

ABOUT BOXING

After the Congress of the « Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur »

Provisions of Medical control

On the occasion of the European Amateur Boxing Championships held in Milan last May, the Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur (A.I.B.A.) held an Extraordinary Congress during the course of which were discussed and adopted several medical provisions on Boxing recommended by the Medical Commission of A.I.B.A. with a view to safeguarding the well-being of boxers, and especially to prevent the injuries usually connected with the sport.

24 nations took part at the Congress and the following members of the Medical Commission were present:

D^r Boug (Norway), D^r Favory (France), Prof. La Cava (Italy), Prof. Kennedy (Great Britain), D^r Ullmark (Sweden).

The following important decisions were made:

1°) Definition of knock-out (for the purposes of subsequent compulsory resting periods): « A boxer shall be considered to have been knocked out when, according to the referee, he has remained unconscious or unable to defend himself as a result directly or indirectly, of one or more blows to the head ».

2°) A boxer who has been knocked out shall be examined by the Doctor immediately afterwards.

3°) A boxer who has been knocked out shall not be permitted to take part in competitive boxing for a period of at least 4 weeks afterwards.

4°) A boxer who has been knocked out twice in a period of three months shall not

be permitted to take part in competitive boxing for a period of three months from the second knock out.

5°) A boxer who has been knocked out three times consecutively shall not be allowed to take part in competitive boxing for a period of one year from the third knock-out.

6°) It was further decided:

a) « When a boxer is knocked down as a result of a blow the bout shall not be continued until the referee has reached the count of 8, even if the boxer is ready to continue before then. »

b) A boxer who is under the age of (17) years shall not take part in the Olympic Games, World or European Championships or international matches.

c) « Every boxer competing outside his own country must have in his possession a certificate signed by an authorised Doctor of Medicine that prior to leaving his own country he was in good physical condition and not suffering from any injury, infection or disability liable to effect his capacity to box in the country being visited. »

d) At the Olympic Games, World or European Championships there shall be a neutral Commission of three Doctors nominated by the Medical Commission of A.I.B.A., as required, who shall act as Jury in medical questions at those competitions and be known as a « Medical Jury ». The decision of this neutral commission shall be final and without appeal.

e) The administration to a boxer immediately before or during a contest of drugs or chemical substances not forming part of the normal diet of a boxer (i.e., « doping ») is prohibited.

f) That the Medical Commission should study all the details concerning the physical state of amateur boxers, and to gather all medical information relating to boxing with the collaboration of the medical correspondents who are qualified doctors of the federations affiliated to A.I.B.A.

At a special meeting the Medical Commission drew up a programme of its future activities:

1°) An individual record book for boxers, of standard type, for all nations in which would be given an account of all medical examinations, and possible accidents suffered by the boxer;

2°) A standard medical card to be presented by the boxer at international competitions, and to be signed by the doctor of the federation as follows:

« I have today examined the above amateur boxer and in my opinion he

is, subject to a further medical examination on the day of the competition, fit /unfit to box in any international match or tournament ».

3°) A syllabus or summary of matters of a medical nature in which boxing officials and referees should be instructed.

4°) The organising of work to be carried out with the collaboration of specialist doctors throughout the world with a view to establishing a list of physical conditions which should prohibit a boxer from participating in boxing competitions.

5°) An enquiry into punch-drunkenness by means of a questionnaire to be sent to medical correspondents with a view to coordinating the replies sent to the Medical Commission.

6°) An enquiry into deaths attributable

to boxing, with the collaboration of medical correspondents who will send their reports on cases known to them to the Secretary of the Commission.

At the Clinica del Lavoro in the Milan University on the 13th May 1951, apart from administrative meetings, the Medical Commission under the presidency of Prof. A. Kennedy held its first public scientific meeting at which numerous Italian and doctors from abroad were present: Prof. Cappellini, representing Prof. Vigliani, Director of the Clinica del Lavoro, Prof. Poli, Prof. De Francesco, Dr Frattini, Dr Boje (Denmark), Dr Thoolen (Holland), Dr Kuunnaas (Finland), Dr Rundesheimer (Germany), Dr Smodlaka (Yugoslavia), Dr Panzer (Austria), Dr Miller (Poland), Dr Megyesi Zoltan (Hungary), etc.
