

Unione Ticinese - thé dansant

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UNIONE TICINESE — THE DANSANT. In aid of the Swiss Benevolent Society.

On Sunday, 26th January, in spite of the severe cold weather, over 550 members and friends of the Unione Ticinese attended the Thé Dansant organised for the benefit of the Swiss Benevolent Society, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. Every ticket had been sold, and many who could not obtain tickets were disappointed, but the Committee justly decided that the attendance had to be limited in order to make the dancing more comfortable than at the last Thé Dansant when over 680 people attended.

Dancing started at 4 o'clock to the well selected repertory of Harry Vardon and his Band, which had taken the place of the well-known "Spitfires" who could not be obtained this time. During the dancing Tea was served and as more and more people arrived the general merriment and enjoyment increased as old acquaintances met and the glittering lights of the Ballroom made everyone forget the wintry weather which was raging outside. At 6.30 p.m. a Cabaret was introduced in order to give the dancers a rest and, of course, for the benefit of the people who do not dance. Miss Sandra Roberts, made a welcome reappearance, accompanied at the piano by her tutor Mr. Carlo Valchera. She sang with very fine distinction the well-known "Aria" from the "Nozze di Figaro" "Voi che sapete . . ." followed by the ballad "For Love Alone" and delighted everybody with that old favourite "Ciribiribin."

The next turn was provided by that well-known Accordionist and Radio favourite Dante. We can only say of him that he is to the Accordion what another Dante was to the Italian language many centuries ago, that is, the supreme artist. He proved without a doubt that no music, no matter how highbrow or classic, is beyond the power of the accordion, and his rendering of the Flight of the Bumble Bee, was a rare treat. The third turn was provided by the Corale of The Unione Ticinese, who sang popular Ticinese songs, mixing some new ones with some well tried old favourites and finished up with "O sole mio" in which their "Maestro" Mr. Carlo Valchera took the solo part. Especially applauded was the drinking song "Il Bocalino" featured for the first time. We must congratulate the "Corale" who improve every time they appear on another very fine performance, and more so their "Maestro" Mr. Carlo Valchera, to whose leadership and enthusiasm their success is greatly due.

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After the Cabaret, dancing continued with greater zest and intensity. During one of the intervals Gino Berni, the Operatic Tenor, and old Friend of the Unione Ticinese sang "Recondita Armonia" from "La Tosca" followed by "La Donna e Mobile" and finished with "Toselli's Serenade," much to the delight of the audience who signified their pleasure by the intensity of their applause.

One of the great features of the Thé Dansant of the Unione Ticinese is the absence of any official speeches. Mr. Roetlisberger, who represented the Swiss Benevolent Society said a few words of thanks on behalf of his Society to all the people present who by coming along had contributed to the success of the function, and later on Mr. C. Ferrari, President of the Unione Ticinese, thanked everyone on behalf of the Society.

Ten o'clock came all too soon and to the strains of Auld Lang Syne and God Save the King dancing ceased and another Thé Dansant of the Unione Ticinese came to an end. *dem.*

RECEPTION INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE.

A reception was held at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1, on Wednesday, February 5th, to welcome the two new Delegates for London of the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva:—

Dr. G. Hoffmann, of Zurich University, previously on a mission for the International Red Cross in Norway, and

Monsieur Edmond Aeberhard, formerly Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee in Brussels.

Major F. Bieri, of the International Red Cross Committee in London, acted as the "perfect host," ably assisted by Messrs. J. Zimmermann and Mr. J. Muller.

In his usual charming manner he introduced the new Delegates to the following guests:—

Swiss Legation :

Monsieur Paul Ruegger, the Swiss Minister, Monsieur A. Escher, Monsieur E. de Graffenried, Monsieur R. Hunziker, Monsieur et Madame P. H. Aubaret, Monsieur F. Rothenbühler, Monsieur et Madame Ch. Weibel, Monsieur J. P. Weber, Monsieur A. Lindt, Monsieur C. Caillat, Monsieur et Madame A. F. Rappard, Monsieur E. Bircher, Monsieur et Madame M. Heimo.

British Red Cross :

Field-Marshal Lord Chetwode, Major-General Sir John Kennedy, Miss Thompson.

War Office :

General Blomfield, Colonel Woodhouse, Lieut-Colonel Collins and Mrs. Collins; Major E. T. Harding, Major P. T. van Straubenzee, Major L. Tew, Capt. L. C. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Weston, Miss S. M. Catherall.

Foreign Office :

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Davidson, Mr. Dean, Mr. and Mrs. Lieshmann.

Swiss Press :

Dr. H. W. Egli and Mr. A. Stauffer.
Mr. A. Bon, President, City Swiss Club, Colonel Frost, Sq.-Leader Henderson, Lord Fairfax, Miss J. Jackson, Mr. J. Barwick (Y.M.C.A.), Dr. Hirschwald (Y.M.C.A.).