

de Budapest à Stockholm. La direction de certaines fédérations est encore mobile comme le fut jadis le gouvernement lui-même. Cette direction passe d'un canton à l'autre et avec elle s'éteint l'intérêt naissant, disparaît l'ardeur embryonnaire. Telles les comètes dont on ne s'occupe que quand elles repassent, ignorant le reste du temps les péripéties de leur voyage. Au lieu que le cantonalisme agisse comme on pourrait le croire en ferment d'émulation, il dresse de perpétuelles murailles entre les groupements. On n'est pas accoutumé de se mettre d'accord, de travailler et d'agir de concert en vue de former la meilleure équipe ou de choisir les meilleurs athlètes pour représenter au loin la Patrie suisse.

Voilà pourquoi l'Helvétie n'obtient pas les succès auxquels avec un peu plus d'énergie individuelle, de générosité collective et d'entente nationale elle pourrait certainement prétendre. Qu'elle s'en rende compte; la moitié du chemin sera fait.



## Olympic teams and their managers.

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Objections have often been raised to the entire team plan in general, as applied to the Olympic Games, and in particular to the practice of placing the teams, when they have been formed, under the direction and in the care of a manager. The grounds upon which the objections to the formation of teams are based are many ; but they need not be seriously considered here, as the team system seems to be the only one by which anything like representative competition can be obtained. Perhaps, the ideal would be that all the competitors in the Olympic Games should come forward individually; but the obstacles which make such a method impracticable are too many and too obvious to allow anybody to cherish the hope that such a system can ever be applied to meetings organised on the scale on which the Olympic Games are organised. Therefore, the necessity of the team system must be admitted as an unavoidable fact, since there is no alternative apparent; and when this is done, there arises the question of direction, preparation, and organisation of the teams which are selected.

The very word team denotes organisation and directed effort ;

fort the body in which there is no cohesion or combination is, in truth, merely a collection of units — not a team in the accepted sense of the term. This means that there must be some one person responsible for the discharge of the duties which will produce this state of mutual understanding or homogeneity; and, as a consequence, the manager becomes a necessity. Whether the term manager is employed or not, is a matter of very trifling importance: the man who is responsible for this work is the manager, in fact if not in name, of the team. On less important occasions the duties might very well be discharged by the captain of the team, or by one of its members; but when the olympic team of a country taking part in the Games is, in effect, composed of a number of teams, it seems to be fairly obvious that the responsibilities will be too many and too onerous to be adequately discharged by any of the competitors. Therefore, the best — if not the only — solution to the difficulty appears to be to select a man specially for the work, who can give his whole time and energy to the discharge of the hundred-and-one duties which will claim his closest and almost incessant attention during the meeting.

The principal objection that has been advanced to the appointment of a manager of the olympic teams is, that this system tends towards professionalism, since the best managers are usually professionals within the meaning of the law. To a certain extent, this argument holds good; but the dangers can be minimised by the prudent selection of a good man for the post, and there is no foundation for the belief that the unpleasant incidents which occurred during the 1908 Games, in London, were the inevitable result of the presence of team managers. Athletics have been too much specialised during recent years to leave room for the hope that the members of a team can do their best unless they are skilfully trained and prepared, as a whole, by a man who is accustomed to make the very best use of the material at his disposal; but far from the presence of a manager being a menace, or an incitation to win at any price, the right sort of man will act as a most potent check upon any over-keen members of the team. And, at the same time, he will bring his teams to the highest pitch of efficiency possible; thus ensuring the keenest competition which is compatible with fairness and obedience to the strictest of the unwritten laws of sport.

This argument clearly shows that the real responsibility rests with the selectors of the man upon whom will rest the heavy duties — always arduous and at times thankless — of team

manager. A wise choice will do much to ensure the position of the men under his charge, and to do credit to his country. The result of a foolish choice may easily be imagined. But the argument also shows that a manager is a necessity from the sporting standpoint alone; and a few words will suffice to prove that he is a very welcome tower of refuge, when regarded from the material comfort and financial points of view.

Surely, it must be apparent to everyone that a manager is necessary for modern olympic teams, when it is remembered that competitors come from all parts of the world to the foreign country in which the Games happen to be taking place, of the language, manners, and customs of which they are entirely ignorant? All manner of details have to be arranged, and the well-being — which spells efficiency — of the competitors depends upon the ability with which they are settled. Before the athletes leave home, money has to be collected, arrangements have to be made, and a plan of campaign has to be decided upon; when they reach the scene of the Games, money has to be spent, their health and comfort have to be supervised. The list of duties is endless. But who is to discharge them all, promptly and efficiently, if there is no properly appointed manager to whom one and all can look.

Another, and a very strong argument may also be advanced in favour of the managed team method. From the olympic standpoint, a team which is duly organised and properly represented amongst the officials, is very much more acceptable than a group of more or less loosely connected units would be. The national and the team ideas are better maintained; and, therefore, the spirit of the Olympiad is carried out to the letter. In this there is, surely, no element of professionalism. And even if there were, the slight danger there would be of its spreading could not be allowed to weigh in the scale against the chaos which would exist if no manager were there to take the ordering of matters into his hands.

So, it seems, the team and the manager must continue to trouble the critical until... the impossible happens. Athletes will then have become angels — the ideal to which allusion has already been made will have been realised, and it is useless to speculate about the form which the Olympiads of that day will take. Meanwhile, however, the pressing problems of the moment must be faced; and as no other substitute can be found, the team and the manager system seems to be the only solution of the difficulty.

Since no other solution of the problem seems possible, a word of advice to the selectors of managers may not be an inappropriate note on which to end this inquiry. The selection of a manager is a delicate matter about which to offer counsel; for if the attributes desirable were all enumerated, it would be thought that the ideal man, who has still to be born, is being defined. But a few essentials may be given with safety. A good manager must possess moral strength of character and determination in a remarkable degree, and he must be endowed with that indefinable quality, known as tact, which will enable him to do the right thing under all conditions. He must also be a highly efficient man technically, and a thorough sportsman; a man, in short, who will know exactly where his duties end, and where his interference would become an unfair influence upon the issue of the events.

With such a man as the director of their destinies — and there are such men to be found, although they are rare — teams will be well looked-after, and the interests of the men composing them will be loyally protected. Moreover, with men of this stamp at the helm, the objections which have been raised to the presence of managers will vanish; and instead of being unwelcome, the team managers will be warmly greeted and duly appreciated as the champions of the very best interests and traditions of true sport.



## Le Judo.

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(Suite et fin.)

Il apparaît que le judo diffère surtout des méthodes européennes par un principe fondamental qui est celui-ci : rien à faire tant que votre adversaire est en équilibre. Si bien que tous les coups du judo ou presque tous reposent sur cette nécessité préliminaire de déséquilibrer l'adversaire, chose que l'on ne peut réussir qu'en étant soi-même en parfait équilibre. Demandons-nous quel est le but suprême que poursuivent les meilleurs champions de ces autres méthodes; un mot d'ordre général et unique les dirige : *surprendre* l'adversaire. Le boxeur, le lutteur libre, le lutteur greco-romain font de cette surprise à la fois l'alpha et l'oméga de leur art. Qui dit surprise suppose bien une sorte de