

And who do you think won? Guess again, junior. Not the British, who should have won by all rules of reasonableness, but the United States. (*Red.*: and Australia once). Someone should have ordered a saliva test after those tournaments ended.

On various occasions the Olympic folk have staged championship play in polo, tennis and golf, which certainly never belonged there. They have held championships in archery, sculpture and—well, are you beginning to get the idea? The once sacred Olympics have developed into the darndest athletic catch-all ever devised by man. Everyone and his brother strives desperately to get his favorite sport on the programme.

BACK TO ESSENTIALS

It would seem proper that the international committee get right back to essentials. In this corner the Olympics mean track and field with everything else just window-dressing, although swimming has since boomed to rival the footracers and hardware throwers as a counterattraction.

The swimming programme should get more recognition by being enlarged. There is no earthly reason for not adding to the present grossly inadequate schedule events as the 200-meter free-style, the 300-meter individual medley, the 300-meter medley relay and a 1,600-meter free-style relay. There are too many holes in the existing skimpy list.

Perhaps women's swimming should be continued, but all women track athletes should be led to the end of a dock and started out toward the open sea. After all, the female of the species originally wasn't even permitted to attend the ancient games as a spectator. One of the first scandals came when the father of Pisidorus died while training his son for the Olympics. So mama took charge of him, entered the stadium in disguise and was so unrestrained in her joy at her son's victory that she was unmasked.

QUITE UNNECESSARY

It doesn't seem here as though the Olympics is the proper place for yachting, canoeing, shooting, equestrian events or field hockey. This reporter would keep track (men only), swimming, rowing, boxing, wrestling, weight-lifting, fencing and, contrary to the opinions of the European experts, both soccer and basketball.

These last two rank as truly international sports and the dribble addicts are bound to become more numerous before they ever get less. This generically American game has spread throughout the world and is getting bigger every year. The Olympics serve as the tie which binds. Perhaps the United States never will lose in international competition, but with the passing of

time the other nations are going to make it closer and closer.

As for the abandonment of the Winter Olympics which has been suggested, that would appear to be going too far. Personally I can take them or leave them, preferably, the latter. But they serve a useful purpose.

SOUND IDEA

Trimming the Olympic programme from its present top-heavy state is a most sound idea and the sooner it is done the better.

As for cutting the programme from a fortnight to a week, that's a bit, too much. The British made the mistake of jamming the three top sports, track, swimming and rowing, into the same week, instead of devoting the first one to the footracers and the second one to the other two sports, as always had been done hitherto. Proper scheduling and judicious trimming would do the trick. Nothing else is needed.

† LADY ABERDARE

Nous venons d'apprendre le décès de Lady Abdare, épouse de notre membre pour la Grande-Bretagne et membre de la Commission exécutive du C. I. O. Le charme de Lady Abdare était connu des membres du C. I. O. qui avaient le privilège de la rencontrer, accompagnant son époux, à toutes les sessions du comité. Dame très olympique, Lady Abdare secondait volontiers son mari dans ses travaux relevant de l'olympisme; elle avait toujours un mot agréable pour tous ceux de son entourage. La famille olympique, très peinée de la perte cruelle qui frappe son ami Lord Clarence Abdare, lui adresse, ainsi qu'à son fils et à ses deux filles, l'expression de sa profonde sympathie et l'assurance de ses condoléances sincères. Les membres du C. I. O. garderont de la chère disparue un souvenir ému.

THE FIRST ASIAN GAMES

Those Games, organised by the Asian Games Federation, will take place in India from November 4th. to 12th. 1950. In our next edition we shall give more details about them.

LES PREMIERS JEUX ASIATIQUES

Ces Jeux, organisés par la Fédération des Jeux asiatiques, se dérouleront aux Indes du 4 au 12 novembre 1950. Dans notre prochaine édition nous donnerons de plus amples détails sur ces manifestations.