

Our next issue

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Mrs. G. Lunghi, and this "Thé Dansant" was principally arranged in honour of this section, as a reward for their splendid work on behalf of Swiss and English charities.

Punctual to the minute, Mr. C. Berti, who acted throughout the programme as Master of Ceremony, opened the official part with a short address, welcoming the company, and wishing them an enjoyable afternoon.

The Unione Ticinese could not have engaged a livelier band than the Spitfire Radio Band who did their best to entice young and old on to the dance floor. For those whose "Dancing Days" are over a varied programme was introduced, and executed by members, both of the band and the Society. A very good tea was supplied by the Dorchester Hotel, which was much enjoyed.

To give the band a well deserved rest, Messrs. Häusermann and C. Rossier from the Swiss Accordion Club, played a number of Swiss dances, amongst them some, which would now be called "hurricane waltzes", the latter soon fetched many couples on to the floor, and even made your reporter "twist and turn" like a young one. The applause with which each item was greeted must have been highly satisfactory to the performers.

Mr. Carlo Meschini, Honorary Vice-President of the Unione Ticinese gave a short address thanking the Committee for the work they have done in arranging this splendid gathering, not forgetting Mr. A. Bon for having put the ballroom of the Dorchester Hotel at their disposal. He reviewed the history of the Society, its aims and its achievements since the foundation in 1864. He paid a warm tribute to the work done by the Ladies under the leadership of Mrs. G. Lunghi, mentioning the help which his late father, Mr. Arturo Meschini, had given to the Society for many years. Mr. Meschini's speech was much appreciated and deservedly applauded.

I might recall here that the Unione Ticinese has given more than one proof of their generosity towards our less fortunate compatriots, they certainly have lived up to their Motto inscribed on their banner: "Uno per Tutti, Tutti per Uno." Well do I remember the occasion some years ago, when the then popular President, W. Notari, presented a cheque of £1,000 to the Swiss Benevolent Society, thus giving the Colony a splendid example of their useful and helpful collaboration.

A very touching ceremony then took place in honour of Mr. and Mrs. G. Lunghi, who recently celebrated their golden wedding day anniversary.

Mrs. C. Berti, addressed the following words to the wedding couple:

Mi è stato conferit il privilegio di indirizzarvi queste poche ma sincere parole a nome delle due sezioni della nostra Unione Ticinese.

Potrei parlare a lungo se volessi elencare in dettaglio i molti servizi resi dalla Signora Lunghi alla comunità Ticinese per ben mezzo secolo di indefaticabile attività. Ma questi sono ben conosciuti da tutti. Mi limiterò perciò nell'osservare che l'esempio ci ha portato e una che nessun Ticinese potrà dimenticare.

Essere moglie per ben 50 anni, madre di numerosa famiglia è compito potentoso in sè, se adempito con l'affetto e abnegazione della Signora Lunghi, pure ha mai mancato di trovare e tuttora

continua a trovare tempo per i suoi compaesani tanto in patria che nella Grande Bretagna. Abbiamo di che esserle grati.

Vi preghiamo cari Signori Lunghi accettare questo piccolo ricordo in segno della nostra ammirazione e gratitudine. Auguriamo a voi continuata felicità e lunga vita.

presenting them with a very handsome silver tea set inscribed as follows:

*Agli Sposi G. Lunghi
in ricordo
50mo Anniversario Vostre Nozze
Ticinesi Londra presentano
1893-1943
AD MULTOS ANNOS.*

Mrs. Lunghi greatly touched by this token of appreciation and friendship thanked the members of the Society in a few befitting words.

A cabaret by the Band aided by three dancing girls then followed, their scanty attire made one realise how difficult the clothing position has become. An act entitled "East goes West" by members of the band caused much amusement.

That the Unione Ticinese has a number of talented members was proved by the performance of Miss Bass who played on the violin with piano accompaniment by Mrs. Hollyman an "Allegro" by Fiocco, "Canzonetta" by d'Amorosio and Tartini's "Presto" with great feeling.

Miss C. Polti, who appeared on the platform garbed in the becoming costume of the canton Ticino, recited two poems in Ticinese dialect which evoked peals of laughter.

The *bel canto* was introduced by Madame Papacini, soprano, who sang three songs, amongst them Toselli's "Serenata" and "Ave Maria" from Gounod. Madame Papacini is the possessor of a very pleasing voice and her contribution to the programme was an enjoyable one.

To wind up the entertainment part, Mr. Tommy Duggan, the well-known B.B.C. entertainer, kept the company in shrieks of laughter.

Dancing then went on again, several spot prizes were awarded, and a raffle took place with such welcome gifts as bottles of Whiskey and Gin, Fountain pen. etc., etc.

Shortly before the end of this successful party, the young and vivacious President of the Society, Mr. C. Farrari, made a happy little speech in which he thanked all and sundry for their help in making this "Thé Dansant" such a pleasant affair.

Thus ended a very successful and entertaining afternoon, and the smiling faces of the pretty Ladies must have proved to the organisers that their labours were not in vain. I take this opportunity of thanking the Unione Ticinese, and especially Mr. Gambazzi, Hon. Vice-President of the Society, who looked so well after me, for the opportunity they have given me, to be in their midst, and to renew old friendships which will ever be treasured. ST.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

On account of the holidays and possible delay in postal deliveries we shall publish our next issue before the last Friday in the month, i.e., on December 23rd.