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The third Asiatic Games took place in Tokyo last May

On Saturday May 24th 1958, in a Stadium full to overflowing, 70,000 Asiatics stepped out of their traditional impassiveness and yielded to an outburst of enthousiasm when Oda, a former Olympic champion, entered the Stadium carrying the Olympic flame. The latter was conveyed from Manila to Japan. It left by plane and ferry-boat and lastly, a relay of runners carried the flame when they ran in a circle round the capital during three days.

Third of its kind and name, these Asiatic Games broke all records in the way of magnificence. For the first time in the history of sport in Japan, the Emperor in person pronounced the traditional speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Games. This in itself is an event of considerable importance when one

considers that in the eyes of the Japanese, the Emperor is a god. Four television units assured a televised service of this historical pageant which was diffused throughout the land. The never yet attained number of 1,408 athletes paraded on the red cinder track in front of an ultra modern stadium.

ty nations were represented. The public eyes were not only riveted on the parade but it looked towards the tribunes where the members of the International Olympic Committee sat, proudly wearing their insignia encircled with cultured pearls. They were pondering, while witnessing the Games, whether Japan is likely to be a worthy successor to Rome in the matter of organizing the next Olympic Games. One can almost guess that they left Tokyo most favourably impressed.

THE MOST DRAMATIC MARATHON EVER
PERFORMED

After reading the following article one can rightly wonder if the *Marathon* race (which also figures on the Programme of the Olympic Games) is still to be considered as a sport. Is it not a murderously fierce struggle inflicted on young men who, very often, are insufficiently prepared for fighting such a hard contest? We, hereby, produce the following extract from an article published by *L'Equipe* of Paris and sent by its special correspondent: Marcel Hansenne, who was sent to these Games and wrote as follows: 'Reaching the final post is always a most dramatic moment in a Marathon, it was particularly so in Tokyo, when the Korean athlete Lee collapsed one metre from the finishing tape under the compassionate eyes of thousands of Japanese women. He was transported unconscious on a stretcher after having been wrapped in a

blanket to save him from the scorching rays of the sun. Heavy going pace, contested under most trying conditions, this Marathon was full of suspense and sensational episodes, the last one we witnessed was when the Korean Woo, still leading the field at the 30th kilometre after having been first all the way on the scorching road, gave up the race. I have never seen competitors end a race in such a state of utter exhaustion. One hour 23 min. after the winner Lee was first to enter the Stadium, when the meeting was almost over, an utterly unexpected ghostlike competitor, whose strides did not exceed 40 cm., made his apparition in the Stadium. It was the Nepalese Marathon runner Bhu barely holding himself on his bare feet. His average speed was very much below that of an ordinary runner in a competition. Notwithstanding, the whole assembly in the Stadium rose to their feet to pay homage to this brave but wretched man!