

true and impartial competition' the amateurs of all nations in the Olympic Games, but to admit those whose value gives rise to a certain interest, and who thus deserve this supreme honour. The International Athletic Amateur Federation, of which mention is made in Madame Lekarska's article, has understood this, since it has fixed the minimum standards for participation in the Olympic Games. In fact in the Games, it is not the quantity that counts but the quality. Too often, unfortunately, athletes have taken part in past Games without being anywhere near up to the international standards required. At Helsinki in 1952, about 900 young men, so-called athletes, made the journey to Finland with their delegations without even setting foot on the grass of the stadium. Such abuses must be avoided. The principles of the Olympic Movement must be maintained if the Games are not to become a circus or fair open to one and all.

The International Olympic Committee decided not long ago that for any national Olympic committee to be recognized, at least FIVE national federations from the country in question must be affiliated to the corresponding International Federations recognized by the International Olympic Committee. For precisely this reason it has come about that the national federations are more in number than the International Olympic Committee, taking into account the number of their affiliated members, which is considered quite reasonable. It is inconceivable that the International Olympic Committee should recognize the olympic committee of a country or of a territory having basically a restricted number of two or three national federations. The further we go the more do we consider it to be necessarily to apply this clause very strictly, the only aim of which is to avoid accepting too many territories. In some cases, the only merit of these territories is the possession of one national olympic committee, organized for better or worse without any solid basis, and which is directly in proportion to the number of national federations affiliated to international ones. Have we not seen on one occasion — and not so very long ago at that — a national Olympic committee of a small country, whose name need not be mentioned, which was composed of one man who was The brother of the President of the Republic! This scandal, which could not happen today, was discovered on the day on which the President of this one-man Olympic committee died. This title had at least given him an assured prestige and very definite advantages while it lasted!

It is an unrealistic argument to say that the International Olympic Committee is in principle against the increase in the number of the participants in the Games. What it does insist on is that those who take part are both morally and physically worthy to do so.

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EDITOR'S NOTE. We have always had a high opinion of Madame Lekarska, the author of the above article, and have a great respect for her opinions. This makes it all the easier for us to add some remarks to those she has published in the bulletin of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee.

We think, in effect, that the object of the Olympic Movement is not only to unite in 'a