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UNIONE TICINESE SEZIONE FEMMINILE.

10th Anniversary Celebration.

On Thursday evening, the 30th June, the Ladies Section of the Unione Ticinese very aptly celebrated the 10th anniversary of the foundation of their Society by offering to the members of the Mens' Section a homely family birthday party within the hospitable walls of Swiss House, with light refreshments provided of their own baking and making — including the very handsome iced birthday cake, with its appropriate 10 candles.

Some 50 members in all braved the heat in order to be present, and were seemingly well rewarded for their optimism, to judge by the laughter and chatter, and by the heartiness of the community singing of our gay, lilting Ticinese folksongs. The indulgent smile of Mr. Peter De Maria, "maestro" of the Corale, seemed to agree with the suggestion made that similar "light refreshment," previously administered, could again be made to do its part in future public performances of the Corale.

The burst of applause which greeted Mrs. C. Berti, President of the Ladies' Section, as she rose to greet the guests, was ample proof of her popularity amongst all members of the Unione Ticinese. Mrs. Berti referred in particular to three of the founder-members of the Sezione Femminile, whose work was largely responsible for the proud position in which the Society now finds itself, and whose memory will ever be cherished by all members — Mrs. Lunghi-Rezzonico, first President and spirited leader of the Society, Miss Rita Abate, its devoted and inspired Secretary for 7 years, and Miss Irene Berti, loyal and enthusiastic member.

Mrs. Berti also paid tribute, richly deserved, to Mrs. Hollyman and Miss Bass, pianist and violinist, who have made themselves so integral a part of the Corale, and expressed the hope, echoed by all those present, that their interest will never tire, for the Society would be very much the poorer without their cheerful and generous company.

It was very gratifying to be able to state that the financial target set itself by the Ladies' Section had now been reached, and that, in the New Year plans would be set in motion for the realization of a scheme of "Mutuo Soccorso" for members.

Mrs. Berti also thanked the members of the Mens'

Section for the help and advice which they had always unstintingly given, especially in the first difficult years of the formation of the young sister society.

On behalf of the Sezione Femminile, Miss Silvia Morosi, Treasurer, presented to Mrs. Berti a beautiful bouquet of deep red carnations and blue cornflowers with a few sincere words of gratitude to Mrs. Berti for all her untiring work and devotion in the interests of the Society.

These sentiments of appreciation were more fully dwelt upon by Miss Irma Abate, Secretary, in a short address setting forth the aims of the Society — to promote and maintain social intercourse and mutual help amongst Ticinese women in and near London. Miss Abate also thanked the Mens' Section for the constant help which they had given.

Mr. Carlo Berti's words of congratulation and of encouragement, when replying for the members of the Mens' Section, and his assurance of their continued co-operation and assistance, whenever the younger society might desire it, only served to deepen the sense of gratitude felt for him by all the members of the Ladies' Section for his ceaseless untiring interest and zeal on their behalf.

The ladies' vanity was further very pleasantly flattered by the compliments of Mr. P. De Maria when proposing the toast of "The Ladies' Section" — which was the signal for a renewed burst of chatter and song, accompanied now by the clinking of glasses and plates.

And thus a very enjoyable evening drew to a close — marked by a happy, impromptu and very appropriate climax when the whole company spontaneously applauded the septuagenarian Mr. B. Albertolli and his daughter Marietta, who had come all the way from Portsmouth for the "festa," and who were returning that same evening. Mr. Albertolli was moved to exhort his younger listeners to a similar feat of loyalty and patriotism and was rewarded by a carnation from Mrs. Berti's bouquet and a renewed burst of cheering as he withdrew.

A report of the evening would be incomplete without a very sincere word of thanks to Mr. Plinio Morosi and Mr. Louis Bruni, who with their accordions so valiantly assisted Mrs. Hollyman and Miss Bass in providing a musical accompaniment for the singing, in spite of the heat, thus adding to the enjoyment of the evening.

R.E.

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