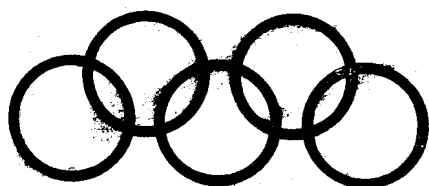


choosing the path of progress and having no desire to keep for itself the monopoly of power voluntarily handed over to the representatives of the National Federations (Governing Bodies) and to the Organising Committee the technical organisation of the Games.

At the Congress of Lausanne in 1921, all this technical part passed by common agreement from the hands of the National Federations (Governing Bodies) into those of the International Federations which are in this sphere the sole and supreme authority. They have besides the control of the material side (building, equipment, etc.), they decide the events and appoint the Juries (bodies of judges).

The International Olympic Committee so fully realises the value of the functions of the International Federations that it has promoted the formation of several of them and, in many countries, encouraged the affiliation to them of the National Federations (Governing Bodies).

Holding faithfully to these ideas of progress and no less eager to draw closer the ties which unite it with the International Federations, the International Olympic Committee has empowered its Executive Committee to study in conjunction with the International Federations all non-technical questions of common interest which may present themselves.



7. — **Citius - Altius - Fortius**

By Evan H. Hunter.

Secretary of the British Olympic Association.

(Reprinted from the second issue of the British Olympic Journal)

How many people, I wonder, know what these five circles mean? They are the official sign of the International Olympic Committee and a few words about their meaning and the reason for their meaning and the reason for their adoption may be of general interest.

The five circles are representative of the five continents of the world linked together in unity. The words CITIUS ALTIUS FORTIUS mean quicker, higher, more strongly - it is significant to note that the meaning of the word fortius is accepted by the International Olympic Committee as more strongly and not stronger indicative of the athletes' endeavour, run faster, jump higher and throw more strongly, always in fact get a bit better than you were before.

So much for the meaning of the motto and the badge. The reason for their adoption by the I. O. C. is obvious, in fact it would be difficult to think of any motto more suited to the athletes' ideal of high endeavour and international unity.

From recent observations it would appear that a considerable amount of misunderstanding exists as to the constitution of the International Olympic Committee and the real functions of the various National Olympic Associations. Thus the International Federations have asked to have representatives on the International Olympic Committee.

But the International Olympic Committee is not composed of

representatives appointed by other bodies. Its members are appointed by co-optation, and are irremovable except for grave offences, no case of which has occurred in the thirty-two years of its existence. They are representatives of the International Olympic Committee. One is naturally taken that the person chosen to represent the International Olympic Committee in any country is acceptable to the Olympic Committee of that country, but he is not elected by his National Olympic Committee and is pledged to accept from it no mandate which could affect the complete independence of his vote in the International Olympic Committee meetings.

Anyone who knows the difficulties which have attended the development of the Olympic Movement will realise how possible it would have been to carry on that movement if there had been among the members of the International Olympic Committee the rivalry of competing nationalities and the fear of disapproval of their national societies. Nothing but the absolute freedom of the International Olympic Committee to deliberate and decide with a single eye to the progress of the Olympic ideal, has made the work of these thirty-two years possible. Now, if the International Federations were allowed, as such, to nominate representatives to sit on the International Olympic Committee, and to send them to its meeting with a mandate to vote this way or that, and if they were allowed to change their representative at will this whole constitution would be fundamentally changed. It may be possible to find a way of associating the International Federations more closely with the International Olympic Committee without such a change of constitution, and at its meetings at Lisbon in May the International Olympic Committee will doubtless give very careful consideration to this possibility. But the problem will not be easy to solve.

Again, some of the International Federations claim that they should control the material organisation of their sport in the Olympic Games, but it should not be forgotten that the ultimate control is already in their hands. The Federations and the Jury of Appeal have the power to intervene in every question of a purely technical nature — all the sporting equipment must conform to the conditions laid down in their rules: and three representatives of the Federations are appointed by them to be on the spot two weeks before the competitions begin with authority to see that everything is in order. It is difficult to imagine what further control the Federation desire or could effectively exercise. The National Olympic Associations are a link between the Governing Bodies of Sport in their country and the International Olympic Committee. They see that all items of interest from the International Olympic Committee are distributed. They also receive and forward the entries which have been sent to them by the Governing Bodies, and are responsible for feeding, housing and transporting the teams, to, from, and at the Games.

Many people think that the B.O.A. was formed purely for the purpose of taking to the Games every four years large teams of supertrained athletes. This is a very erroneous idea which has unfortunately become only too prevalent. Nothing is further from the Olympic ideal which tries to bring influence and authority to bear on the development of the physical education of Youth and to endeavour to get everyone — although they may not be good enough to compete in the Olympic Games — to take part in some form of sport so that they may benefit both physically and mentally, and thereby obtain respect for discipline and a knowledge of the true spirit of sportsmanship.

Evan A Hunter.

From recent observations it would appear (see page 38 «British Olympic Journal».)