

## CORRESPONDENCE

We have received following letter:  
The Editor,  
Bulletin du Comite International Olympique,  
Mon Repos,  
LAUSANNE

Dear Sir,

My attention was arrested to the script "Concerning the excessive display of Nationalism" on page 62 of the Bulletin No. 53, more specially by the words "We swear to compete... etc." FOR THE HONOUR AND THE GLORY OF OUR COUNTRY," which have been misconstrued.

Having studied the life story of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder and rejuvenator of the Olympic Games of the present era, and the author of the Olympic Oath, I fear Mr. Ernst Hornickel was rather unjust in making indirect derogatory remarks regarding a man who did so much to bring the world together on the common platform of sport.

In the first instance, the phrase "THE GLORY OF OUR COUNTRY, etc." has nothing to do with winning or losing an Olympic Event. It is absolutely wrong to assume that a defeat in the Olympic Games casts a slur on the honour of a nation. This phrase has a deep and significant meaning, which is not well understood. These words are an indication of the character, morality, behaviour, etc. of an athlete, on and off the Olympic Stadium. They inspire the athlete to remain steadfast, wherever he goes, for the glory of his country, through his character, behaviour, etc.

It is no use winning the Olympic Crown at one stride, and doing things in another

which would bring disgrace to him and his country. The Olympic Oath must be interpreted in a broad and liberal sense.

There was another reference in the same script to the discussion which took place a few years ago on the display of National Flags around the Olympic Stadium. In what way, does the display of a particular nation's flag amongst comity of flags of other nations lead to nationalistic chauvinism? Such a thought can only enter a perverted mind with a narrow outlook on life.

The display of National Flags around the Olympic Stadium at the time of the Olympic Oath Taking Ceremony, which continue to be displayed till the end of the Games, is like the display of flowers and bunting at the holy ceremony of matrimony, where people from both sides of the families to be united, come in their gay-attire and are joined by the bond of friendship and harmony.

In the Olympic Stadium, the participating sides are not two but three score and twenty. I do not think that that idea of nationalistic chauvinism has ever entered or would enter the mind of any participant or spectator of Olympic Games, when he sees his National Flag in the comity of flags of eighty other nations. This display of flags signifies, "all for one and one for all"; the creation of the Olympic Family and universal brotherhood, no matter to what country, caste or creed under the sun he or she may belong.

Yours for sports

JAL D. PARIVALA.

Bombay, 7th June 1956.