AROUND THE LUNCHEON TABLE

# Women's Housing

ALTHOUGH the women competitors of the Games of the Xth Olympiad were outnumbered by the men nearly ten to one, preparations for their housing, training, and entertainment were made with the same painstaking care as was taken with the plans at the Olympic Village where the men were to live. The Organizing Committee early abandoned any plans it might have had for housing the women contestants in the Olympic Village or in a village similar to that of the men. It was felt that feminine needs could be more completely met in some permanent type of residence.

Several plans had been formulated, and were under consideration, when the management of the Chapman Park Hotel, in Los Angeles, volunteered to reserve the hotel exclusively, at a very reasonable rate, for the housing of the women athletes during the period of their residence in the city. The hotel was ideally located in the beautiful Wilshire District, convenient to training grounds,

HOME OF THE WOMEN ATHLETES — CHAPMAN PARK HOTEL

shops and theatres. Its appointments were of the highest class and it was apparent that the management was willing and anxious to do everything possible. for the health, comfort and convenience of the guests. Facilities were adequate and the atmosphere of the establishment was refined and pleasant.

An agreement was accordingly entered into between the Committee and the Chapman Park Hotel for the exclusive use of the hotel by the women members of official delegations attending the Olympic Games. The arrangement provided a fixed daily charge, of which the hotel was to collect the sum of two dollars per day from each guest, and the

ALL OF THE WOMEN ATHELETES WERE STRIKINGLY GARBED

THE LOUNGE

Organizing Committee agreed to pay the difference out of its own funds.

Each room accommodated two guests, except in the case of a few larger rooms which accommodated three and several suites of two rooms which comfortably accommodated four or five. Each room had a private bath and a single bed was provided for each guest. On the ground floor of the building were lounge rooms where the women athletes might get acquainted with one another and meet their friends from the outside. The public was excluded from part of these to afford privacy.

In the beautiful private garden adjoining the hotel, tea was served each afternoon until the day of the Opening Ceremony. After that time the Olympic guests were away at the various afternoon competitions. Meals were served in a large, beautifully decorated dining room. A general menu, prepared in American style, was served to all, and in addition, special dishes were prepared upon request for any of the groups. Pure distilled water was served in the dining rooms and was available on all the floors.

THE DINING ROOM

A young woman was selected as Manager of Women's Housing, with another young woman as assistant who spoke several languages and acted as interpreter. The Manager of Women's Housing endeavored to meet all women teams upon their

TYPICAL BEDROOM

arrival and assist them in their arrangements at the hotel. Her desk was in the lounge on the main floor where she kept in close contact with all those living in the hotel, assisting in such ways as giving information, helping with transportation and training schedules, arranging for entertainment, acting as *liaison* between the guests and the hotel management, and in many cases as a personal advisor.

In arranging for entertainment for the women athletes, and in assisting them in entertaining themselves, the most difficult problem was that of choosing things

to do. Literally hundreds of invitations of all kinds poured into the manager's office, only a small percentage of which could be accepted. An official entertainment at the hotel was ordinarily offered daily in the dining room after dinner. This consisted of a variety of music and dancing, and on one occasion a birthday party was held for all guests whose birthdays occurred during their absence from home. Motion picture stars were frequent guests. On one evening, those who cared to go were taken to Wrigley Field to a night baseball game, and on another they were taken to the Hollywood Bowl to hear a symphony concert.

Some of the women athletes wished to do their own laundry, so facilities were set up in the basement of the hotel for this purpose. This proved to be very popular and the ordinarily deserted basement became a center of activity and industry.

As with the men at the Olympic Village, the women athletes at the hotel seemed to catch the full spirit of the Games. They were happy and enthusiastic, and each evening there was sportsmanlike applause when any fortunate winner in the afternoon competitions entered the dining room. Altogether, one hundred and seventy-seven women members of official delegations lived in the hotel, and the Organizing Committee feels that they returned to their homes throughout the world enriched with new friends and memories of pleasant experiences, and with a better understanding of their sisters of other lands.

READING THE MAIL FROM HOME