

tendency of us all to forget that the important thing is not winning but taking part, and to place too much a premium on actual success.

Not once, but several times, I have read that certain countries would not take part in a particular international sporting encounter because their chances of winning the competition were not particularly good, and in Britain, more than one scribe has insisted that unless a national team can win, then Britain should withdraw from a particular branch of sport. Worse still, in certain countries we read that only athletes with an outstanding chance of actually becoming Olympic Champions will be sent to Helsinki, which suggests that to them the important thing is winning and not merely Taking part.

In dual international meets, the importance of winning is often times so stressed that leaders of teams have afterwards blamed the food, the journey, or a bad decision by the officials for defeats. And even for European Athletic Championships more than one country is so imbued with the need for victory that special training is being undertaken in the very form, frowned upon by the Olympic Movement sponsors, that of taking the team away from their normal mode of living for highly specialised training in a special camp for a period of weeks before the Brussels meeting.

Now there is every justification for athletes to prepare themselves or be prepared for the big tests in a careful and systematic manner. We all like to see the maximum effort put into the preparation for an important sporting test, but are we not overdoing it and in danger of forgetting the very words, which have made the Olympic movement so popular amongst the peoples of the world? If we feel that victory alone can justify entry and that victory is so precious that it must be obtained at whatever the cost, then we shall have disappointment, which leads to ill-feeling and perhaps to incidents, which the Olympic declaimers will seize upon with glee as proof of their contention. And what is more sad, these critics will be more than a little justified in their criticisms.

Let us play hard by all means, but do let us refrain from thinking that the national prestige of a country depends on the result of a sports competition. Let us do all we can to win within the limits of the rules and recognised sportsmanship, but do let us lose gracefully and without complaint.

LE STYLE

Don mystérieux! Peut être au corps ce qu'à l'âme est la grâce. Ce qui constitue le style d'un athlète, c'est l'aisance et la vigueur.

La «performance» satisfait. Le «style» est la caresse du sport.

Henry de Montherlant.

BIBLIOGRAPHIE

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L'HISTOIRE DES SPORTS ET DE L'OLYMPISME, du Dr Fr.-M. Messerli, Lausanne. Pour bien connaître l'olympisme — dont on se fait souvent une idée fautive — il convient de le voir non seulement tel qu'il est ou semble être, mais tel que les années l'ont lentement formé, à travers ses vicissitudes, ses contradictions et dans ses formes créatrices. Il en est de même pour l'histoire des sports et son évolution à travers les siècles. C'est à quoi nous aide grandement l'auteur de l'ouvrage qui vient de paraître à Lausanne sous le patronage du Comité international olympique et du Comité olympique suisse.

Grâce à sa connaissance approfondie des sports et à son profond attachement à l'olympisme, le Dr Messerli, collaborateur du baron de Coubertin et historiographe du C. I. O. depuis 1946, nous communique sur les origines ainsi que sur le développement des sports et de l'olympisme des vues singulièrement pénétrantes. Cet ouvrage se termine par un chapitre traitant avec clarté l'évolution des sports en Suisse. Richement illustré, il fera certainement date parmi la nombreuse littérature déjà consacrée à ces sujets.

Préfacé par M. J.-Sigfrid Edström, président du C. I. O., ce livre peut être obtenu à la Chancellerie du C. I. O. à Lausanne, dans son édition française. Il a été adressé à titre gracieux à tous les membres du Comité.

HISTORY OF SPORTS AND OF OLYMPISM, by Dr. Fr.-M. Messerli, Lausanne. To have a true comprehension of Olympism — of which one has often a false idea — it must be viewed, not only as it is or appears to be today, but as it has slowly taken form in the course of years, through its vicissitudes, its contradictions and in its creative aspects. It is the same for the History of Sports and its evolution throughout the centuries. In this comprehension we are greatly aided by the author of the work which has just appeared at Lausanne under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee and of the Swiss Olympic Committee.

Thanks to his thorough knowledge of all sports and to his profound attachment to the olympic ideal, Dr. Messerli, collaborator of baron de Coubertin and historiographer of the I. O. C. since 1946, is able to communicate to us, on the origins as well as on the development of sports and of olympism, some singularly penetrating views. The closing chapter gives a clear account of the evolution of sport in Switzerland. Richly illustrated, this work will certainly make its mark in the vast collection of literature already dealing with these subjects.

With a foreword by Mr. J. Sigfrid Edström, President of the I. O. C., this book may be obtained at the Chancellerie of the I. O. C.

at Lausanne in its French edition. A complimentary copy has been sent to all the members of the Committee.

L'HISTOIRE DES JEUX OLYMPIQUES. Une nouvelle histoire éditée à Saïgon et qui vient de paraître. Cet ouvrage de 176 pages est illustré. Son auteur est M. Hoa-Lê (33/34, rue du Dr Augier, Saïgon) que nous remercions de développer l'idéal olympique en Indochine. Ce livre, écrit dans la langue du Viet-Nam, atteindra ainsi toutes les couches de la population de ce pays.

La préface est signée de M. J.-Sigfrid Edström, président du C. I. O., tandis que l'introduction est de M. Ferréol de Ferry, le directeur des Archives et Bibliothèques fédérales.

HISTORY OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES. A new history edited at Saïgon and which has just appeared. An illustrated work of 176 pages. The author is Mr. Hoa-Lê (33/34, rue Dr Augier, Saïgon) to whom our thanks are due for having developed the olympic ideal in Indochina. This book, written in the Viet-Nam tongue, will thus reach all circles of the population of that country.

The foreword is signed by Mr. J. Sigfrid Edström, President of the I. O. C., while the introduction is by Mr. Ferréol de Ferry, Director of the Federal Archives and Library.

RAPPORT SUR LA PARTICIPATION DE L'IRLANDE AUX JEUX DE LA XIV^e OLYMPIADE A LONDRES 1948. Il s'agit d'une brochure de 52 pages, illustrée et éditée par le Comité olympique irlandais. Préfacé par le colonel E. Broy, président du comité, cet opuscule contient les divers résultats des Jeux et traite tout particulièrement de la participation des athlètes de ce pays aux Jeux de Londres.

REPORT ON IRELAND'S PARTICIPATION IN THE GAMES OF THE XIVth OLYMPIAD IN LONDON 1948. This is an opusculé of 52 pages, illustrated and edited by the Irish Olympic Committee. Prefaced by Colonel E. Broy, president of the Committee, this opusculé contains the various results of the Games and deals quite especially with the participation of the Irish athletes at the London Games.

IMPIANTI SPORTIVI E ATTREZZATURE de Dagoberto Ortensi. (Installations et engins de sport.) La Bibliothèque olympique a reçu ce magnifique volume, qui contient les plans, schémas et calculs techniques pour la construction de stades, terrains, salles et piscines ayant trait à tous les sports connus parmi lesquels nous relevons le football, l'aviron, le cyclisme, les sports équestres, hockey sur glace et sur terre, lutte, basketball, patinage, boxe, escrime, ski, bobsleigh, etc. Cet ouvrage rendra d'éminents services à tous ceux qui ont à construire de nouveaux terrains de jeux, et principale-

ment aux comités olympiques nationaux de création récente, qui y puiseront les renseignements nécessaires sur les dimensions obligatoires des terrains et installations sportives, d'accord avec les règlements des fédérations internationales sportives.

Casa Editrice Mediterranea, Via V. Orsini, 21, Roma. Prix: Lires italiennes 5000.— (c/c postale N° I/17318).

IMPIANTI SPORTIVI E ATTREZZATURE de Dagoberto Ortensi. (Sport installations and apparatus.) The Olympic Library has received this magnificent volume which contains plans, schemas and technical calculations for the construction of stadia, grounds, halls and swimming pools connected with all known sports among which we note football, rowing, cycling, equestrian sports, field and ice hockey, wrestling, basketball, skating, boxing, fencing, ski-jumping, bobsleighbing, etc. This work will render eminent service to all who have to construct new playing fields and quite especially to the national olympic committees of recent creation, who will find there all necessary information on the obligatory dimensions of sports grounds and installations in accordance with the rules of the international sports federations.

Casa Editrice Mediterranea, Via V. Orsini, 21, Roma. Proce: 5000 Italian lires (c/c postale No. I/17318).

Sport must never be allowed to absorb the entire interest of the athlete as it sometimes does under modern conditions. The game should be a useful and noble pleasure, a part of life, even a field of apostolate. It should never become the whole of a life.

True sportsmanship is synonymous with fair-play. It is fair-play which gives the real tone to sport and makes it worth while.

H. E. Cardinal Griffin.
London 1948.

Sport is not an end but a means; and as such it must be and remain bound up with the end which aims at the formation and perfect education of the human being.

Pope Pius XII.

C'est parce que le corps est poussière qu'il est si estimable.

Pourquoi réserver à la boxe le titre de « noble art », alors que l'ensemble des disciplines sportives constitue un art noble.

Henri Pouret.