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association with Switzerland and, in particular, with St. Moritz. He first visited Switzerland in 1887. He tried his first pair of skis at Grindelwald in 1894, at the age of 16 only, and he revisited the Alps for every subsequent winter with the exception of the war years. He loved St. Moritz and chose it as the regular venue of the Winter Commonwealth Games, of which he was the Founder and Chairman. The "St. Moritz Courier" has on more than one occasion devoted a column to him, expressing the degree of esteem which the people of this great Engadine resort felt for their regular visitor from England.

Captain Richardson was a great all round sportsman, but skating was perhaps the sport in which he particularly excelled. In 1905 he won a silver medal in a large ice-skating competition on the Kulm Ring. He and his wife ranked among the best ice-skaters for many decades. They both took part in the Olympics of 1920 and 1924, where they were both Figure Skating Gold Medallists. Probably the most brilliant demonstration of Captain Richardson's involvement with this sport was the impressive list of books he wrote on the subject. These books were: "Modern Figure Skating" (Metheun), "Ice Rink Skating" (Pearson), "Complete Figure Skater" (Metheun), "Skating with Richardson" (Pitman), "Ice Skating" (Batsford), "The Girls Book of Skating" (Barke), "Champions All" (Muller), "Your Book of Skating" (Faber and Faber), "Skating" (Burke) and "The Art of Figure Skating" (Nicholas Kaye).

But skating was not all! Captain Richardson was a lightweight oarman both at Cambridge University and at Henley. He was a "boxing blue", a keen golfer and twice the winner of the Swiss Open Amateur Championship. He held yet further trophies in the antipodal

sports of bobsleigh and curling. The Commonwealth Winter Games which were created at his initiative were held most successfully at St. Moritz in 1958, 1962 and 1966 and Captain Richardson worked very hard to ensure their success and continuity.

He and Mrs. Richardson were highly successful winter sports journalists. Captain Richardson wrote more than a million words on winter sports of every kind and was for many years the special correspondent of the "Times" in this field, while his wife wrote for the "Observer". Both have also regularly contributed to such publications as "The Field" and "The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic".

Captain Richardson had been Honorary Treasurer of the Anglo-Swiss Society for many years and we know that his passing away will be felt strongly by many members of the Society. We should like to express our heart-felt sympathy to Mrs. Richardson.

(PMB)

THE "FESTIVAL TICINESE"

Long gone are the days when at this time of year the thoughts of our southern compatriots would dwell in pleasurable expectancy of the "Unione Ticinese" annual dinner and dance, held at first in the spacious International Hall at "Monico's" or, later, in the cosier Alexandra Room at "Pagnani's". This was invariably the occasion for an ample meal, open-hearted fellowship, with aristocratic looking Minister Charles Paravicini as principal guest of honour, flanked by the mayors of the London Boroughs of St. Marylebone and St. Pancras, and a dozen or more official guests from the score of societies that then gave vigorous life

to the Swiss colony.

But "acqua passata non macina più", so they say in the Ticino; one now can only remember, but no longer conjure back past glories. The "Unione Ticinese" has today been left without a regular venue pending the advent of the Swiss Forum.

Not all, however, is sentimental remembrance, and sadness for us, London Swiss, especially since in the last few years we have welcomed among us the longed for Swiss Centre, a bold venture on modern lines, in which home trade, travel and communications are worthily represented.

Undoubtedly one of the Centre's attractions are its four restaurants, so that the culinary arts of the four cultures that make up the Confederation can be practised in rivalry with the other countless catering establishments of London's West End; they are the "Rendez-vous", the "Taverne", the "Locanda" and the "Chesa". For the uninitiated we would explain that to the first you go for a hasty snack, to the second for a satisfying "fondue", and while the "Locanda" is for "pasta" and other southern dishes, the "Chesa" is for abundant meals on the expense account.

When first opened, the restaurants suffered from the usual teething troubles and gained an undeserved reputation for providing the smallest meal for the highest price, served by some forbidding "gauleiterettes". But under the energetic managership of signor Rinaldo Veri from Mendrisio, things have considerably improved. Even at my City Office word has reached me lately of the Swiss Centre's delicious coffee, and reasonably priced, well prepared menus.

It was appropriate then that, with the complicity of our National Tourist

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Office's dynamic Mr. Alfred Kunz, an official delegation from the Ticino tourist association, under the leadership of councillor of state, sig. Arturo Lafranchi, the head of the cantonal department for economic matters, visited London from the 18th to the 21st of January last, with a view to promoting "Ticino" tourism in the British Isles. Some 300 representatives of Travel Agencies and the Press were entertained to breakfast in the "Locanda" and individually presented with an inscribed "boccalino" and "marrons glacés".

As part of the same promotion the "Locanda", suitably decorated, for six weeks offered a succession of "Ticinese" gastronomic specialities under the title of "Festival Ticinese". The writer's wedding anniversary falling conveniently during the same period, he just had to celebrate at "La Locanda" with the family. We enjoyed a repast of "zuppa pavese" (soup with an egg), "piccione di Brissago" (roast pigeon) washed down with a "boccalino" of Merlot-Viti and followed by a warming "caffé mendrisiense", the latter being signor Veri's adaptation of Irish coffee for the benefit of Ticino's "magnificent borough". Thus being all Ticinesi by descent rather than birth, we much enjoyed our evening out in such homely surroundings, and if we may express a wish it is that the "Locanda" even in "post Festival days" persevere in the cultivation of the Swiss Italian atmosphere and introduce more specialities such as the "croquant" and "panettone" at Christmas and roast "capretto" and "colomba" at Eastertide. (J.E.)

PRO JUVENTUTE HOLIDAYS

The Pro Juventute and Schweizerhilfe Foundations are organising summer holidays for children and families this year as usual. These holidays are spaced out throughout July and August and it is wise for those interested to take the necessary steps now. Please contact Mrs. B. Kaluza, 14 Amberley Court, Christchurch Park, Sutton, Surrey (Tel: 01-643 5941) for details.

OBITUARY

We have the deep regret of announcing the death of *Mrs. Yvonne Bader*, of 25 Charmouth Court, Charmouth Road, St. Albans. She was 51 and had been suffering from cancer for many months. She was the wife of Mr. Jean Bader, Vice-President of the Swiss Church. To him and to his son Michael we wish to extend our most sincere sympathy.

It is with regret that we have learnt of the death of Mr. C. O. Brulhard at the age of 79, on February 7th. Mr. Brulhard was well known to the elder members of the Swiss Colony in London and used to take part in the activities of the City Swiss Club, the Swiss Mercantile Society and many other societies. He was a member of the Helvetica Lodge. Having trained and worked as a hotelier in Switzerland, he came to England and held various posts in London's hotelery, among them the management of the Goring Hotel in Victoria, before buying the

Hotel Park at 119 Bayswater Road, W.2, in 1923. He lived there for the last year of his life. The management of the hotel has been taken over by his son and daughter-in-law and we should wish to express our feelings of sympathy to both of them.



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