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Autor: [s.n.]
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THE SWISS AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN MUNICH

163 SWISS ATHLETES represented Switzerland in the Bavarian capital. Unfortunately, they won neither gold nor bronze medals, but returned with three silver medals. Oarsmen, cyclists and fencers were able to go to the second step of the winner's rostrum.

The first medal went to the team Bachmann/Fischer for rowing. This twosome was formed shortly before the Olympic Games after the accident to Dubs. Bachmann deserves congratulations for adapting himself so quickly. For normally, the replacement of a team mate means a great strain.

The second medal was won by the cyclist Xaver Kurmann who had already brought home a medal from Mexico and thus proved his prowess. Many expected a gold medal, but unfortunately Kurmann met up with the Swedish champion Knudsen who was at the top of his form and did not give the Swiss representative a single chance.

The third medal went to our fencing team. It excelled itself by beating Mexico (15:1), Luxembourg (12:4), Rumania (9:4), then the Swiss beat France in the semi-finals 8:5, and in the finals they were beaten by the Hungarian champions 8:4. The latter were technically unbeatable. The Swiss were by far the youngest team which took part in the Games. The captain, Peter Lötcher, was the oldest at 31. Francois Suchansky is 23, Christian Kauter 25, Daniel Giger 23, and the youngest, Guy Evequoz, is exactly 20. This gives an average of 24 years and a few months. It is the first time that a Swiss team managed to get through to the finals. Up to Munich, only Zapeli, Valeta, Fitting, Rufenacht and Meister managed to get a bronze medal at Olympic Games.

In other events there were many defeats, but also some very good performances. In shooting, there was lack of precision at the last moment, and in the equestrian events there was no chance at all. Swimming and wrestling showed the negative results of the training camp at St. Moritz. The athletes showed lack of concentration right at the start. But let it be a consolation that other countries, much larger than Switzerland, had no silver medals at all.

It is hoped that there will be stronger athletes for the next Olympic Games and, who knows, possibly even some new stars.

Laugh a little . . .

Mr Smith tries to cross the road on which a non-stop stream of cars races by. Getting quite desperate he calls to a man whom he sees on the other side of the street: "How did you manage to get across?" The man calls back: "I was born on this side of the street!"

—Nebelspalter