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UNIONE TICINESE — TEA DANCE.

Dances organised by the Unione Ticinese are always very enjoyable functions; therefore I was highly delighted when I was asked by a friend of mine to accompany him to the Dance, which was held on Sunday, 20th April.

On entering the gaily decorated Ballroom of the Dorchester Hotel, I was warmly greeted by the President, Mr. Peter De Maria, who to test my knowledge of the "Bella Lingua Italiana" welcomed me with "Buon giorno, come sta" and I at once felt at home amongst our southern compatriots.

Dancing was in full swing, to the toe-teasing tunes of Harry Vardon's band, which has become a fixture at these functions. No doubt this is a very fine combination which endeavours to give the dancers all they ask for and more. Mr. Vardon assured me that his "boys" enjoy playing for the "Ticinesi" as much, if not more, than the dancers enjoy the dancing. They find the audience so responsive and enthusiastic.

After Tea had been served in the usual impeccable style of The Dorchester Hotel, the President of the Unione Ticinese, speaking also for the Ladies' Section, thanked all those present for answering the appeal of the Society. He had a special word of welcome and thanks for Dottore Guido Lepori of the Swiss Legation, for honouring the Society by his presence. It was unfortunate that Madame Lepori was not able to be present as she was in Switzerland, and Mr. De Maria, asked our distinguished compatriot to convey to his charming wife, the devoted sentiments of all those present. Other guests of the Unione Ticinese welcomed by the President were Mr. Gandon, President of the Société de Secours Mutuels, accompanied by Mrs. Gandon, and Mr. Schneeberger, President of the Swiss Club "Schweizerbund", accompanied by Mrs. Schneeberger. He also greeted Mr. and Mrs. Krebs, who were guests of the Ladies' Section.

The President concluded by thanking all those who, in one way or another, contributed to the organisation of the Dances which had been held since last Summer, four in all, which had all been outstanding successes.

The Cabaret followed, and we were firstly entertained by a "Boy Accordionist" young Mario

Boscarelli, barely in his "teens" who showed a fine appreciation of his instrument, and richly deserved the warm applause of his audience. This was his first public performance, and his reception will no doubt encourage him to greater efforts. Bravo Mario!

From the warm music of the South we were then transported to the mysteries of the East, and there appeared on the stage Ming Chow "The Light Fingered One". Not only did he perform incredible conjuring tricks, but at the same time he managed to divest his unwilling "stooges" — selected from the audience, of their wallets, notes, fountain pens and wrist watches, with a dexterity which had to be seen to be believed. I was greatly relieved when the President told me that Mr. Chow had left the Dorchester and was on his way back east. I at once felt for my wallet, which to my relief still reposed safely in my pocket. A very fine act, warmly applauded.

To conclude the entertainment, there appeared on the stage the gaily dressed "ragazze e ragazzi" of the Corale of the Unione Ticinese, who under the leadership of their President, delighted us with their "Canzonette" and all too soon they waived good-bye to us with their signature tune "Ciao". By their enthusiastic and vociferous applause the audience indicated in no uncertain manner that they would have liked some more.

But the time had come for the dancers to once again take the floor and to the lilt of gay waltzes, and the hot rhythm of the rumbas and sambas, dancing went on with a crescendo of gaiety and excitement until, like all good things, this Dance had to come to an end.

Vowing never to miss any future dances of the Unione Ticinese, we took our leave of the President, echoing his words of thanks to the entertainment committee of the Society, which under the inspiring leadership of the "evergreen" past President and Socio Benemerito Carlo Berti, had contrived to give us such good fun and entertainment amongst our Ticinesi friends.

To echo one of their "canzonette" "Ticinesi son bravi Soldati" but they are also "bravi organisers." I am sorry I do not know the Italian word for that.

Cephas.

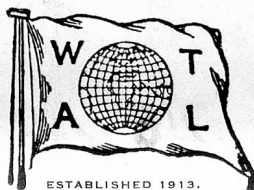
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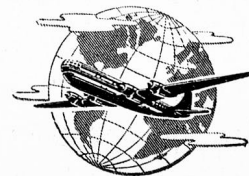


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