

also to form a sporting and cultural background for those who had left school.

From 1887, he was instrumental in establishing the school sports associations, he organized the first international competitions and in order to give sport a character of nobility and internationalism he laid down the principle of the restoration of the Olympic Games. This was done on June 23rd 1894, at the Sorbonne during the course of an international congress which had been assembled due to his own efforts.

If he re-established the Olympic Games it was, as he himself declared, 'to ennoble and uplift sport and to assure its independence and long life, and by so doing to 'enable it to fulfil its educational mission which was so necessary in the modern world. It was also to extol the individual athlete whose existence is essential for collective muscular effort and whose prowess must uphold a spirit of competition.'

As to sport, he defined it as 'the voluntary and habitual performance of intensive muscular exercise. inspired by the desire to progress without any fear of the risks incurred'. He wished it to be universal, ardent, loyal and disinterested.

For 30 years, as inspirer of the Olympic Games, he also became the instigator of the Far-East Games, the Latin American Games and the African Games.

After 1923, without ever dissociating himself from the Olympic Games which had become, thanks to him, the most important sporting event of modern times, he devoted himself to the second part of his programme. This was the reforms of teaching. The author of many works on Education and History, he published in 1927 his most important work : *L'Histoire Universelle*. Finally he was the instigator of further education and popular universities.

He died in Geneva, in 1937, and his last words expressed his faith in youth and his desire to see it assume responsibility in the continuity of his work.

The legacy he left to youth is summed up in his motto : "Be far-seeing, speak out, act firmly."

Our country is honoured to have produced so great a man.' (*And the whole world is the richer. Ed.*)

## At the rue Oudinot in Paris

These are the words on the commemorative plaque on the house where Pierre de Coubertin, the restorer of the Olympic Games, was born at 20, rue Oudinot, Paris VII.

Pierre de Coubertin, rénovateur des Jeux Olympiques, a vécu dans cette maison, où il est né, de 1863 à 1909.

## An address given by Mr. Maurice Herzog as a tribute to Coubertin

*The address which follows was read on Sunday June 21st at all sporting or cultural meetings throughout France. It is the work of Mr. Maurice Herzog, Secretary of State for Youth and Sport.*

\*

'All France honours the memory of Pierre de Coubertin, a great Frenchman. I ask the youth of our country, to whom he dedicated the whole of his life, to pause and pay him tribute and consider the great debt of gratitude that is owed to him.

Born on January 1st 1863 in Paris, Pierre de Coubertin was "first of all a historian and a teacher. He decided very young to undertake the reform of French educational methods. This reform, according to his ideas, was to consist of the introduction of sport in educational establishments. This was to be done in order to assure a moral and physical development by a change in the programmes and in the methods of teaching and