile Society. He was of a quiet disposition, but was able to gather around him a small circle of friends, who will sadly miss him.

He leaves a daughter, to whom we extend our deep sympathy in her bereavement.

ST.

The burial took place on 7th February at Baretswill.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

The Swiss Bank Corporation announce that after writing off Sfs.3,090,905, the net profit for 1958 amounts to Sfs.28,549,071 against Sfs.26,783,195 last year. The total assets amount to Sfs.4,129,805,268 against Sfs.3,602,591,418.

At the General Meeting to be held in Basle on 6th March, it will be proposed to make a contribution of Sfs.2,000,000 to the Pension Fund, to allocate Sfs.2,000,000 to the reserve for new buildings, and to place Sfs.6,000,000 to Special Reserves. It is further proposed to pay a dividend of 9% (as last year) and to carry forward Sfs.3,508,229 (against Sfs.1,936,612 last year).

Before closing the accounts for 1958 the Board transferred Sfs.4,000,000 from tax-paid internal reserves to Special Reserves.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT.

The engagement is announced between Dr. Paul Cushman, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cushman of 115 East 67th Street, New York City and Syosset, Long Island, and Miss Paulette Bessire, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bessire of 28 Cumberland Road, Barnes, London S.W.13. The marriage will take place in London on 4th April 1959.