Doctor KROUTIL, Member of the I.O.C. for Czechoslovakia, has sent us a text written by the Czechoslovak Olympic Committee relating the funeral and career of this man who worked so hard for the development of sport in his country and abroad.

In our Newsletter No. 8 we have already briefly recalled for you the life of Professor Josef GRUSS but now we propose to leave this to his compatriots.

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On the 20th of May 1968 Dr. Josef GRUSS passed away. He was an Honorary Member of the International Olympic Committee, holder of the Diploma for Olympic Merits and Professor of the venerable Charles University.

In the last few months of his life his mind and never failing admirable memory were alert. His death was sudden and merciful to him. On the 8th of June 1968 he would have celebrated his 84th birthday.

The funeral took place in Prague crematorium on the 25th of May 1968.

A solemn speech emphasizing the deceased's great merits in the Czechoslovak Olympic movement and the development of sport in Czechoslovakia was made by Professor Emanuel BOSAK, President of the Czechoslovak Olympic Committee and of the Czechoslovak Union of Physical Education. On behalf of Charles University, a speech was made by the Dean of the Medical Faculty, Dr. Med. SNAJJD and also by Dr. Karel POPEL on behalf of the cooperators and friends parted with the deceased. Dr. Frantisek KROUTIL bade him a sad farewell on behalf of the International Olympic Committee.

The devotion of the deceased to the Olympic idea, his life as an all round sportsman, his frankness and chivalry, the
inexhaustible fountain of knowledge reaching all domains, his diplomatic tact and his refined social behaviour, all formed the personality of a world format and a typical figure of the International Olympic Committee, appreciated and loved by all.

He showed a vivid interest in sport and in the Olympic movement right to the last moments. All his active life was connected with sport. His merits, such as the Czechoslovak Order of Work and the title of Meritorious Worker of Physical Education and Sport, amongst others, were appreciated with good reason. He had at heart the perspectives of Czechoslovak sport even when he no longer shared in the everyday work. He put forward a whole range of proposals. He appreciated with great understanding Prague's intention to present herself as a candidate for organizing the Olympic Games.

Dear Professor,

Again the Olympic fanfares will ring out this year, again the wood of flags will flutter and the sacred flame from ancient Olympia will blaze over the Mexican metropolis.

You will be no more with us. You, who almost never missed an Olympic Congress, an Olympic Games. You, who scattered everywhere round you the Olympic strain and Olympic Peace !

Thus terminates Pindar's verses of the Hymn of Sport:--

And our praise shall resound:
Praise to the glory of sport
Praise to sport,
To beauty, to youth be praise,
and to the winner's name !

Even you, Dear Professor, you are the winner through all your beautiful lifework devoted to Olympic sport and to Olympic ideals !

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