

With our brethren from the South

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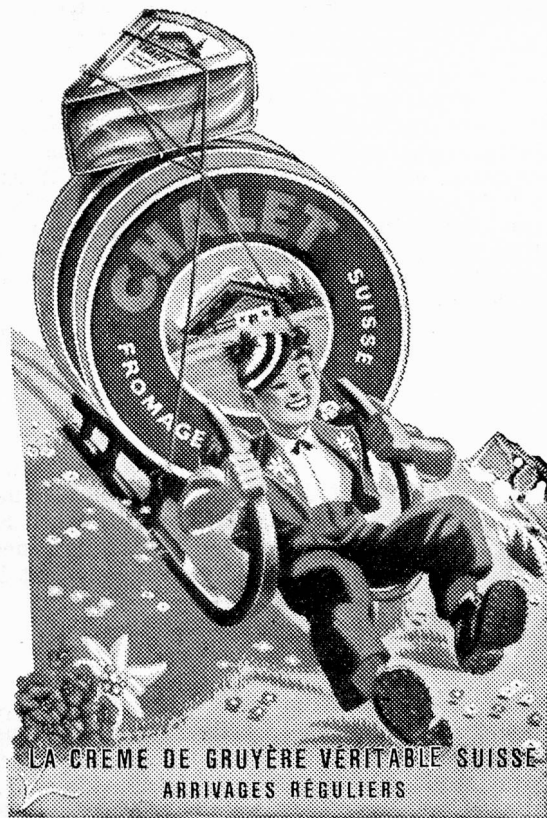
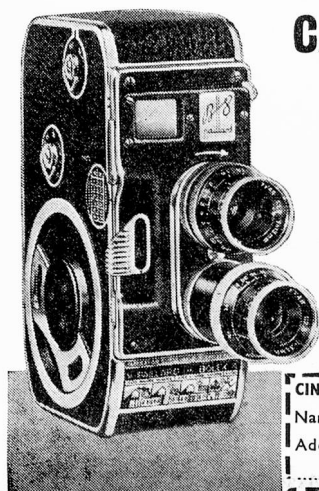
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After many dreary winter days everyone looks forward to spring-time, when nature's awakening takes place; the trees begin to be covered with tender green leaves, daffodils and tulips make their appearance and nature begins to look at its best. This process of rejuvenation equally affects humanity.

Sunday, 10th May, was a beautiful day when the Unione Ticinese held one of their periodical Tea-Dances — which by now have become very popular — and I therefore wended my way to the Dorchester Hotel via St. James's Park and Hyde Park.

The flowers in the parks were a lovely sight, the lakes glittered in golden sunshine. Indeed the "rustle of spring" was in the air, "turning young maidens' and young men's thoughts to love and green fields and pastures new". The green fields were sprinkled with loving couples — not always in very elegant positions! — whispering tender words into each other's ears, whilst the birds were gaily twittering above them; altogether a scene of love.

* * *

On arriving at the Dorchester Hotel, I found dancing already in full swing; here, too, a galaxy of young maidens dressed in gay colours presented a spring-time atmosphere. No less than five hundred people attended this festival, all eager to herald in spring-time with dancing and merry-making to the tunes of Harry Vardon's band.

Whilst tea was served, Mr. A. F. De Maria, who very efficiently officiated as M.C., announced that a few cabaret turns would be given, and also that the President of the Unione Ticinese would like to say a few words, whereupon Mr. P. Jacomelli extended a hearty welcome to the entire company, and to the official guests, Mr. E. Ribl, Swiss Consul, and Mrs. Ribl, and Mr. A. Stauffer, editor of the "Swiss Observer", wishing everybody a happy afternoon and evening.

Then there appeared Miss B. Jngles and Mr. Ken Bateman, who gave an excellent performance of modern ball-room dancing. They were followed by Miss Anne Trevor, soprano, who rendered with much vigour and fine voice excerpts from Lehar's ever-young "Merry Widow", and as it was a fine day, she very appropriately gave as an *encore* the aria "One fine day" from Puccini's "Madame Butterfly". Miss Trevor was very efficiently accompanied by Miss Elsie Taylor.

The cabaret concluded with the appearance of the "Corale" in their gaily coloured Ticinese costume; they brought back nostalgic memories by their singing of lively and sentimental "Canzoni", and I am sure the minds of many were transported back to the sunlit valleys of Ticino. The "Corale" improve every time they appear, and so does their "Maestro" Sig. Louis Bruni, to whose leadership and enthusiasm their success is greatly due.

After the cabaret, which was greatly enjoyed, dancing was resumed, only intercepted by a tombola, and the attractive zither playing of Mr. Willi Schreiber, and lasted until 11 o'clock, when this very lively and happy Tea-Dance came to its conclusion. I am sure, judging from the smiling faces of the young ladies, this spring dance was greatly enjoyed.

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