

# Swiss Mercantile Society

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# NEWS FROM THE COLONY

## REJUVENATION of the

### CORALE DELL'UNIONE TICINESE

There is no doubt that one of the most popular groups in the Colony is the choir of the Unione Ticinese. At any special function such as at the Fête Suisse or on 1st August the active group has been performing and in the course of the years has endeared itself to the Colony—the residents as well as the “temporaries”. It was with great concern that many of us learned the sad news of its numbers dwindling and of a possible termination of its activities.

It was therefore with great pleasure that we heard of an influx of new members due to a special drive. If the performance last Sunday week at the

#### Tea Dance

is anything to go by, a successful future is in store for the choir. Some 260 members and friends assembled at the Ballroom of the Dorchester Hotel on 14th October. This, I am told, is a much lower number than usual. But if numbers were lacking, there certainly was no shortage of high spirits. The President, Mr. Peter Jacomelli (one of our second generation Swiss of whom the Unione Ticinese can boast a very handsome number amongst its members), welcomed the new Swiss Consul in London, Monsieur Tosio, and the Editor of the “Swiss Observer”. Several members of the Embassy had also taken tickets—Monsieur Ansermoz, Monsieur Roch and Monsieur Caratsch, whose support the Committee greatly appreciate.

Soon after tea was served, dancing began and plenty of enthusiasm amongst young and old could be seen until the party ended at 11 p.m. The youngsters gave extraordinary performances of the Twist. Whatever one's opinion of these contortions is, they undoubtedly lack the grace of the waltz, which was danced again and again by every age group and certainly with more apparent enjoyment than the former.

The highlight of the evening was the appearance of the Corale under its popular conductor, Mr. Bruni. Dressed in their picturesque costumes, some thirty members sang a lovely selection of tuneful folksongs from the Ticino, and only too soon their performance came to an end. They certainly deserve success, and it is to be hoped that more Ticinesi or other Swiss with a knowledge of Italian and a good singing voice will come forward and join their ranks.

An Italian tenor, Giovanni Giglio, rendered several songs and arias, and the big applause showed how much the audience enjoyed his excellent voice.

The dance band was joined for a time by Mr. V. Berti's son-in-law, who sang under his professional name of Jimmy Mitchell, and his performance also was much appreciated by all present.

Several handsome prizes were raffled in aid of the Unione Ticinese Benevolent Fund.

The Hosts certainly managed to make everybody in the hall welcome and at ease, and the atmosphere was very friendly throughout.

Mariann.

## A RECEPTION

Colonel T. Mosimann and Madame Mosimann gave a Cocktail Party at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, on Friday, 12th October. It was to bid farewell and to introduce the new Military and Air Attaché, General Staff Colonel W. Koch and Madame Koch.

## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD.

Owing to the one-day railway strike, the Society was obliged to hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, 2nd October, instead of 3rd October, as previously announced and advertised. This no doubt affected the attendance, which was unfortunately smaller than anticipated.

The meeting was honoured by the presence of the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur A. Daeniker, and Madame Daeniker, to whom the Chairman, Mr. R. Chappuis, extended a cordial welcome. He then had the pleasure of introducing our guests from Switzerland, Monsieur G. Despland, Conseiller aux Etats and Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Swiss National Exhibition, and Monsieur E. Henry, Directeur Administratif of the S.N.E. Lausanne 1964, who was accompanied by Madame Henry.

In introducing the lecturer, Monsieur Despland gave a brief outline of the purpose and aims of the exhibition and expressed appreciation of the interest taken by our Society in this great national undertaking.

Monsieur Henry then delivered his address, which is published *in extenso* in this issue of the “Swiss Observer” and will no doubt be read with interest by all those who were unable to attend.

Following his address, Monsieur Henry showed a number of colour slides, depicting the work in progress and the immense preparations for this vast project. The slides, particularly those of superb scale models, gave the audience a very realistic idea of the forthcoming exhibition on the shores of Lac Léman. The lecturer also answered a number of questions dealing with the organisation, administration, and general problems arising from the exhibition.

In proposing a vote of thanks, Mr. A. Jaccard expressed to both speakers the appreciation of all present for a most interesting evening, and this was seconded by the Chairman and warmly endorsed by the meeting.

W.B.

**THE SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY** and the **SWISS CHURCHES IN LONDON** appeal, as in past years, to all their Swiss friends for gifts in kind or in cash in order to provide a little extra cheer at Christmas for our compatriots in need in or around London. New articles of clothing, also old ones in clean ready-to-wear condition, as well as household goods are always appreciated.

Parcels should be sent, preferably not later than the first half of November, to the Swiss Benevolent Society, 31 Conway Street, Fitzroy Square, London W.1, whilst gifts in cash may be forwarded to any of the addresses below:—

Swiss Benevolent Society, 31 Conway Street, London W.1.  
Rev. P. Wipf, 1 Womersley Road, London N.8.

Rev. Ph. Nicole, 7 Park View Road, Finchley, London N.3.

Rev. J. Scherer, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, London S.W.1.

## SPECIAL SERVICE

On Sunday, 28th October, at 11 a.m., a United Service of the German-speaking community of the Swiss Church and the congregation of the Guild Church will take place at St. Mary Woolnoth's, Bank, London E.C.3. The Guild Church Vicar, the Rev. W. S. Allam, A.K.C., will give the sermon in English.