

This would be a Laughing Matter

if it were not so ridiculous

The world chess championships, pompously entitled CHESS OLYMPIAD, took place in Munich last October. This is a further abuse, which has lasted for years as far as this game is concerned. The International Olympic Committee has intervened unsuccessfully on several occasions, and again this year. Dr. Karl Ritter von Halt, member of the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee, took further steps in an effort to put meaningless and tending to the ridiculous. The Munich organizers expressed their readiness to abandon the term in question, but they were compelled to maintain it at the instigation of the International Chess Federation. We would have passed over this incident in silence, had it not been for the fact that the organizers (at the instance of the international federation) imposed an OATH on the competitors, who, to make matters worse, are professionals. What sense has this attestation, we would like to ask? It was pronounced in English by Lombardy (U. S. A.), in French by Luccas Mohammed

(Lebanon), and in German by Wolfgang Unzicker (Munich). Truly, ridicule has never killed anybody, but at least we can predict as far as any candidature of the chess federation for recognition as an 'Olympic sport' is concerned, that the result would be a check — and checkmate at that !

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First it was Chess, now it's Frog Races

We learn from the press that the frogs' 'Olympic Games' (*sic*) have been held at Elsburg near Johannisburg at the end of 1958. Two hundred competitors from all countries took part in this competition.

'Olympiad' of Choral Societies in Paris

This *IInd International Olympiad of Amateur Choral Societies* was to be held in Paris from November 9th to 16th last. Organized by the Popular Music Federation of Paris. This manifestation has been postponed till 'better times', says the press. All the better for the French Olympic Committee !

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Is all this due to lack of imagination, or sheer stupidity ?

Ed.