

The VIIth Games of the International Deaf and Dumb Sports

The International Committee of the Deaf and Dumb Sports has its seat in Belgium. It instructed its Italian affiliation to organize its VIIIth Games which are to be held in Rome from August 25th to August 36th 1957. It is public knowledge that this Committee is serving an eminently deserving cause based on social as well as humanitarian grounds. It possesses a sport section recognized by the International Olympic Committee as an organization with an Olympic standing. The deaf and dumb people of the world may now definitively overcome their inferiority complex which happens to be more psychological than physical. They can dominate their complexes and owing to the system of re-education of their infirmity, they can be introduced to the everyday life of the average person. Although sport is a means of progress and education which is convened and used by the deaf and dumb as a useful weapon to pacific ends, this must not infer that sport for them is a way of "escape". It would be an error to think so. Nowadays, the state of consciousness and full maturity assumed by the deaf and dumb make them fit to assume responsibilities and face difficulties with courage. In the sport manifestation which is going to be held in Rome, there are to be events with cultural, scientific and technical elements, thus the programme will include Fine-Arts competitions in painting, sculpture theatre and various other kinds of arts. This tends to show that

sport does not offer the only device by which the deaf and dumb can express their vitality, show their intelligence and display their initiative. It is noteworthy that in Italy the movement for the "silent Sports" is spreading in a remarkable way. It is only right to give the deaf and dumb a fair chance to prove to the world that they can be perfectly rational beings and healthy because they are fit subjects for sport on a morphological basis... like those who can hear and speak.

Up to the present time, the following nations have sent their adhesion to the Organizing Committee : Germany, Argentine, Australia, Austria, Belgium, China, Denmark, Spain, United States, Finland, France, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, India, Italy, Norway, New Zealand, Poland, Rumania, Sweden, Switzerland, Czecho-Slovakia, U.S. S.R., Yugoslavia and Iran. Other adhesions are to follow from the countries cited below :

Brazil, Bulgaria, Japan, Israel, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Turkey, Uruguay, and Vietnam.

The following sports will figure on the programme :

athletics, basketball, cyclism, football, gymnastics, handball, shooting, table-tennis, tennis, and swimming.

We notice that in addition to Art Competitions, it is projected to show sporting films, T. V. commentaries and views on sport performances as well as hold posters competitions.