

New Books on Skating

Figure Skating for Beginners

By JOHN S. MACLEAN, *I.S.U. Judge for World Championships and Olympic Winter Games*; published by Publishers Limited, Toronto, 1940; Price—75c.

REVIEWED BY RICHARD L. HAPGOOD

MANY AUTHORITIES AND EXPERTS have such a broad conception of the "forest" of their field that they are hardly aware of the big "trees" confronting the novice or beginner. Yet that rare quality of knowing the trees as well as the forest is amply evidenced in this valuable little handbook prepared expressly for the beginner. Mr. MacLean of the Toronto Skating Club has a long and honorable record as a judge of World Championship rank. As such, he is completely familiar with the sport of figure skating in its most advanced branches, yet he has presented in a concise and forceful form, free of technicalities and advanced theories, the basic principles upon which modern figure skating is built.

THE BOOK CONTAINS detailed descriptions of the elementary school figures, including the four edges, changes of edge, three, double three, and loops, and how to skate them. Many helpful hints regarding shoulder, body, hip, and leg positions are given, but of the greatest importance is the constant emphasis upon the bent knee and the "sink, rise, sink" principle. Included also are brief chapters on Dancing and Free Skating helpful to all, although there are obvious differences between the Canadian and American methods and terminology.

Most authoritative texts on skating are large and expensive volumes. This book has the advantage of being small (pocket-size) and inexpensive, yet completely sound. The format is well-designed, and it is well printed. The plates consisting of frames from a motion picture of Walter Arian (well-known professional) together

with diagrams, have been well selected to illustrate the points made in the text. Altogether this book is well worth possession by the interested beginner.

How to Judge Figure Skating

By WILLY BOECKL, *Professional Instructor and former World Champion*; published by the author, 1940; 305 W. 50th St., New York City; Price—\$1.25.

REVIEWED BY SHERWIN C. BADGER

TESTS, COMPETITIONS and the army of ambitious figure skaters have been growing far more rapidly than the available number of experienced and competent judges. This is not because of any shortage of willing judging candidates, but rather because the art of judging has not yet been sufficiently widely studied. For good judging requires more than ability to skate, more than indulgence in the human weakness of criticising others—it requires knowledge of the rules, of school figures and free skating; a trained eye for quick observation of good as well as bad points; and above all an unbiased and judicial attitude.

Willy Boeckl's pamphlet on judging is an authoritative guide for every judge, not only the novice, but the expert. In it he reviews, briefly, the salient points of each of the school figures, with valuable pointers as to major and minor faults. He particularly emphasizes what so many of us are prone to forget, the relative importance of tracing, carriage, movement, triple repetition and size. His brief comments on free skating are packed with valuable hints.

Mr. Boeckl is also the author of "Willy Boeckl on Figure Skating" in which he gives, from his experience as a World Champion and professional instructor, a clear and thorough exposition of every phase of figure skating, with many illustrations.