

Boxing prolongs Life

It seldom happens to us to refer to professional sport in our Olympic Bulletin ! Worthy of note, is, however, the recent feat performed by the "second most important personality in Holland... after the Queen", as alleged irreverently by a Dutch daily paper, last November. We are doing so all the more willingly because it concerns an *ex-Olympic Champion* of the Games of the VIIIth Olympiad which were held in Amsterdam in 1928, namely Bep van Klaveren who, on this occasion, at the age of 21, won his olympic gold medal while boxing in the featherweight class. He turned professional while gaining the title of Champion of Holland in 1930 and of Europe in 1931. In November 1955, at the age of 48, he endeavoured to win back the title he had already held in the course of his sporting career, that of European welterweight champion. He agreed to challenge the French negroe Dione... twenty two years his junior ! He was beaten on points after fighting to the end of a bitter fifteen rounds contests in which he gave an

outstanding display of staying power and physical resources. The Rotterdam hero did not lose prestige by this defeat. The warm ovation at the close of the contest, as well as the numerous proofs of sympathy which went out to him shortly after the fight, have undoubtedly provided consolation for van Klaveren in his defeat. Moreover, the press was unanimous in declaring that though "Bep" happens to be nearly a quinquagenarian, he is still fit to hold his own against many young pugilists. What is the secret of his success ? He attributes it to his 10 Km of daily training and his constant liking of travel. Indeed, he has travelled all over the world, from the United States to Australia, always happy to return to his native land, the Netherlands.

OLYMPIC CHAMPION OF HOLLAND AT 21, contender of the European Championship, professional at 48, these are sufficient proofs to testify that boxing as a sport keeps one fit and prolongs life.