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## UNION TICINESE NEWS

### *Annual Dance in aid of the Swiss Benevolent Society*

On Friday, 10th March, the Unione Ticinese held a dance, at the Schweizerbund in Charlotte Street, in aid of the Swiss Benevolent Society. This is the third time in post-war years that the Unione Ticinese have organised such a function, and in so doing they are maintaining the tradition set up in pre-war days.

However, although this dance was held for such a worthy cause, the response from the Swiss Colony as a whole was rather disappointing. A notable exception to this apparent apathy was a party from the Swiss Embassy, which made up a large proportion of the seventy to eighty people present. Notwithstanding the poor attendance, a very enjoyable evening was had by those who did come. The Corale did not sing, in view of the recent death of our dear Carlo Berti.

In order to boost the proceeds from the sale of dance tickets a raffle was held. In this connection the Unione Ticinese would like to express their appreciation to the following Swiss Firms for their most generous support in the matter of prizes and donations to the raffle:— Sandoz Products Ltd., Stunzi Silks Ltd., A. Wander Ltd., Swissair, Lindt (England) Ltd., Chocolat Tobler Ltd., Acrow (Engineers) Ltd., and Suchard Chocolate Ltd. At the moment the exact figure of profit to be handed to the S.B.S. is not known, but, although it will not be as good as last year, present indications are that it will nevertheless be a goodly sum.

### *Requiem Mass*

Members may like to be reminded of the Requiem Mass that the Committee of Swiss Catholics in London is having said for the repose of the soul of the late Carlo Berti. The Service will be held at St. Ann's Church (near Westminster Cathedral) on Saturday, 15th April, at 10 a.m.

*J.B.D.*

### **SCHWEIZERBUND**

(SWISS CLUB)

74 Charlotte St., London, W.1

We would like to draw the attention of our members to the

### **GENERAL MEETING**

on Thursday, 20th April at 7.30 p.m.

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**DR. E. M. BIRCHER**

On reaching retiring age, Dr. E. M. Bircher, Press Counsellor and Counsellor for Cultural Affairs at the Swiss Embassy, has now vacated his post, and we take this opportunity of thanking him for the services he has rendered to our country and the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

His courtesy, tact and helpfulness, as well as his delightful sense of humour, have endeared him to all who have come in contact with him either in business or socially. Like so many of his colleagues at the Embassy, he has from the commencement of his appointment shown a lively interest in the activities of our Colony, by attending the numerous meetings and conferences concerning the internal affairs of the Swiss community. He, as well as members of his family, has frequently been present at social affairs both in London and the Provinces. Some of his excellent addresses given in various Swiss Societies are well remembered.

Dr. Bircher was born in 1895 in Zurich, the son of the late Dr. E. F. Bircher, advocate from Kuttingen and Zurich. He studied Law at the Universities of Zurich and Berne, obtained the degree of Doctor of Law in 1919, and the patent as an advocate in 1920. After having practised for ten years in London as a consulting Swiss lawyer, he left in 1930 for Canada, where he was with various concerns. Returning to London at the beginning of 1937, he took up Law with an English firm of solicitors.

At the outbreak of the last war, Dr. Bircher joined the then Swiss Legation (Special Division) and in 1946 was transferred to 18 Montagu Place as Press Attaché. In January 1956 he was promoted to the rank of Press Counsellor for Cultural Affairs.

He was married in 1927 to Miss Constance Nanton, daughter of Sir Augustus and Lady Nanton, who presented him with two sons and two daughters, and who died in 1952.

We wish Dr. Bircher a long and pleasant retirement, blessed with good health.

*ST.*