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hardship and disappointment was forgotten, they were happy in a companionship of mutual understanding.

There was, of course, everything there to make one happy, congenial company and a fine luncheon, consisting of soup, fish, turkey, Xmas pudding, sweets, fruit and even cigarettes and cigars; in addition the Hall was beautifully decorated, and I wish to pay a special compliment to the young lady who looked after the decorations, and whilst I am handing out compliments, I wish to mention that the young ladies who so efficiently served, were very kind and considerate to the old people, they were full of smiles and I am sure it added to the "brightness" of the gathering.

The presence of the Swiss Minister, who seldom misses an "Old Folks Xmas Luncheon" gave the party a certain *caché*, he addressed the gathering in a "homely" manner, and much hilarity was caused, when Monsieur Paravicini suggested, that next year a dance should be held after the Luncheon. He informed the company that the Silver Medal presented on this occasion, by the House Committee, to the oldest member present, would go to Mrs. Maria Halter who will be 84 years old on Xmas Day. The Medal depicts on one side an eagle perched on a rock, and bears the following biblical quotation: "They shall mount up on wings like eagles" and on the other side the name and birthday of the recipient.

Mr. F. G. Sommer, extended to the guests a hearty welcome on behalf of the Committee of Management, he recalled the lamented death of Pasteur Hoffmann-de Vismé, who on so many occasions had eloquently addressed this gathering. Pasteur U. Emery also spoke a few words, and gave a reading from the scripture.

But there were not only speeches, a musical programme had been arranged by a number of charming young Ladies, and that their kindness was greatly appreciated was proved by the warm applause which their performance earned.

And so ended once again one of the most successful Xmas Luncheons to our "Old Folks" to be present at such a function is a pleasure which I would not miss for anything, because it is a pleasure, and it does us "youngsters" (!) a lot of good to see how our old people still love their country, and how, at the eventide of their earthly pilgrimage their attachment to it is, if anything, growing stronger.

The Committee of Management of the Foyer Suisse, as well as the Staff of the Foyer, are to be congratulated on their splendid arrangement, this day will, I am sure, be remembered by many who were privileged to attend.

ST.

UNIONE TICINESE.

35th Annual Concert and Ball in aid of the "Fonds de Secours."

PAGANI'S, December 15th, 1937.

"Cheer up, Joe!" said I to an old, but still very strong acquaintance who is really quite a good sort despite the parallel wrinkles, as deep as the ruts of an ill-tended country lane, that traverse his forehead, and despite also a face as depressing as an October sky.

"Christmas 's round the corner, Joe; you and I should by now be getting down seriously to the business of making merry," I ventured encouragingly.

The response was a chuckle, followed by the mournful reply: "Xmas again eh — to me it is just a sign that we are halfway through the tunnel part of the year — there's never anything new; I'm bored stiff."

It looked a hopeless case when a helpful idea came to me: "Come on, Joe, come along to-night to Pagani's; the "Unione Ticinese" are having a do, and you may enjoy yourself." Somewhat reluctantly Joe agreed, and later kept his word.

To turn now to the serious business of reporting (may the kind reader pardon the flippant

introduction), the 35th Annual Concert and Ball, organized by the "Unione Ticinese" in aid of the "Fonds de Secours" — to give the "do" in question its official designation — provided an evening of sound entertainment in the most pleasant surroundings. No need to allude here to that atmosphere of cordial friendliness that is the hallmark of all the "Ticinese" gatherings; indeed hardly anybody present can have escaped the illusion of taking part in a big family party, such was the informality of the proceedings. Yet this year, in spite of the established popularity of the function, the attendance figure did not attain last year's record, kept down possibly by such diverse causes as becalmed stock markets, sinister events lurking on the political horizon, or maybe even Xmas preparations in most households. Whatever the real cause might have been, the moderate attendance undoubtedly disappointed in view especially of the philanthropic object, and also in view of the great effort made by the Organizing Committee in order to make the evening the success it well deserved to be. If your reporter be allowed to voice a personal opinion, the list of events in the Colony in the past three months has been a heavy one, and anybody who might have tried to "do" the lot might have found himself gasping for breath. Nevertheless, the fewer the merrier, seemed to be the watchword, and more than one item of a well chosen programme was encored.

The artists proved a workmanlike, yet highly efficient lot. Toni struck a characteristic note when he started off with an accordeon recital of popular Italian tunes, and later demonstrated his skill as a one-man-band assisted by Yento, the monkey, who smartly saluted every time his master completed a piece.

At school the axiom that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points used to prelude an hour of unmitigated dullness. But not so the lines drawn with lightning rapidity by Mr. Rupert Harvey's crazy crayon, which provoked wave upon wave of mirth as they brought before our astonished eyes the likenesses of outstanding members of the audience. Particularly brilliant were, however, a scientific study of ladies ("Under the blue hat") and, oh, a whole row of marching guardsmen; this last drawn by Mr. Harvey whilst the audience at his instigation whistled the refrain of the Grenadier marching tune.

But the evening's "tour de force" belongs to Miss Eva Cattaneo, the "Ticinese's" own soprano, for at various appearances she sang a number of classical and popular arias, with all the charm and perfection we are now wont to expect from her, though battling in between whiles with an importunate headache. "Music in May" which, with another song, she executed with characteristic gusto during an interval in the dance held her hearers enraptured.

Miss Violetta Montuschi, who followed Signorina Cattaneo with the execution on the piano of two classical excerpts of the lighter kind, revealed a high ability to handle the keyboard. Unfortunately the titles went unannounced, but we hope we shall have the privilege of hearing her again in the near future.

A singing tone and a happy lyrical style seem to be natural with Mr. Ch. Katz, the violin virtuoso; on the platform, during the supper, and again in the course of the dance he valiantly and successfully performed to add to our musical entertainment.

The President of the "Unione Ticinese," the genial Mr. Oscar Gambazzi, butted in to make an impassioned appeal on behalf of the "Fonds de Secours," pointing out that through a succession of adverse circumstances the finances of this deserving Institution had undergone, during the current year, a severe strain. Monsieur R. Dupraz the President of the "Fonds de Secours," replied briefly to thank Signor Gambazzi for his appeal and the "Unione Ticinese" for their loyal support of his Society's activities.

The Organizing Committee, who are to be commended for an excellent effort, wish to thank most heartily from these columns two anonymous gentlemen "from Hampstead." A hitch in the otherwise impeccable arrangements caused the diners to be regaled by the band whereas the keen dancers who had sacrificed an exquisite meal on the altar of Terpsichore were left stranded. The said gentlemen with admirable "sang froid" gallantly stepped into the breach to supply the all-important means.

Spurred on by the band, the official one which finally arrived amid vigorous clapping, itching feet found plenty of scope in a rich succession of dances, from which the indispensable Paul Jones was not excluded.

All in all it was a most enjoyable evening, even though our friend Joe would not be prepared to admit it readily. One might have caught glimpses of him whirling around the parquet, delicate arms clasped around him, blonde, brunette; no trace of the parallel furrow-like wrinkles, but a blissful grin lighting up his features as brightly as the May sunshine.

A merry Christmas to all from

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