

excursions for the foreign visitors. The book is enhanced by many contemporary photographs and drawings.

OLYMPIC HAPPENINGS III – Medical Care During the First Modern Olympic Games of 1896, written and published by Thanassis Tarassouleas, 10, Stadiou Street, ATHENS 10564, GREECE; printed by Alexandros Marsoukis S.A. in Athens; 47 pages, in Greek and English. Reviewed by Tony Bijkerk.

This sequel to the previous mentioned book on the Cultural events, is of a completely different nature. The author describes the efforts made by the Organizing Committee to take care of the medical care for athletes and officials during these first Olympics, and he starts the description with a detailed account of the available medical institutes in the Athens of 1896. He rightly points out that in those days, medical care was not well advanced, and with an epidemic of cholera at the time brewing in Egypt, the authorities had to be very careful indeed.

Of particular interest I found the description of the treatment of the various athletes that participated in the marathon.

To quote a few lines:

“Following the finish of Spiros Louis, doctors led him to the dressing room of the stadium, they put him on

a bed and tried to massage his body and legs and to give him strengthening medicines. He conceded to take off, after protesting, his black ribbon from around his waist, his white shoes and red leggings. His pulse was 112 per minute, he had a red face full of sweat beads but he wasn't trembling and he wasn't out of breath and did not feel any pain. He got

up asked for a little wine and after a while asked the doctors to leave so that he can go and celebrate his triumph with his fellow villagers in Maroussi.

Mr. Tarassouleas concludes his book with an appeal to the International Olympic Committee and the international athletic family to give special emphasis and attention to the current problems [especially doping], because, so he says, if the Olympic Games keep on moving at today's pace they will completely lose their initial aims and ideas..

Another important scrap of news which I found in this little treasure, is that in 1897 the majestic mansion of the Melas family, which was the base of the Hellenic [Organizing] Olympic Committee, caught fire. The fire lasted for three days and completely destroyed all the records and documents that concerned the organizing of the Olympic Games of 1896. This is the main reason why today so little material can be found about these, the Games of the First Olympiad of Modern Times, Athens 1896.

Both books by Mr. Tarassouleas are important additions to early Olympic history and although they have been printed in a rather small amount [1000 copies each], I hope many of our readers will be able to find a way of getting a copy.

Note to all members of ISOH: The author offered to sell copies of his two books to the members of the International Society of Olympic Historians for a price of US\$ 25.00 each, which per book is including mailing costs. You can reach Mr. Tarassouleas at the address mentioned above.