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UNIONE TICINESE

The Annual General Meeting of the Unione Ticinese was held at the Swiss Hostel on Sunday, 2nd March in the presence of Monsieur Muheim, representing the Swiss Ambassador. After a brief welcome from the President, Mr. Berti, the opening items of the agenda were disposed of in a very business-like manner, and attention was then given to the Committee's Report. The Secretary was able to show that the year had been a successful one, even though the only profit making venture was the Dorchester Dance. This had been very well attended, despite the increased cost of the tickets. Other functions had been mainly held at the Swiss Hostel, and the Society was most grateful to Miss Siegrist for her continued hospitality. The Corale had enjoyed a good year, the addition of student voices making it possible for appearances to be made in public on a number of occasions. Mr. Peter Jacomelli reported on his visit as delegate to the "Pro Ticino" meeting at Neuchâtel. It was obvious that many of the difficulties encountered in London, were common to other Ticinese societies, and the interchange of ideas at Neuchâtel would prove most useful to future committees.

The main item on the agenda was the adoption of a new *statuto* which the committee had been preparing for some time. After much discussion it was felt by the meeting that at least three of the clauses could well be looked at again, and a proposal to adopt the new *statuto* was defeated.

The election of the new committee resulted as follows:— President: F. A. De Maria, Vice-Presidents: P. Jacomelli and Miss S. Morosi, Secretary: E. Morganti, Assistant Secretary: Miss L. Rosselli, Treasurer: J. De Maria, Collector: F. Allegranza. Members: Miss G. Panatti, Mrs. E. Morganti, Messrs. J. Diviani, J. Pedretti, V. Berti, L. Jacomelli, C. Rosselli, R. De Maria.

WINE, CHEESE AND ACCORDION MUSIC

Get-together of the City Swiss Club

The latest of the popular and successful *Soirées Familiales* of the City Swiss Club took place at the Orchid Suite of the Dorchester Hotel on 25th February. The idea of making it a Wine and Cheese Party was a good one, though the uninitiated hardly expected such a wonderful spread of a great variety of cheese titbits, hot and cold, which went extremely well with a drop of the best of Swiss wines. Different cheeses on the cheese board were offered by the Swiss Cheese Union. The ever resourceful organiser Eddie Tobler had arranged for a colourful display of Swiss posters, specially flood-lit so as not to clash with the quiet elegance of the room. Right from the beginning, the atmosphere was a happy one, contributed to by a versatile artist on piano and accordion, Werner Kotz from Amriswil. He entertained the gathering with songs almost forgotten and others only recently arrived, and with rousing melodies on his accordion, he got the dancers busy on the floor. A languid tango, a stirring rumba and a flowing waltz played on records may have temporarily attracted couples onto the floor — but nothing got them going with quite as much abandon as a jolly old *Laendler*.

Thank you, City Swiss Club, for letting us have such an enjoyable evening!

MM

SWISS RELIEF SOCIETY OF MANCHESTER

On Saturday, 1st March, a number of members met in the Midland Hotel for the eighty-sixth Annual General Meeting, to accept the yearly accounts and alter some of the existing rules to comply with the Charity Act.

One of the important developments was the extension of membership to also include British subjects having close ties with the Swiss Community in Manchester and District. Several other matters which could affect future policy were discussed and the whole atmosphere was most lively and invigorating, but always pervaded by a constructive and friendly spirit.

The outgoing Committee was unanimously re-elected and there is no doubt that they will carry out their heavy responsibilities in the future in the same efficient way as in the past. Indeed we can look back to over four score years of great humanitarian and social work, which in the past four years has more than doubled, in itself proof enough of the *raison d'être* of this Institution. Although we do not catch the limelight because of the accepted standards of discretion and anonymity, we all know and well imagine how much useful work is done on the quiet for the relief of the needy and distressed, and the help occasionally given to other worthy causes.

To be able to fulfil these demands it is of paramount importance that such a Society is conducted in a sound and businesslike way, and that it can base itself on a strong and healthy financial structure. In this we have succeeded, so far, to a remarkable degree.

At the present time, as in the past and even more in the future, we have to rely exclusively on the free and wholehearted support of our members and friends, and for those who at times may have some doubts about the utility and necessity of such a charitable Society, may we be allowed to quote the words of the President of a great Institution which works on similar lines to our own: "... looking back over the last twelve years shows us that public welfare legislation and social insurance still leave ample scope for private charitable organisations like our Society".
E.B.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION

(London)

It is announced that Mr. Louis Mottet, formerly a Manager at the Geneva Office and Dr. Franz Schmitz, previously General Manager of the "Zurich" Insurance Company, Zurich, have been appointed as additional General Managers of the Swiss Bank Corporation.

(Basle)

At the 97th Annual General Meeting held at Basle on 7th March, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Samuel Schweizer, (attended by 151 shareholders representing a total of 370,034 shares), the Report and Accounts for 1968 were approved as also were the Board's proposals as announced in our last issue.

The following retiring members of the Board were re-elected for a further period of three years: Dr. Samuel Schweizer, Dr. Robert Käppeli, Dr. Jürg, G. Engi, Mr. Franz Luterbacher, Dr. Viktor R. Pfrunder, Mr. Alfred Schaffner, Prof M. Staehelin and Mr. Kurt Vischer.