

we think it only fair that the International Olympic Committee should find a fitting way of paying tribute to the hard work and devotion of the men behind the scenes who have given the performance its universal glamour.

As the supreme organ of the Olympic Games, what is the I.O.C. record of tribute paid to such outstanding personalities in world sports like Robert Kiputh, coaching the U.S. women's swimming squad since 1928, with a rich harvest of Olympic medals ?

Or Vladimir Gerschler who coached the formidable Harbig of Germany in 1936, and later Barthel of Luxemburg (1952) and Gordon Pirie of Great Britain (1956).

Or Boris Mishakov, Soviet Gymnastic coach who worked with Larissa Latinina who won twelve gold medals at the three last Olympics.

Or Diachkov of the U.S.S.R. who coached the cosmic jumper Brummel, twice judged the " Best Sportsman of the Year ".

We are certainly not forgetting Siojer (Rumania) — who has coached Yolanda Balash.

Temple of the U.S.A. who coached Wilma Rudolf, the " dark gazelle " who walked away from the Games in Rome with three gold medals.

The strong boys of Bulgaria's wrestling squad who headed by Raiko Petrov, have collected between 1956 to 1964 more than ten Olympic medals for small Bulgaria.

We are also thinking of men like Lidiard of New Zealand who coached Peter Snell, Haynes of the U.S.A. who coached spectacular Don Schollander to winning four gold medals in Tokyo, Stamm of Poland, who has coached a whole generation of prominent Polish boxers. It would take pages to list the whole brilliant constellation of Soviet, American, British, Japanese, Australian and other coaches and their outstanding contribution to the development of world sports and of the Olympic Games in particular.

We think that they have been unjustifiably neglected and that it is about time that we realized this fact. If not medals, the I.O.C. might at least give special Diplomas to coaches whose " pupils " are repeatedly distinguishing themselves in top-class athletics.

It should be the duty of every National Olympic Committee to evaluate the contribution of each coach to the successes of its representatives, whether such coach happens to be present at the Games, or not. Whenever a coach has worked with several sportsmen or teams winning distinction at several Olympics, perhaps the I.O.C. might find it only right to present him with a commemorative award of some kind.

This initiative is meant to make good what we consider to have been an injustice, and at the same time to inspire present and future coaches in their work to develop the physical and mental best in every man in conformity with the Olympic ideals.

Anghel Vassev.

Lest we forget

The Olympic Games are the highlights of world sports — a parade of what each nation has achieved in the field of physical culture and sport, a test of man's capacities and youth's physical perfection. The Olympic motto — *Citius, Altius, Fortius* — has made millions of young men and women on all continents seek harmonious physical perfection and assertion of character and personality. This upward historic trend is marked by outstanding achievements, reaching new heights every four years. All Olympics have meant new Olympic and world records. The Olympic medals are usually the end of a long road of strenuous efforts, denial of pleasures which everyone should normally be entitled to, and most extraordinary experiences for both athletes and coaches. Their sole reward is that solemn moment when the Olympic fanfares and national anthem proclaim the winner before the admiring eyes of the packed stadium, and he steps up to receive his gold medal. It will always stand as a symbol of self-devotion, and top achievement of one who has had the Olympic ideals to heart, and of the friendship and understanding born on the Olympic stadium.

What remains for those who together with this same sportsman have helped shape the physical and spiritual qualities without which the great victory would have been impossible ? We mean those talented and patient people, the coaches, whose usual reward is an occasional brief mention in the press or in the reports of the sporting clubs and organizations. They have a huge share in the highlights of world sports and