

COUBERTIN RETURNS TO THE SORBONNE

The official presentation of the works of Pierre de Coubertin, published in three volumes by the German publishers Weidmann, took place on 10th February at the Sorbonne, the University of Paris, in a ceremony presided over by the new Rector Mrs. Gendreau-Massaloux and attended by numerous personalities including Messrs. Roger Bambuck, the French Secretary of State for Youth and Sports, Raymond Gafner, IOC Administrateur Delegeue, Nelson Paillou, President of the French NOC, and Geoffroy de Navacelle, President of the international Pierre de Coubertin Committee who played a important part in the publication of these works by his great uncle.

The Coubertin specialists were in attendance to give new life to the thoughts and image of the renovator of the Games. The rector chose to speak on the importance of linking sport to educational reforms, a theme taken up by Mr. Bambuck who stressed that "the battle of re-scheduling the school year had definitively begun". Olympism, said the minister, justified sport as a facet of humanism and gave it its raison d'être.

The many aspects of Coubertin's work were developed by the different speakers. Professor Pierre Boulongne, stressing the dynamism of fair play and tolerance within the writings, praised his teaching at school, and Mr. Jean Durry, Director of the French Sports Museum, drew a magnificent portrait of the journalist, the humanist writer who ruined himself financially in order to spread his ideas on education. For his part, Mr. Gafner chose to emphasize the diversity of Olympism, in particular the development sought by Pierre de Coubertin of sport for all.

In this lofty seat of French learning, the spirit of the founder was revived.

