

THE 80 YEARS OF DR. MESSERLI
ARDENT DISCIPLE OF COUBERTIN

On June 25 Doctor MESSERLI celebrated his 80th birthday, the next day Frederic SCHLATTER named him "The first great Olympian of Lausanne" in the "Gazette de Lausanne"

Much more - Doctor MESSERLI had the honour of supporting Baron Pierre de COUBERTIN as from 1915. He remained his faithful friend up to the death of the Renovator and from that time he has dedicated himself to his memory. "Without risk of being contradicted" declared Mr. J. Siegfried EDSTROM, President of the Internatinal Olympic Committee, in 1950 "no-one has been so much in contact with the Baron as Doctor MESSERLI.

As a student in medicine and sports, Dr. MESSERLI met Pierre de COUBERTIN, in 1908 when the latter visited a Lausanne Gymnasium. As Doctor of the University, he held the post of Head Doctor to the Health Service of the town of Lausanne from 1917 to 1954. His authority brought him to being an instructor to the Faculty of Medicine.

In spite of his heavy professional responsibilities, he never flagged in his interest in Sports and the Olympics.

In 1912 Doctor MESSERLI took the initiative in the founding of the Swiss National Olympic Committee. Numerous sports societies and clubs also owe this creation to him.

In 1946 the International Olympic Committee designated him as its historian. By this choice he became a real man of letters. He had already published a book on gymnastics and sports, numerous documents and annual reports on the Olympic situation, several studies relative to the history of medicine, such as one on the life of the scientists of the Pasteur Institute in Paris and on Vaudois Medicine throughout the ages etc., His "History of Sports and the Olympics" appeared in 1950.

His collection of poems, "To the Glory of the Olympics and of Sport" was edited six years later.

On the occasion of his birthday, Mr. Johann W. WESTERHOFF, Secretary General of the I.O.C. sent Dr. Francis MESSERLI the following message:

"On behalf of the Olympic Family, which you have so strongly supported, I send you my best wishes for your birthday, and testify again our gratitude to you, especially for your devotion to the memory of our Master Pierre de COUBERTIN".

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