

I. O. C. and UNESCO

Ever since 1947, the French Olympic Committee's President felt bound to draw the attention of the Secretary of ONU upon the fact, that, the world of sport was non-existent in the field of activity of UNESCO. He seized the opportunity to raise this point while attending a reception held at the Palais Chaillot, where he was invited at the same time than the boxing champion, Marcel Cerdan, just returned from the United States, after his outstanding success.

« UNESCO, said the President, stands

for the organisation of the United Nations in the fields of Education, Science and Culture. Now, in these existing diverse sections, no place has been allotted to sport, despite the fact that by the rightful ties that bind sport to either Education or Culture, the mere adding of the word « physical » to either would be sufficient.

The idea grew and made its way slowly. Some people had already supported it beforehand and indeed were in favour of it although this time.

While making this claim, I had kept so far on the national basis.

The Director of the Director-General's Cabinet of UNESCO, Mr. Jaime Torres-Bodet, whose departure has been unanimously deplored, discussed this matter with me during the Games at Helsinki. We came to the conclusion that if the project could be introduced to UNESCO by the French Delegation, the I. O. C., because of its independent and universal character would qualify as one of the best organ to represent the Section « Sport » which is to be created.

Do not UNESCO and the I. O. C. share the same ideals? Inasmuch that they both aim at improving the individual on the moral and physical plane as well as contrive to bring peoples together. The one does it by means of contests of eloquence, literary and scientific works while the other does it by means of loyal contests in the Stadium.

The proud motto bequeathed to the I. O. C. by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, has been commented upon in Dr. Paul Martin of Lausanne's magnificent book *At the Tenth of a Second*. He explains in the following manner, the full significance and far reaching effect of this motto, which is not sufficiently known:

CITIUS, does not only mean faster in the race but implies also swiftness of understanding and quick perception of the brain.

ALTIUS, higher and higher, not only in order to reach one's goal but also towards the spiritual uplift of the individual.

FORTIUS, does not only means stronger in the Stadium' contests but refers to the way we face the hardship of life.

Doubtless, if the co-operation of the I. O. C. with UNESCO would seem most beneficial to the later, UNESCO would, by its aid, contribute to make our faith triumph

in the world, as regards our belief that the coming together of the peoples can only be brought by better understanding of each other, which is made easier by the contacts established in the Stadium and in the Olympic Camps.

This promising co-operation would, doubtlessly, also bring an efficacious aid to the cause of Amateurism, that is to say: of total disinterestedness. This noble cause is disparaged by the allpervading materialism of our times, when the struggle for existence is becoming harsher and keener everyday.

Did not UNESCO send to Helsinki an observer, delegating the Director-General of the Cabinet, who was able to realize for himself the importance and the repercussion over the whole world, of this great event, held every four years, when confronting sportsmen of the whole world?

In conclusion, UNESCO, after some difficulties encountered in the commissions, which were caused by the reduction of credit, has in a full sitting, voted in favour of the resolution presented by the French Delegation, worded as follows:

« The Director-General is authorized to conduct an inquiry among the Member States and appropriate international organisations with a view to submitting to the General Conference, as part of its 1955-1956 Programme, detailed proposals for action to be taken by UNESCO to assist in the development and improvement of athletic sports for educational purposes. »

The inquiry is making good progress. It is highly advisable to see it find a practical solution, conceived with a view of bringing about *unification*, and producing healthy social effects, in conformity with the yearning of youths devoted to sport and thirsting for sound directives.