
Pilgrimage to Olympia

June 1961

Coinciding with the Olympic Meetings, which are to be held in Athens next June, the members of the International Olympic Committee, the delegates of the International Federations and those of the National Olympic Committees will be given the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Olympia. A commemorative ceremony inaugurating the excavating work of the ancient stadium is to take place in Olympia. This ceremony is organized by the German Olympic Committee who bore the expenses of this excavating work which commenced in 1958 and which is to be completed next year. In the period covering the years 1717 to 1768, Johann Winckelmann, in his capacity of first archaeologist to study ancient monuments in a scientific way, conceived a scheme with the view to bring to light the ancient stadium. The systematic exploration of the site, however, commenced in 1936, but the actual excavating work was only set afoot in 1958, when it started in this historical place in order to free the stadium and rediscover the historical sites of the Games. The German Professor, Emile Kunz, was appointed Chief of the expedition. At this juncture, we do not propose to say more on the subject, but we only hope that the whole Olympic Family including the International Olympic, the International Federations and the delegates of the National Olympic Committees will attend the ceremony in order to pay tribute

to the gigantic work just realized. May it
prove a boon to the Olympic spirit.