

Communiqués and news in brief

The I.O.C. has a new doyen.

With the resigning of Count Paolo Thaon di Revel, the I.O.C.'s member for Italy, now an honorary member, the non official but so honourable title of doyen of the International Olympic Committee passes to Mr. G.-D. Sondhi of India, member of the Executive Board. We beg him to accept our heartiest congratulations and our warmest thanks for the many tasks he has performed for the Olympic Movement both on the Committee and in the world at large since his election in 1932. We must remember that Mr. Sondhi, a former leading runner and hockey player, was the founder of the Indian amateur athletics Association in 1946, and that he was at the origin of the Asian Games that were held for the first time in New Delhi in 1951.

Sport and publicity.

Mr. Armand Massard, vice-president of the I.O.C., has asked us to issue the following communiqué, which we do with pleasure, as it is of continual importance :

In the name of the Olympic Regulations, which deserve stricter application if they are to preserve amateur sport — already in great enough danger — I take this opportunity to draw the attention of its officials to certain regrettable practices that are showing all too strong a tendency to become generalized.

On the pretext of receptions to celebrate sporting victories, the makers of various products, spirits, aperitifs, foods, etc., are organizing meetings and paying the costs in order to gain prestige in the eyes of the public.

The display of sports is a (flimsy) cover for commercial propaganda. These abuses become multiplied — they have already drawn the attention of the Olympic organizers. They endanger the dignity of those who are given to such regrettable practices : appointed organizers and celebrated worthies.

The abuses of publicity, imposing the conditions it does upon sport, are to be condemned, and may provoke sanctions which would unfortunately strike innocent people whom others are trying to shower with "honours" in order to line their own pockets.

A relief of Coubertin to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the I.O.C. in Tokyo.

After the opening ceremony of the XVIIIth Olympic Games, on 10th October 1964, Dr. Shingoro Takaishi, member of the I.O.C. for Japan, in the presence of the president and members of the I.O.C., the Japanese Olympic Committee, the Organizing Committee

of the Games and the diplomatic corps, unveiled a relief of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the International Olympic Committee in 1894 and of the modern Olympic Games. The monument — a block of Japanese lava stone — stands on a platform at the western entrance to Tokyo National Stadium. On it are the words : "70th anniversary of the I.O.C. — XVIIIth Olympiad, Tokyo 1964".

A "place Pierre-de-Coubertin" in Paris.

On a proposal by Mr. Armand Massard, 1st vice-president of the I.O.C. and president of the French Olympic Committee, the Paris municipal Council, of which Mr. Massard is the senior member, has given the name "place Pierre-de-Coubertin" to the square opposite the stadium that bears the same name in the 16th arrondissement of Paris. The international Olympic Committee welcomes this decision and is very grateful to Mr. Massard whose idea it was.

Our visitors.

Mr. Eduardo Dibos, member of the I.O.C. for Peru, stopped off at Lausanne on his return journey from the Tokyo Games. He came to Mon-Repos on 12th November 1964, and visited the Olympic Museum and had talks with the secretary general of the I.O.C.

One month later, Mr. Eric Jonas received the visit of Mr. R.-William Jones, secretary general of the international amateur basketball Federation. We are not giving away any secrets in saying that women's basketball was discussed at length during the talks.

On 5th December 1964, Mr. Marcel Henninger, president of the Swiss Olympic Committee, paid a neighbourly visit to show his guests, Father de la Chablière, member of the Canadian Olympic Committee, and Abbé Ronald Landry, director of the Canadian Association of recreation centres, round the Olympic Museum.

The new year began in the I.O.C. offices with the visit paid on 4th January by our new member for Holland, Jonkheer Herman A. van Karnebeek, whose personality and sporting activity we shall evoke in our next bulletin when presenting the five new I.O.C. members elected at the 62nd session in Tokyo.

Bibliography.

Meet the Olympians, by Dimiter Mishev, of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee. Edited by the Medicine and Physical Culture Publishing House, Sofia. Dimiter Mishev's book (400 pages) is the product of many years of painstaking research work. From 1957 to 1964, thanks largely to the assistance of the International Olympic Committee and the help of its president, Mr. Avery Brundage, the author, who has spent several weeks in the Olympic Library at Lausanne, has been able to collect data on more than 21 000 men and women who have taken part in the Olympic Games from 1896 to 1960. Accompanied by numerous tables and illustrations, this book will be very valuable to the countless sports fans all over the world and more in particular to coaches and other sport experts. Mr. Mishev's book will be a most useful contribution to the further growth and spread of the Olympic Movement.