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UNIONE TICINESE 80th ANNIVERSARY.

By contrast to the pomp and circumstance of the 75th anniversary celebration five years ago, the dance organized for Sunday evening, December 12 last at the St. Pancras Town Hall, Kings Cross, to mark the 80th birthday of the Unione Ticinese was a friendly, informal affair. In order to make it nothing more than a family party there were no official invitations and the only guests invited, Dr. and Mrs. Guido Lepori were themselves unable to attend owing to Legation mourning following the tragic passing at Berne of Federal Councillor, Dr. J. Escher, Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation.

Some 250 members and their friends filled the hall which was decorated with the British, Swiss and club flags as well as the Cantonal emblems. At first Harry Vardon's lively band tried hard to entice dancers on to the floor, and eventually succeeded in livening up the proceedings with a Paul Jones.

During the interval in the dance the genial President, Mr. Peter Jacomelli briefly thanked those present for their support. After alluding to the loss our Homeland sustained with the death of Dr. Escher Mr. Jacomelli, interpreting the audience's thought, expressed warm wishes to National Councillor Avv. Alcardo Pini — twice a visitor to London in the recent past — who was standing as candidate for the then forthcoming Federal Council election.

There followed an exhibition of ballroom dancing by Billy Reid and Constance Varley, British champions. During the evening young ladies in costume sold tickets for the raffle in aid of the French Hospital appeal.

In a further interval the Corale of the Unione Ticinese took the stage under the leadership of Mr. Louis Bruni to sing a few "canzonette" from their repertoire and were much applauded.

Dancing then proceeded until the close of this most enjoyable function.

J.E.

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PIANO RECITAL. Miss Ruth Huggenberg.

I well remember the occasion when we first heard Miss Ruth Huggenberg play in the Swiss Colony. Several years have passed and it has been a pleasure to follow the progress and development of this young artist. She has gone a long way since her first concert in London. The recital she gave at the Wigmore Hall on Saturday, 11th December, clearly showed how much Miss Huggenberg has matured. It was pleasing to see, however, that in spite of her marked progress she has not lost her modest and unassuming manner.

The first part of the programme consisted of Beethoven (Fifteen Variations, Op.35, in E flat, Eroica Theme with Fugue) and Schubert (Sonata in B flat, Op. Posth.). The second half of the concert Miss Huggenberg devoted to Brahms (Klavierstücke Op.118 and two Rhapsodies Op.79). The artist correctly interpreted the audience's delight in her rendering of Brahms by playing more of his works as encores.

Speaking on behalf of the members of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in the audience (this society had recommended Miss Huggenberg's concert in place of their December meeting) I can say that we left the Concert Hall happy and contented and we all wish Miss Huggenberg further success in her promising career.

MARIANN.

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