



Mrs. Zanchi with President Edström at Mon-Repos.

## A Departure at the IOC

President Sigfrid Edström used to say : "Those who perform the work must also be honoured." This generous thought was quoted by the woman to whom we are bidding goodbye today, as often as she quoted its author whom she admired so much. And if we, in our turn, quote it today, and devote our editorial to her, it is to render homage to Mrs. Zanchi who, on 30th September this year, retired from the olympic secretariat.

Mrs. Zanchi has just left the post she occupied officially since 1946 and in actual fact since the late 20's. Baron de Coubertin, whom she knew, had given up the presidency of the I.O.C. barely three years earlier when, as a young woman, Mrs. Zanchi was taken on by Colonel Berdez, the olympic secretary at that time, to assist him a few hours a week.

A marriage, two sons, and even active participation in a feminist movement could not tear Mrs. Zanchi away from the Olympic Movement, and when the Second World War broke out and Colonel Berdez died soon after, Mrs. Zanchi was left to hold the fort in Lausanne and carry on an olympic activity that was obviously greatly reduced but whose survival became all the more important as the whole planet became engulfed in the flames and smoke of war. Sigfrid Edström meanwhile temporarily took over the presidency left vacant by the death of Count Baillet-Latour, in 1942.

At the end of the war, it was decided to find an olympic secretary in Lausanne. The appointment was given to Chancellor Otto Mayer, and Mrs. Zanchi was officially made secretary of the I.O.C. by Mr. Edström, whose position as president had been confirmed by the 39th session in 1946.

Thus started a cooperation which surmounted all difficulties even under the most precarious conditions. For the olympic secretariat — and this resignation is an opportunity for us to mention it — had to operate without money and without premises until just over two years ago. Now while necessity is the mother of invention, it nevertheless represents an obstacle and curtails action. Those who are taking over under conditions that are of course not yet perfect but nevertheless considerably easier will not forget it.

Mrs. Zanchi has left the I.O.C. A page has been turned on a period of faithful cooperation, but the memory will live on of this outspoken, intelligent woman who, year after year, looked after the minutes, the archives and the meager olympic finances, while assisting the chancellor ; although she usually remained in the background her incisive judgement never failed to prove effective.

For her devotion to the olympic cause as well as for having, in time of need, taken over the reins of the secretariat of Mon-Repos, the I.O.C. wishes to express to Mrs. Zanchi its deepest gratitude.

*M.M.*