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UNIONE TICINESE SING
at Press Reception given by the Swiss
Gruyère Cheese Process Association.

You may wonder what connection the Unione Ticinese have with Gruyère Cheese. Well, apart from their Swiss origin, there is normally none. But the combination produced a very enjoyable and rather unusual evening.

The occasion was a press reception given by the Swiss Gruyère Cheese Process Association to publicise the nutritive value of their products, and the Corale were asked to sing in order to give the proceedings the genuine "Swiss Touch". The date, 8th June; the place, the charming house of Mr. Jeremy Peyton-Jones, at 20 Cheyne Walk, one of the more respectable parts of Chelsea.

The Corale arrived an hour before the start to have a quick rehearsal, and at first glance it appeared that circumstances had combined to frustrate all the prearranged plans. The weather — it had been raining nearly all day — was still blustering, and as the singing was to be done on the lawn at the back of the house, anxious glances were cast at the ominous clouds scudding across the evening sky. But worse was to come — Mr. Lui Bruni, the Corale's maestro, was informed that there was no piano available. However, undaunted by these setbacks, a quick rehearsal was held the members of the Corale having been fortified by a preliminary drink "on the house".

At 9 o'clock the first guests arrived, and at 10 o'clock the Corale duly sang, accompanied by a solitary accordion played by P. Morosi. Considering all the difficulties, the Corale gave a creditable performance and special appreciation must be accorded to their Maestro for the way he overcame the setbacks. One person in the audience was especially pleased — none other than Isa Miranda, the Italian actress, who in a spontaneous burst from the heart thanked the Corale for giving her a most pleasant and unexpected thrill. She said she had never dreamt of hearing such singing in London.

The remainder of the evening was given over to drinking, and eating the very tasty and attractive snacks in which, as you may have already guessed, the main ingredient was cheese. Among the other attractions was an Alpenhorn, which was tried by several people — with varying success. Many of the English people present were interested in its functional purpose, and one of the Corale gave them the facts as he knew them.

All things considered, the evening was a great success, and a special bouquet must be given to the organisers for the very attractive way in which the house and garden were decorated, and for the way the food was set out. One thing puzzles me though: no one mentioned gruyère cheese all evening; but maybe they thought the snacks spoke for themselves.

J.B.D.