

The Toast They Forgot—And Why?

SPORTS columnist J. L. Manning of the *Daily Mail*, was highly critical of the way hockey is played and organised in this country when he proposed the toast of "The Club" at the annual dinner of Hampstead H.C. in the City (Dec. 6). Mr. Manning so startled the assembled company that the toast itself was forgotten. These are some of the more controversial points which Mr. Manning made:

Hockey needs a more democratic approach to the organisation and presentation of the game.

Hockey lacks the stimulation of big occasions and hides itself away.

When touring teams like India and Pakistan visit this country, why are they tucked away in odd corners in mid-week matches?

Why is there not in Britain a hockey cup like the F.A. Cup?

Hockey takes the line of least resistance to the problems of amateurism in modern sport.

If hockey wants to succeed internationally, it must cease to think recreationally. It is no use messing about with Saturday afternoon games.

The Hockey Association are 50 years behind the times.

Let the Olympic motto be your guide: "Faster, higher, stronger."

DEDICATION

In replying to the toast of "The Guests," Mr. R. A. Fletcher, assistant manager of the British Olympic XI, referred to Mr. Manning's remarks and said it was simply no good expecting an amateur English hockey team to compete successfully in the Olympic Games under modern conditions. The young men now asked to play must be entirely dedicated to the game and they must expect to have to put this before all else for at least a year.

"I think the officials are much more aware of this than the players are," said Mr. Fletcher. "Should we ask young people of this age, who are not professionals, to put first and foremost for at least a year this one claim on their services and their time. It is up to you people, as the majority, to say," he told them.