

AFTER THE ROME MEETING

The Olympic family has just passed several agreeable hours in Rome, where the Italian National Olympic Committee showed a great deal of kindness in its most careful preparations for the meeting. We are glad to say that everything proceeded perfectly and that the I. O. C. members and their families have many happy memories of Rome. Under the leadership of Mr. Onesti, President of the I. N. O. C., assisted by Count and Countess Bonacossa, Mr. Giorgio de Stefani and Mr. Zauli, Secretary of the I. N. O. C., members had the pleasure of visiting the Eternal City outside the long hours of the meeting.

An account of the work accomplished at the meeting is given elsewhere in the present bulletin, but we would like to mention that this work kept members busy for 29 hours during the five days of the meeting. The members of the Executive Committee were in session for a total of 49 hours, between Lausanne and Rome, during the course of eight conference days!

The I. O. C. members consequently deserved a little leisure! The inaugural ceremony took place at the Capitol, where Baron de Coubertin had formerly declared open the 1923 meeting in the presence of H. M. The King of Italy. This year we were honoured by the attendance of the Mayor of Rome and a representative of the Government. After visiting the Capitol, the Olympic delegates were offered refreshments.

On the following day, which was the first day of the meeting, the Italian National Olympic Committee invited the Olympic family to a dinner at the Hotel Excelsior, on which occasion cordial speeches were

delivered by Mr. Onesti and Mr. J. S. Edström.

On the Tuesday, members and their families had the privilege of visiting the Quirinal, where they were received by H. E. The President of the Republic, Mr. Einaudi, who very courteously conversed with his guests.

Wednesday morning was set aside for the private audience granted the I. O. C. by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. This was a most dignified and impressive ceremony, notably when His Holiness conferred his benediction on the I. O. C. members, their families and countries. The Pope conversed with each person present and gave them a consecrated medal. The ceremony was followed by a visit to the Sistine Chapel.

The Thursday evening was given to a gala evening at the Opera, when Verdi's *Aida* was presented in honour of I. O. C. members. A cold buffet was offered during the interval, when Premier de Gasperi received members.

On Saturday morning, thus the last day of the meeting, the I. N. O. C. invited the I. O. C. to lunch at the Golf Club, after which members attended the inauguration of the International Riding Contest of Rome.

In conclusion, we are glad to say that the I. O. C. enjoyed glorious sunshine throughout the week. And we would not like to end this brief account without addressing our sincerest thanks to the I. N. O. C. in particular, and to all who helped it in its assignment, for having made the Olympic family's stay in Rome so pleasant. Each one of us will retain precious and lasting souvenirs of the occasion.





