

Personal

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“ But, I think, the most important inventor and industrialist of Swiss origin in Great Britain was Sir John Brunner of Bülach, Canton of Zurich. The grandson of a protestant pastor in that village, he became, after a commercial training in Liverpool, within twenty years the head of a firm manufacturing chemical products in Widnes, near Liverpool. There he made friends with Dr. Alfred Mond and founded with him the famous firm of Brunner, Mond & Co. for the production of alkalis, near Norwich. This firm was later to develop into the gigantic ICI. John Brunner, who was made a baronet, elected a Member of Parliament, and appointed a Privy Councillor, also became an active politician and pacifist. A fine statue erected in the Central Hall of ICI's Winnington Works (in Cheshire) commemorates him.

“ One might find his counterpart in Switzerland in the Scotchman, Charles Brown, a machine constructor endowed with genius, who founded with Mr. Boveri the great firm of Brown, Boveri & Co., familiar today to all engineers.

“ If, to wind up, we now compare all those Swiss captains of industry in Great Britain to those in the United States up to the beginning of our century — the Henry Clay Fricks, the Jacques Hubers, the George Iselins, the Robert Schwarzenbachs and others, we see that our group here has quite a good record.”

The Ambassador ended his survey by saying that the few portraits made it clear how the mixture of British and Swiss qualities and inventiveness could sometimes produce interesting results. This should give us great hopes for the future possibilities of the young students of the S.M.S. College.

It was left to Mr. Moxham to reply for the guests, which he did in an easy and elegant way. He mentioned the long association he and his firm had had with Swiss firms, industrial and professional. One of his partners, Mr. H. Oppenheimer who had opened his firm in 1899, and who had just celebrated his 90th birthday, translated into English the Swiss Civil Code. Mr. Moxham congratulated the Society on its valuable contribution to the noble art of education.

That brought the official part to a close, and it was not long before the President opened the dancing with Madame de Fischer, followed by the Ambassador leading Mrs. Jaccard on to the floor. To the strains of Mr. Salisbury's Dance Orchestra, to tunes ever-green or modern ones already half-withered, young and old enjoyed dancing. The Oxford dictionary defines the word as “ moving with rythmical steps, glides, leaps, revolutions and gestures ”. They were all there, believe you me. And so was enjoyment to the full, until the two National Anthems and Auld lang syne heralded midnight and with it the end of a perfect evening. MM

WIGMORE HALL

Friday, 4th March 1966, 7.30 p.m.

PIANO RECITAL

by

RUTH HUGGENBERG

Works by Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms,
Debussy and Schumann.

UNIONE TICINESE



Mr. V. BERTI
the new President.

The Unione Ticinese's first General Meeting of 1966 was held on Sunday, 6th February, at the Swiss Hostel for Girls in Belsize Grove, Hampstead.

After eleven years of unstinting and fruitful work on behalf of the Italian-speaking Swiss community in this country, Mr. Peter Jacomelli retired from the presidency of the Unione Ticinese in London.

The newly elected Committee is as follows: President: Mr. V. Berti, first Vice-President: Mr. P. Jacomelli second Vice-President: Miss S. Morosi. Hon. Secretary: Mr. F. de Maria, Hon. Assistant Secretary: Mrs. A. Selwyn, Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J. de Maria, Collector: Mr. F. Allegranza. The other committee members are: Messrs. J. Diviani, J. Pedretti, C. Rosselli, Mrs. L. Bruni, Miss G. Panatti, Messrs. E. Knabenhans, R. Gibellini and L. Luisoli.

At the subsequent *Cena Familiare* attended by approximately fifty people, tribute was paid to Mr. Peter Jacomelli for his long and loyal service to the Unione Ticinese. He was also presented with a memento in the form of a silver cigarette box.

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NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE (London Group)

Under “ Forthcoming Events ”, the Annual General Meeting and Dinner of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique was announced for 21st April. This date has now been changed in order not to clash with the Swiss Industries Fair — and the Golden Jubilee of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, both of which take place around that date in Basle. The N.S.H. will now meet for their A.G.M. and Annual Dinner on Thursday, 14th April.

PERSONAL

Mr. H. Bronnimann of 29 Temple Road, Stowmarket, wishes to inform his many friends that he was discharged from hospital on 1st February and is making good progress at home. It will be some time before he is completely fit, but he has been advised that he will not suffer any permanent injury. He wishes to thank his friends for the enquiries and good wishes he has received which he greatly appreciated.