

Some brief comments...

SOVIET SPORT

When eleven footballers in U. S. S. R. form the national team of that country, just think that they represent the top-class of two million Soviet players who, in their turn, have been chosen from eighteen million athletes who are practising sports throughout the country. It is therefore easy to understand why champions can be found out of this multitude of active sportsmen. The Russian believe that you cannot begin too early in sport, especially with regard to football. Already as youngsters they join district teams, when they indulge in fierce local fights. The majority of the elite belonging to the national team made their 'debut' in this fashion. All clubs are used exclusively for

the practice of sport. Athletes are not submitted to the effect of any slack season. When their sport activity comes to an end, they carry on with another without delay. In winter, the Russian climate is so severe and the conditions are so unfavourable, that sport grounds are unfit for play. In order to produce an all-round fitness, Russian athletes go in for skiing, skating, basketball or gymnastics. In this way, they manage to keep up their form in excellent condition and are thus able to resume competitive sport without undue strain.

There are numerous competitions which cater for all tastes and ages, also for various

grades of attainment ; schools, universities, army and corporative championships.

All important sport clubs possess their affiliations throughout the country. For instance, if there is a 'Dynamo' club at Moscow, it has its affiliation in Kiev, etc. The University Club which belongs exclusively

to the students, is called the 'Petrel'. It has more than two million members who practise all the different sports. The 'Torpedo' is a sport centre chiefly used by the workers belonging to the motor trade, while the 'Army Centre' is grouping Army men, Civil servants attached to the Ministry of National Defence.