

We publish following letter with the intention to inform our readers with the aim persued by the "Stoke Mandeville Games" to which the International Olympic Committee has awarded the 'Fearnley Cup' for 1956 :

National Spinal Injuries Centre

Stoke Mandeville Hospital
Aylesbury, Bucks, England
Jan. 10th. 1957

To the International Olympic Committee
Lausanne

"Dear Sirs,

"Your letter of 1st. January, in which you most kindly informed us of the great honour the International Olympic Committee have done to the Stoke Mandeville Games, has been referred to me by Sir Arthur Porritt, your member.

"As the founder of the *Stoke Mandeville Games* and Chairman of the Organizatory Committee, I am writing to you to express our warmest thanks to the International Olympic Committee for awarding us the 'Fearnley Cup' for 1956. I am of course very conscious of the great honour your Committee has bestowed upon our sports movement for the paralysed — the more so, as it is the first time in the history of sport that a sports organization for the disabled has received such a wonderful recognition from the Olympic Movement.

"I have no doubt that your Committee will be aware for the tremendous stimulus and inspiration this award will be, not only to paralysed sportsmen and women all over the World, but also to other disable people, who

are still regarded and regard themselves as being incapable of becoming respected citizens again, with the field of sport open to them.

"As you know, the *Stoke Mandeville Games*" were founded in 1948 from small beginnings, with 16 competitors only — at that time, all paralysed ex-servicemen wounded in the second World War. But from year to year the number of sports events and the number of competitors have grown and, in 1952 the *Stoke Mandeville Games* became an international sports event for paraplegics, when, for the first time a team of paralysed Dutch war wounded came over to England to compete in them. Since then, altogether 21 Nations have been represented at the Games, and, at the 1956 ones, 300 competitors from 18 Nations took part.

"The 1957 *Stoke Mandeville Games* will take place on the 26th and 27th July and will coincide with the 7th World Congress of the International Society for the Welfare of Cripples in London.

"With, again, my warmest thanks to the International Olympic Committee.

"Yours faithfully

L. Guttman, O.B.E., M.D.,
M.R.C.P., F.R.S.A.
Director."