

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION TO THE MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES

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It is interesting to examine what part women have taken in the Modern Olympic Games up to now and to determine whether past experiences have proved satisfactory or not.

Before dealing with our actual subject it is well to remember a few well known facts on the matter.

Everybody knows that human life is divided in two major cycles: the first period is the actual human growth without taking pre-natal life into consideration, it embrace childhood and adolescence, the second one is the period of maturity extending from the final stage of growing up to extreme old age.

While growing up, the average human being is adaptable and yielding up to a certain point, he is apt to be influenced for better or for worse by his ulterior life as well as by every action which befalls him, amongst these is physical education. It has been proved that the regular practice of physical exercises during childhood especially team ones were vital in order to promote the normal development of the average adolescent. To this end, our Authorities, bearing in mind pre-military service formation, passed a law in 1874, making the teaching of Primary Gymnastics compulsory from the age of 10, in every boys' schools throughout Switzerland. We deplore the fact that this tuition is still optional in girls' schools, for the need of physical Education is as great for girls than boys, considering that the future of the race depends as much if not more on women than men.

When all is said and done, there should not be a marked difference in the practice of physical training between boys and girls from the later stage of childhood to the outset of puberty.

Adolescence succeeds to childhood, the beginning of puberty takes place between the age of 12 and 15 in the case of girls and slightly later, from 13 to 16 with boys; it goes on till the end of the growing up process, thus during an average period of five years the body, especially girls' undergoes important changes, which I do not propose to discuss here, as it would be irrelative to my subject. During adolescence the physical analogy with the adult becomes more and more pronounced. Psychological and physical differences which characterize the sexes become more and more evident. At that stage, the

young girl feels the need for spending her physical energy just as much as do young men; she takes up sports with enormous enthusiasm and develops an inherent desire for taking part in competitive sports. Now, though she resembles closely the adult, the adolescent girl is constitutionally weaker and does not possess the same endurance nor can she produce the same physical output than men, prolonged muscular strain causing her an untimely fatigue which may impede and injure the final stage of her physical development. It is therefore essential, that the young girl should not carry her manual work, games and sports to excess, but while taking care of her health and body she ought to adopt the type of physical training and sports best suited to her psycho-physical needs, thus restricting her activities to useful preparatory training for sports and games, avoiding if possible, competition which could eventually be envisaged for certain contests later on, when the girl is grown up. In this respect I wish to stress the importance of having proper medical sportive supervision for all girls and women practising any form of sports.

Before dealing with our subject, I wish to refer to a matter of interest, that is the definition of the term « Sport ». It derives its origin from the old French word « Desport » which means physical exercise or violent game. Sport, as we understand it and as defined at the various Physical Education and International Olympic Meetings, implies a sustained violent physical effort. It is, according to Baron de Coubertin: « The Cult of Effort which implies running a Risk ». The aim of sport is to beat or to attempt to beat a record, to fight an opponent or to execute a dangerous exercise on the apparatus in the gymnasium, etc. In one word, it means the supreme achievement of physical education which affords the best means to acquire balance and a harmonious development of the human being. One of the main factor is movement or speed also physical exercises which are divided in two groups: the former entails educational and team exercises which aim at developping the body, the other group implies exercises of application including utilitarian exercises and sporting games. The latter and the sporting contests which run under specified rules constitute the « Sport » in itself, in its turn sport is preceded by individual physical competition showing

the inborn urge of every individual wanting to match his own strength with his neighbour. This challenging spirit is found in boys running races when coming out of school or in shepherd boys testing their strength while wrestling on the Alps. As soon as physical competition becomes organized under set rules, listed and synchronized it becomes « Sport ».

It is not easy to draw the line between physical competition and sport or between team and static gymnastics and applied gymnastics carried out with the aid of apparatus in a gymnasium. In physical education, everything should fall into logical sequence thus allowing to pass from preparatory and team exercises to applied training which constitute the sporting activity leading to championship or record breaking, the latter being the adult's prerogative. Vigour and youth pass alas far too soon, it is however important, when reaching middle age to maintain one's form by practising regular physical exercises, these cannot be called sport, but are considered a simple form of hygiene.

Sport is indeed « the cult of sustained effort » as it entails the rational training of sportsmen who wish to compete in team or individual Championship or want to beat their own record. The above points having been fully explained let us now deal with our subject:

The participation of women to the modern Olympic Games.

With a few exceptions, competitive sport has hardly been practised by women prior to the first world war 1914-1918; only men competed in the First Renovated Olympic Games. We see women taking part in the First Renovated Olympic Games 1908 and 1921, when competing in the tennis and swimming events. The set of Rules applicable to the Celebration of the Olympic Games preconized then as it does now in § 4 (The participation of women competitors). Women are eligible for certain events, these will be mentioned in the Program of the Olympic Games. After the first World War, especially at the VIIth Olympiad held in Antwerp in 1920 and the VIIIth Olympiad in Paris 1924, women, in the sporting world put in a strong plea with the International Olympic Committee, asking it to incorporate women's events especially athletics in the Game's Program. Following the initiative of a Frenchwoman an International Sport Federation was constituted responsible for organizing World Championship, it even contemplated the possibility of holding its own Olympiads.

As early as 1924, the question of participation of women to the Games was fully discussed at the International Olympic Committee's Congress, the latter commended it to the Agenda of the sportive pedagogic congress held in Prague in 1925 who concluded in favour of the participation of women. A growing menace is the tendency to couple

two words, the antinomy of which is incongruous: feminine athleticism. The matter of deciding if women can, without injury to their health practise the same violent exercises or strenuous sports than men, should be left to hygienists and the medical profession. Unanimous agreement on this matter has not yet been reached, and even if it did, there still would be people objecting to women's participation, as their taste and sense of suitability has often been shocked by certain regrettable incidents or performances. « Thus, the majority of the members of the I. O. C. were not in favour of an exaggerated development of women's competitions, the same opinion prevailed amongst the International Amateur Athletic Federation, it appointed a board instructed to study this question; I had the honour of being a member of this Commission. After having discussed with the representatives of the Women Sport Federation who expressed their wish to obtain for their sex a program of contests as important as the one carried out by men competitors; the said commission proposed to the International Amateur Athletic Federation to incorporate in their competitions, on trial to begin with, a limited number of events open to women, such as: 100m flat, 800m flat, running high jump, discus throw (weight one kilo), and one relay race 4 x 100m. This proposal was adopted at the congress held at the Hague, in 1936, by the International Amateur Athletic Federation which became empowered with the international control of all women athletic sports. It appointed a committee entrusted with this duty also endorsing officially all women records in athletics. In 1928, at the IXth Olympiad held in Amsterdam, the first women athletic contests took place, this event roused an interest enhanced by the controversial attitude of partisans and objectors who were still discussing the matter of participation of women. On the eve of these Games, Pierre de Coubertin, the venerable Renovator of the Games, declared officially that: « I am personally opposed to women's eligibility to the Games. It has been adopted against my wish, and women sport demonstrations are increasing in number. »

On the whole, these first demonstrations impressed most favourably. In the Stadium, dressed in sporting attire, women competitors presented an unusual masculine aspect, but they showed a very fine spirit of sportsmanship and were in splendid form, beating all the women athletic records established hitherto.

31 competitors representing 12 countries took part in the flat race 100m;

22 women representing 14 countries took part in the 800m flat. The majority showed an excellent racing technic, the American, Canadian, German and one Japanese competitors appeared to us as particularly well trained. One amusing little incident occurred at the Finals of the 800m flat, when reaching

the winning post, two Canadians and one Japanese competitors collapsed on the lawn, the public and the journalists believed them to be in a state of exhaustion. I was judging this particular event and on the spot at the time, I can therefore certify that there was nothing wrong with them, they burst into tears thus betraying their disappointment at having lost the race, a very feminine trait!

ATHLETIC RESULTS

At the 9 preliminary heats the time recorded for the 100m flat race varied between 12 3/5 and seconds; the 3 semi-finals between 12 2/5 and 12 4/5, while at the final the record was 12 1/5.

1. E. Robinson (Etats-Unis) 12 1/5 (record du monde);
2. F. Rosenfeld (Canada);
3. E. M. Smith (Canada);
4. E. Steinberg (Allemagne);
5. M. A. Cook (Canada);
6. H. Schmidt (Allemagne);

Pour le 800 m. plat, les 3 séries se disputèrent entre 2 min. 23 1/5 sec. et 2 min. 26 sec. et la finale en 2 min. 16 4/5 sec., record du monde, gagnée par Mme Radke (Allemagne), suivie de 2. K. Itomi (Japon), 3. I. K. Geutzel (Suède), 4. J. Thompson (Canada), 5. F. Rosenfeld (Canada), 6. F. MacDonald (Etats-Unis).

We were much interested to hear that Madame Radke, winner of the 800m was actually married and mother of a child, she kept her own household while training for sports.

The running high jump was contested by 20 participating women, representing 9 countries. The recording of this event gave the following results:

1. E. Catherwood (Canada) 1,59 m. (record du monde);
2. C. A. Gisolf (Hollande) 1,56 m.;
3. M. O. Wiley (Etats-Unis) 1,56 m.;
4. J. Schiley (Etats-Unis) 1,51 m.
5. M. R. Clark (Afrique du Sud) 1,48 m.;
6. H. Notte (Allemagne);
- etc.

Throwing the discus (one kilo) was contested by 21 competitors representing 13 countries with the following results:

1. H. Konopacka (Plogne) 39,62 m. (record du monde);
2. L. Copeland (Amérique) 37 08 m.;
3. R. A. Svedberg (Suède) 35,92 m.;
4. M. Reuter (Allemagne) 35,86 m.;
5. G. Heublin (Allemagne) 35,36 m.;
6. E. Perkans (Autriche) 33,54 m.

Quant au relais 4 x 100 m., il groupa 8 pays; le Canada sortit victorieux en 48 2/5, suivi de 2. Etats-Unis, 3. Allemagne, 4. France, 5. Hollande, 6. Italie, la Suède et la Bel-

gique ayant été éliminées lors des courses préparatoires.

If one compares the men' results recorded at the same Games, one finds:

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|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 100 m. plat: Men | 1. Williams (Canada) | 10,8 sec. |
| | Women 1. Robinson (U. S. A.) | 12,2 sec. |
| 800 m. plat: Men | 1. Lowe (Angleterre) | 1 min. 51,8 sec. |
| | Women 1. Radke (Allemagne) | 2 min. 16,8 sec. |
| 4 x 100 m. relais: Men | 1. Etats-Unis | 41 sec. |
| | Women 1. Canada | 48,4 sec. |
| Saut hauteur: Men | 1. R. W. King (U. S. A.) | 1,94 m. |
| | Women 1. Catherwood (Canada) | 1,59 m. |

Les résultats du disque ne peuvent être exactement comparés, les hommes lançant 2 kg. à 47, 32 m. et les dames 1 kg. à 39,62 m.

Though definitively of a lower standing, the result of the women' performances has proved very satisfactory and appeared to justify the desire that women of certain countries felt for competing in sports. I specify certain countries, as apart from France, Holland, Germany and Great Britain, the only countries which were represented were the Scandinavian Countries, the United States, Canada and Japan, where women are more athletic but physically and sexually less advanced than the women of the South. It is an interesting fact that no Southern nor women from the meridional ones, with the exception of a few Italian women in 1936, ever competed in International Sports. In Amsterdam, as early as 1928, it seemed to us that some women competitors running the 800m were handicapped by too full a bosom.

We noticed straight away, at these first Games, that women competitors were often tall, and endowed with a fine physique slightly masculine, this type is often found in the North; the corresponding mental characteristics are true sportsmanship, a fine combative spirit in the sporting field which are unknown in women of most countries especially in the meridional ones.

After the celebration of the Amsterdam Games, the International Amateur Athletic Federation decided to retain the women contests on the Olympic Games Program with one alteration however: they substituted a 80m hurdle race for the 800m flat and added the Javelin Throw. They also decided that women contests would take place separately during the last two days of the Athletics' Week and not at the same time or after the men' contests as it happened in Amsterdam which was at women' disadvantage. At the Xth Olympiad at Los Angeles in 1932, 80 women representing 11 countries took part in the following six events: (U. S. A. 19,

Japan 13, Germany 12, Canada 10, Great Britain and Holland 8, Poland 4, South Africa 3, Austria, Mexico and New Zealand 1).

20 women contested the 100m flat: four groups ran in 11,9 sec. and 12,4 sec.; two semi-finals: 11,9-12,4 sec.; the final in 11,9.

1. Welasiewicz (Pologne) 11,9 (nouveau record du monde);
2. H. Strike (Canada);
3. W. von Bremen (U. S. A.);
4. M. Dollinger (Allemagne);
5. E. M. Hiscock (Angleterre);
6. E. Wolde (U. S. A.).

The 80m hurdles was contested for the first time by nine competitors running in the two semi-finals in 11,8 and 12 sec. and the final in 11,7 sec.

1. M. Didrikson (U. S. A.) 11,7 sec. (record du monde);
2. E. Halla (U. S. A.);
3. M. Clark (Afrique du Sud);
4. S. Scheller (U. S. A.);
5. V. Webb (Angleterre);
6. A. Wilson (Canada).

The 4 x 100m Relay was contested by six countries only, thus requiring but one final.

1. Etats-Unis d'Amérique 47 sec. (nouveau record du monde);
2. Canada;
3. Angleterre;
4. Hollande;
5. Japon;
6. Allemagne.

High Jump, 10 women competitors, representing 6 countries:

1. J. Shiley (U. S. A.) 1,67 m. (nouveau record du monde);
2. M. Didrikson (U. S. A.) 1,64 m.;
3. E. Davis (Canada) 1,60 m.;
4. C. A. Gisolf (Hollande) 1,58 m.;
5. M. Clark (Afrique du Sud) 1,58 m.;
6. A. J. Rogers (U. S. A.) 1,58 m. etc.

Discus (one kilo) 9 competitors representing four countries:

1. L. Copeland (U. S. A.) 40,58 m. (nouveau record du monde);
2. R. Osburn (U. S. A.) 40,12 m.
3. J. Wajsowna (Pologne) 38,74 m.;
4. I. Fleischer (Allemagne) 36,12 m.;
5. Heublein (Allemagne) 34,66 m.;
6. S. Walasiewicz (Pologne) 33,60 m.

Javelin, 8 competitors representing 4 countries:

1. M. Didrikson (U. S. A.) 43,68 m. (nouveau record du monde);
2. E. Braumüller (Allemagne) 43,49 m.;
3. I. Fleischer (Allemagne) 43,00 m.;
4. M. Shimpō (Japon) 39,07 m.;
5. N. Gidelé (U. S. A.) 37,95 m.;
6. G. Russell (U. S. A.) 36,73 m., etc.

By comparing the results of both sexes at these Games, one draws the following conclusion:

- 100 m. plat: Men 1. E. Tolam (U. S. A.) 10,3 sec.
Women 1. Walasiewicz (Pologne) 11,9 sec.
- 4 x 100 m. relais: Men 1. U. S. A. 40 sec.
Women 1. U.S.A. 47 sec.
- Saut hauteur: Men 1. D. McNaughton (Canada) 1,97 m.
Women 1. J. Shiley (U.S.A.) 1,67 m.
- Javelot: Men 1. M. H. Järvinen (Finlande) 72,71 m.
Women 1. M. Didrikson (U.S.A.) 43,68 m.
- Disque à 2 kg.: Men 1. J. F. Anderson (U. S. A.) 49,49 m.
1 kg.: Women 1. L. Copeland (U. S. A.) 40,58 m.
- 110 m. haies (haies de 1,10 m. de hauteur):
Men G. J. Salving (U. S. A.) 14,6 sec.
- 80 m. haies (haies de 90 cm. de hauteur):
Women 1. M. Didrikson (U. S. A.) 11,7 sec.

At the Los Angeles Games where I acted as an arbiter, I already wrote the following: « All the women events have been won by America with the exception of the 100m flat, the winner of this race being a graceful Pole. It is to be noted that all previous athletic records were beaten at these Games and the ladies offered a fine spectacle in the Stadium. This undoubtedly helped to decide in their favour and this time they won their cause.

At the Games of the XIth Olympiad, held in Berlin in 1936, the Program of women's Athletics was identical to the one of Los Angeles but there were far more competitors; 98 women representing 20 countries took part in the Athletic Events.

- 100 m flat, 30 competitors representing 15 countries,
6 preliminary heats varying from 11,4 to 12,5 secs.
2 semi-finals in 13,3 and 12 secs.
final in 11,3 secs.
1. H. Stephens (U. S. A.) 11,3 sec. (nouveau record du monde);
 2. S. Walasiewicz (Pologne) 11,7 sec.;
 3. K. Krauss (Allemagne) 11,9 sec.
 4. M. Dollinger (Allemagne);
 5. A. Rogers (U. S. A.);
 6. E. Albus (Allemagne).

- 80 m hurdles, 22 competitors representing 11 countries,
4 preliminary heats varying from 11, 8 to 12 secs.
2 semi-finals 11,6-11,8 secs.
final in 11,7 secs. (world record tied).
1. I. Valla (Italie) 11,7 sec.;
 2. A. Steuer (Allemagne) 11,7 sec.;
 3. A. Taylor (Canada) 11,7 sec.;

4. C. Testoni (Italie);
5. C. Branketer (Hollande);
6. D. Eckert (Allemagne).

High jump: 12 competitors representing 12 countries.

1. U. Csik (Hongrie) 1,60 m.;
2. D. Odam (Angleterre) 1,60 m.;
3. E. Kaun (Allemagne) 1,60 m.;
4. S. D. Rajet (Allemagne) 1,58 m.;
5. M. Nicolas (France) 1,58 m.

Javelin Throw: 14 competitors representing 10 countries.

1. I. Fleischer (Allemagne) 45,18 m. (nouveau record du monde);
2. L. Krüger (Allemagne) 43,29 m.;
3. M. Kwassiewska (Pologne), 41,80 m.;
4. H. Brauer (Autriche) 41,66 m.;
5. S. Yamamoto (Japon) 41,45 m.;
6. L. Eberbarth (Allemagne) 41,37 m.

Discus Throw: 19 competitors representing 11 countries.

1. G. Mauermayer (Allemagne) 47,63 m. (nouveau record du monde);
2. H. Wajsozna (Pologne) 46,22 m.;
3. P. Mollenhauer (Allemagne) 39,80 m.;
4. K. Nakamura (Japon) 38,24 m.;
5. H. Mineshima (Japon) 37,35 m.;
6. B. Lundström (Suède) 35,83 m.

4 x 100m Relay: 8 competing countries with two preliminary heats of which one run by Germany in 46,4 secs. (world record), the other in 47,1 secs.

Finale:

1. Etats-Unis d'Amérique 46,9 sec.;
2. Angleterre 47,0 sec.
3. Canada 47,8 sec.
4. Italie 48,7 sec.
5. Hollande 48,8 sec.
6. Allemagne, disqualifiée par suite de chute du témoin lors du dernier relai.

Compared with men's events one obtains the following result sheet:

100 m. plat:

- Men 1. J. Owens (U. S. A.) 10,3 sec.
Women 1. H. Stephens (U. S. A.) 11,3 sec.

4 x 100 m. relais:

- Men 1. U. S. A. 39,8 sec.
Women 1. U. S. A. 46,9 sec.
Allemagne éliminée 46,4 sec.

Saut hauteur:

- Men 1. C. Johnson (U. S. A.), 2,03 m.
Women 1. U. Csik (Hongrie) 1,60 m.

Javelot:

- Men 1. G. Stöck (Allemagne) 71,84 m.
Women 1. T. Fleischer (Allem.) 45,18m.

Disque à 2 kg.:

- Men 1. C. Carpenter (U. S. A.) 50,48 m.

Disque à 1 kg.:

- Women 1. G. Maurermayer (All.) 47,63 m.

110 m. haies (hauteur 1,10 m.):

- Men 1. F. G. Towns (U.S.A.) 14,2 sec.

80 m. haies (hauteur 90 cm.):

- Women 1. T. Valla (Italie) 11,7 sec.

At the Games in Berlin, where women competed for the third time in Athletic Events, the definite conclusion was reached that women's events could be retained if one excluded certain Demonstrations and endurance tests considered too strenuous for women such as: half and long-distance races and Hop Step and High Jump. These feats of endurance are unsuitable for women.

The last World War prevented the celebrations of the Games of the XIIth and XIIIth Olympiads, in 1940 and 1944, scheduled to take place in Helsinki and in London respectively. As soon as the War ended, the Olympic Movement was revived with great impetus when the XIVth Olympiad was held in London in 1948. The program of the women's athletics was the same as in Berlin, it included 9 competitions with the following additional events: 200m flat, Running Broad Jump and Weight Throw (5 kilos). 207 competitors representing 27 different countries of the four Continents (Africa excepted), took part in the women's events held at the London Games with the additional 10 teams of the 4 x 100m Relay.

100m flat:

- 41 competitors belonging to 21 countries grouped in 9 series (12 secs. to 12,8 secs.)
2 semi-finals between 12 secs. and 12,4 secs.

Final in 11,9 secs.

1. E. Blankers-Koen (Hollande) 11,9 sec.;
2. D. Manley (Angleterre) 12,2 sec.;
3. S. B. Strickland (Autriche) 12,3 sec.;
4. V. Myers (Canada);
5. P. Jones (Canada);
6. C. Thomson (Jamaïque).

200m flat:

- 32 competitors belonging to 17 countries grouped in 7 series (25,3 secs. to 25,9 secs.);

3 semi-finals and one final run in 24,4 secs. by the winner.

1. E. Blankers-Koen (Hollande) 24,4 sec.;
2. A. D. Williamson (Angleterre) 25,1 sec.;
3. A. Patterson (U. S. A.) 25,2 sec.;
4. S. B. Strickland (Australie);
5. H. Walker (Angleterre);
6. D. Robb (Afrique du Sud);

80 m. haies:

- 21 concurrentes de 12 pays;
4 éliminatoires de 11,3 à 12,2 sec.;

2 demi-finales en 11,4 et 11,7 sec.;

1 finale en 11,2 sec.

1. E. Blankers-Koen (Hollande) 11,2 sec.;
2. A. J. Gardner (Angleterre) 11,2 sec.;
3. S. B. Strickland (Australie) 11,4 sec.;
4. Y. Monginon (France);
5. M. Oberbreyer (Autriche);
6. L. Lomska (Tchécoslovaquie).

Saut en hauteur:

19 participantes de 10 pays.

1. A. Coacman (U. S. A.) 1,68 m.;
2. D. J. Tyler (Angleterre) 1,68 m.;
3. M. O. M. Ostermeyer (France) 1,61 m.;
4. V. R. Beckett (Jamaïque) 1,58 m.;
5. D. M. Dredge (Canada) 1,58 m.;
6. B. Crowther (Angleterre) 1,58 m.

Saut en longueur:

29 concurrentes de 18 pays.

1. V. O. Giarmati (Hongrie) 5,695 m.;
2. W. S. de Porcele (Argentine) 5,600 m.;
3. A. B. Leyman (Suède) 5,575 m.;
4. V. Kade-Kondjs (Hollande) 5,570 m.;
5. W. J. Karelse (Hollande) 5,545 m.;
6. K. M. Russell (Jamaïque) 5,495 m.

Disque 1 kg.:

21 concurrentes de 11 pays.

1. M.O.M. Ostermeyer (France) 41,92 m.;
2. E. C. Gentile (Italie) 41,17 m.;
3. J. Mazeas (France) 40,17 m.;
4. J. Majs-Marchinkewicz (Pologne) 39,30 m.;
5. L. Heidegger (Autriche) 38,81 m.;
6. E. Panhorst-Niesink (Hollande) 38,71 m.

Javelot:

15 participantes de 10 pays.

1. H. Baums (Autriche) 45,57 m.;
2. K. V. Parvisinen (Finlande) 43,79 m.;
3. L. M. Carlstedt (Danemark) 42,08 m.;
4. D. L. Dodson (U. S. A.) 41,96 m.;
5. J. E. Tenaissen-Wallboea (Hollande) 40,92 m.;
6. J. Koning (Hollande) 40,33 m.

Poids 5 kg.:

19 participantes de 12 pays.

1. M.O.M. Ostermeyer (France) 13,75 m.;
2. A. Piscinini (Italie) 13,095 m.;
3. P. Schäfer (Autriche) 13,08 m.;
4. P. Vesta (France) 12,985 m.;
5. J. Komarkova (Tchécoslovaquie) 12,92 m.;
6. A. Bruk (Autriche) 12,50 m.

As to the 4 x 100m Relay races they were contested by teams belonging to 10 countries which necessitated five preliminary heats and one final giving the following results:

1. Hollande 47,5;
2. Australie 47,6;
3. Canada 47,8;
4. Angleterre 48,0;
5. Danemark 48,2;
6. Autriche 49,2.

The comparison of the men's and women's events gives the following result sheets:

100 m. plat:

- Men: H. Dillard (U. S. A.) 10,3 sec.
Women: E. Blankers-Koen (Hollande) 11,9 sec.

200 m. plat:

- Men: M. B. Patton (U. S. A.) 21,1 sec.
Women: E. Blankers-Koen (Hollande) 24,4 sec.

Relais 4 x 100 m.:

- Men: U. S. A. 40,6 sec.
Women: Hollande 47,5 sec.

Saut hauteur:

- Men: J. A. Winter (Australie) 1,98 m.
Women: A. Coachman (U. S. A.) 1,68 m.

Saut longueur:

- Men: W. S. Steele (U. S. A.) 7,82 m.
Women: W. O. Gyarnati (Hongrie) 5,695 m.

Disque 2 kg.:

- Men: A. Consolini (Italie) 52,78m.

Disque 1 kg.:

- Women: M. O. M. Ostermeyer (France) 41,92 m.

Javelot 800 gr.:

- Men: K. T. Rantavaara (Finlande) 69,77 m.
Women: H. Bauma (Autriche) 45,57 m.

Boulet 7,257 kg.:

- Men: W. M. Thompson (U. S. A.) 17,12 m.

Boulet 5,000 kg.:

- Women: M. O. M. Ostermeyer (France) 13,75 m.

The Games celebrating the XVth Olympiad which are to be held in Helsinki, in 1952, specify the same program of women's athletic events as in London.

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Since 1908, the fencing, swimming and yachting events of the Olympic Games are opened to women competitors.

In Fencing, there is one individual match of Foil open to women; at the Berlin Games this event was competed by 42 fencing women, representatives of 17 countries; in London there were 39 women belonging to 15 countries.

In Swimming, the following events are opened to women:

- 100m (Free-Style);
- 100m (Back Stroke);
- 200m (Strocke);
- 400m (Free-Style);
- Spring Board Diving (3 metres);
- High Board Diving (7 metres);
- 4 x 100m Free Style Relay.

122 competitors representing 90 countries including 2 Swiss took part in the Berlin Games' Swimming Events.

It is interesting to compare the results obtained by men and women competing in the same events in Berlin.

100 m. libre:

Men: 1. F. Csik (Hongrie) 57,6 sec.;
Women: 1. Masterbrock (Hollande)
1 min. 05,9 sec.

100 m. dos:

Men: 1. Kiefer (U.S.A.) 1 min. 05,9;
Women: 1. Senf (Hollande) 1 min. 18,9.

200 m. brasse:

Men: 1. Hamuro (Japon) 2 min. 42,5;
Women: 1. Maehata (Japon) 3 min. 03,6;

400 m. libre:

Men: 1. Medica (U. S. A.) 4 min. 44,5;
Women: 1. Masterbrock (Hollande)
5 min. 26,4.

4 x 100 m. libre:

Women: 1. Hollande 4 min. 56;

4 x 200 m. libre:

Men: 1. Japon 8 min. 51,5.

This comparison cannot be applied to the Spring Board Diving and High Board Diving tests, as the number of these dives varied.

At the London Games, this comparison gives the following result sheet:

100 m. libre:

Men: 1. W. Ris (U. S. A.) 57,3 sec.;
Women: 1. G. M. Andersen (Danemark)
66,3 sec.

(34 participantes de 16 pays, 1 Suisse.)

100 m. dos:

Men: 1. G. Vallerey (France)
1 min. 07,4 sec.
Women: 1. K. M. Harup (Danemark)
1 min. 14,4.

(24 participantes de 16 pays, 1 Suisse.)

200 m. brasse:

Men: 1. J. Verdeur (U. S. A.)
2 min. 39,3;
Women: 1. B. van Vliet (Hollande)
2 min. 57,2.

(22 participantes de 14 pays, 1 Suisse.)

400 m. libre:

Men: 1. W. Snuth (U. S. A.)
4 min. 41,0;
Women: 1. A. Curtis (U. S. A.)
5 min. 17,8.

(18 participantes de 11 pays.)

4 x 100m (Free Style Relay) was contested by 11 countries and won by the United States, in 4 min. 29,2 secs. The Spring Board Diving test were contested by 16 women competitors representing 8 countries. The High Board Diving test, contested by 15 women belonging to 9 countries.

Having had the privilege of witnessing successively 6 Olympiads where swimming events were contested, as well as seeing numerous Swiss Swimming Championships, I have always noticed how perfectly free and at ease, women were in any sport pertaining to Swimming; I think the International Swimming Federation has been perfectly right to omit the 1 500m (Free Style long-distance race) and to limit the Free Style Relay to

4 x 100m as against the 4 x 200m relay competed by men. The Federation has also been justified in excluding Water-Polo competitions from women's contests, as only men can practise this rough sport.

Let us also record that at each Olympiad a few ladies competed in the Yachting teams (in Berlin, 3 women competitors belonging to different countries took part). This sport is suitable and can be practised by women.

Since 1928, the program of the Games includes Gymnastic teams of ladies, who also competed with the following results: Total of the six best individual performances of 8 women competitors as well as individual and ensemble exercises totalling 5 different exercises. These competitions have not proved very popular as yet; in 1928 at Amsterdam only 5 countries took part.

| | | |
|---------------|--------|--------|
| 1. Hollande | 316,75 | points |
| 2. Italie | 289,00 | » |
| 3. Angleterre | 258,25 | » |
| 4. Hongrie | 256,50 | » |
| 5. France | 247,50 | » |

In 1932, at Los Angeles, these Gymnastic Events were cancelled as there was no entry.

In 1936, in Berlin, 64 women gymnasts representing 8 countries competed and the result sheet was as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|
| 1. Allemagne | 506,30 | points |
| 2. Tchecoslovaquie | 503,60 | » |
| 3. Hongrie | 498,00 | » |
| 4. Yougoslavie | 485,00 | » |
| 5. Etats-Unis | 471,60 | » |
| 6. Pologne | 471,30 | » |
| 7. Italie | 442,05 | » |
| 8. Angleterre | 408,30 | » |

At the London Olympic Games in 1948, 11 countries competed against each other sending teams composed of 8 gymnasts.

| | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|
| 1. Tchecoslovaquie | 445,45 | points |
| 2. Hongrie | 440,35 | » |
| 3. U. S. A. | 422,60 | » |
| 4. Suède | 417,95 | » |
| 5. Hollande | 408,35 | » |
| 6. Autriche | 405,45 | » |
| 7. Yougoslavie | 397,90 | » |
| 8. Italie | 394,20 | » |
| 9. Angleterre | 392,95 | » |
| 10. France | 384,65 | » |
| 11. Belgique | 353,57 | » |

During the period of 1908 to 1924, ladies Tennis contests were also included in the Games but from 1924 onwards, the International Olympic Committee decided to eliminate this sport from the Olympic Program as it did not comply anymore with the Rules defining Amateuism.

Since 1936, the International Skiing Federation has also included two women's competitions on the program of the Winter Olympic Games: the Downhill Running Race and the Slalom. The Federation has rightly excluded women from participation in the long-distance run and the jumping.

At the IVth Winter Olympic Games held at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 1936, 37 women representing 13 countries competed in the Slalom and Downhill Running competitions: they put in a brilliant performance and proved equal to men in efficiency and skill.

At the Vth Winter Olympic Games held in Saint-Moritz in 1948, 27 women representing 9 countries took part in the combined slalom competition for ladies, 27 women representing 9 countries competed in the « *Combiné alpin* » (Downhill-Slalom race); 24 representing 20 countries participated in the Slalom (special), finally 37 women representing 11 countries competed in the ladies Downhill-Running races.

Since 1908, there are figure skating exhibitions and competitions for ladies, and couples, which give an opportunity to ladies practising this type of sport to compete in the Olympic Games. Figure Skating is eminently suited to women and offers a type of sport they excel in.

In 1948 at Saint-Moritz, 25 ladies representing 13 countries, competed in the Figure Skating individual contests while 15 teams representing 13 countries competed in the Figure Skating contests for couples.

In certain countries, such as Japan and America, Speed Skating competitions of 500, 1500, 5000 and 10 000m are taking place. The organizing Body of the Olympic Games has refused to incorporate these contests in the Olympic Program.

In conclusion, this is a description of the evolution of all the women's contests in the Olympic Games. The latter represent the World's Championships of most Sports' demonstrations.

The informations given in this statement allow us to follow the women's progress, in the sporting field, after grouping and feeling their ways warily, women succeeded in asserting their rights to participate in the Olympic Games as well as compete in the Arts Exhibitions where they often have sent valuable contributions. Women's Sport is making steady progress, the number of women competitors is always increasing notwithstanding the fact that despite the repeated request of feminist milieux, a relatively limited number of competitions are accessible to women.

We are of the opinion, that these restrictions are all for the good, seeing that woman has a noble task in life namely to give birth to healthy children and to bring them up in the best of conditions. We must do everything in our power to improve her conditions of living, but on the other hand, we must avoid everything which can be injurious to her health and harm her as a potential mother. As a doctor, I personally disapprove most strongly of women's boxing or wrestling contests. I happened to be present in Paris, when the women's wrestling Championships were being contested; I can safely say that I never saw anything more grotesque or



VI. Winter Olympic Games, Oslo 1952.

At Norefjell an olympic ceremony took place. Before the ski competitors assembled, Mr. O. Ditlev-Simonsen, president of the organising committee, makes his speech.

less womanly. A friend of mine, while in Berlin, witnessed the boxing matches for women, he had the same impression and shared my opinion on the matter.

According to her constitution and as a future mother woman can only go in for exercises intending to develop her physique and making her more supple, avoiding as a rule, competitive events. The International Federations and organizing committees of the Olympic Games have done right to limit the number of these competitions, though they are not opposed to woman practising sport, on the contrary, they realize that it is for her good. It is wise therefore to curb her natural impulse which often leads her to overdo sports especially strenuous ones, thus restricting her accessibility to competitive performances. Any excess in the field of sport may be injurious to herself and her descendants.

We aim at woman developping a taste for a rational system of physical education involving the practice of recreative and practical exercises as well as games and sports which will satisfy her physical and psychological needs. Later on, when she becomes a mother, while looking after her home and children, we advise her to continue the practice of physical exercises in order to ward off the effects of the years passing by, thus keeping her for ever a young mother fit to play with her children. Recreation and play are the first phase of children's education.