

KENDO forum

by Musashi of the
Shinto-Ryu

11th National Kendo Championships. The Championships were held at the Metropolitan Gymnasium, Tokyo, on 1st December 1963, fifty-six of the leading kendoka in Japan taking part in "Nihon Budo", reporting on the tournament, says that all matches were marked by great spirit and freshness. It is remarkable that for the first time ever, seven of the eight quarter-finalists were below twenty-six years of age.

In the quarter-finals a surprise result came in the match between Mr. Kiyama Yoshiaki, 5th dan, and Mr. Kuwabara Tetsuaki, 6th dan, a former champion. The latter was defeated by Mr. Kiyama who is only 21 years old.

The Final was between Mr. Yano Taro, 7th dan, aged 40, from Hyogo Prefecture, and Mr. Toda Tadao, 5th dan, from Shiga Prefecture.

Mr. Yano and Mr. Toda attacked right from the start in the posture of *hidari-morote-jodan*. Mr. Toda saw an opportunity and cut *men* but his opponent avoided this attack and cut *nuki-men* to take first point. For the second point both assumed *Jodan-kamae* and watched for a good opportunity. Mr. Toda cut and scored with a fine *hidari-kote*, bringing the score to one each. After this they both fought hard but were unable to take a winning point and the match went over time and into the first extension (*encho-sen*). Mr. Yano now fought from *chudan-kamae* and seeing that Mr. Toda's move-

very slightly with *hidari-kote* championship in 1963. He is 40 years old and took part in this tournament in previous years. He has been successful. He fought younger men very well, drawing on his great experience of police Kendo. Mr. Toda regrettably lost after his series of victories but his fighting from *jodan* was excellent and his spirit and attitude very correct.

(Report from Nihon Budo, December, 1963.)

Kendo Film by Takizawa Sensei. When Mr. Takizawa Kozo, 7th dan *Kyoshi*, visited the Shinto-Ryu Kendo Dojo he promised to send a training film and this offer was most generously fulfilled when a very fine 16mm. documentary entitled simply "KENDO" arrived in Christmas week last year. It is a study of Kendo taking up 1800 feet, (five reels), with sound track, and has already proved extremely valuable in all aspects of this art. It deals in turn with basic movement and techniques, *nidan* and *sandan waza*, *kirikaeshi*, *oji waza*, *kakari-geiko*, *keiko* and *shiai*, correct judging and rules of contest, and finally two of the leading *sensei* in Japan demonstrate the *Nihon Kendo Kata*.

There is one remarkable sequence early in the film in which Mr.

Mochida Seiji *Hanshi*, 10th dan, gives *mohan-keiko*. Mochida *Sensei* moves in this *keiko* with such speed and agility that one finds it difficult to credit his age. His demonstration of technique, of tactics, and awareness (*Zanshin*) leave one awed. At the end of the film Mochida *Sensei* performs the *kata* as *Shidachi* and Mr. Saimura Goro *Hanshi* 10th dan, as *Uchidachi*.

Training at the Shinto-Ryu Kendo Dojo becomes more intense as the return visits of Mr. Oura Yoshihiko, 7th dan *Kyoshi*, and Mr. Takami Taizo, 4th dan, come near. Readers will be interested to know that recent sculptures inspired by Mr. Takami's impressions of Europe have been very well received in Japanese art circles. He has, in recent months, held exhibitions of granite sculptures in

Aomori and Morioka in Northern Japan, and in Tokyo, besides carrying out various commissions. In January, Mr. Takami took the *Kan-geiko* training for one week for his Kendo students in Morioka, and in addition to Kendo he is teaching *Iai*. He is a pupil of Hashimoto Toyo *Sensei*.

Recent activities of kendoka in this country have included public displays in the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, for the Samurai Judo Club; at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, for the K.N.K. "Judo Show of the Year"; a private demonstration for the City of London Police at the end of February; and, most important, the First Anniversary *Shiai* of the Bushi Budokai, at Portsmouth.

The whole of this year will be one of intense activity with the object of improving and establishing Kendo here in line with the



Suomen-uchi demonstrated by Roald Knutsen, 3rd Dan, and Keith Felham, 1st Dan, at the Brangwyn Hall Swansea.

formation of the World Kendo Renmei. All kendoka are asked to pay attention to correct Kendo *seishin* (spirit) and to follow the guidance of the *sensei* of the All Japan Kendo Federation in order that European Kendo can, without difficulty, join the World Kendo Renmei when this comes into being.

Kendo *seishin* is correct thought and action. It is also correct discipline of the mind especially with regard to one's opponents and to everyone outside one's own dojo in everyday affairs. To harbour resentment and enmity, and to disregard the teachings of *budo* outside the dojo is to be a very poor student and to have poor self-control and spirit.



LONDON

LONDON JUDO SOCIETY from *Eric Dominy*. The Festival of Judo will take place at the National Sports Centre, Crystal Palace. The date will be published in the next issue of "JUDO" and all clubs will be notified. The programme will consist mainly of Black Belt individual contests with a few supporting items intended to add interest and to give the competitors and officials a rest. This will be the first judo event at this fine new stadium and it is well worth a visit.

The 1964 Judo Tournaments for the Goldberg-Vass Trophies. These will take place at the Festival of Judo and be organised as follows: (a) National Judo Tournament for the Goldberg-Vass Trophy. Open to any holder of Dan Grade, irrespective of weight or grade. Winner Gold Medal, runner-up Silver Medal. (b) Dan Grade Heavyweight Tournament. (c) Dan Grade Middleweight Tournament. (d) Dan Grade Lightweight Tournament. The three winners will receive Gold Medals and the three runners-up will receive Silver Medals. Note all competitors must enter in the correct weight categories, there will be a weigh-in before the first round, a competitor not making the weight for the category for which he has entered will not be able to change to any other category.

(e) 1st and 2nd Kyu Tournament for the Goldberg-Vass Shield. There are no weight categories. The winner will receive a Silver Medal and the runner-up a Bronze.

(f) Peter Sellers Junior Inter-Club Team Trophy. Five a side. Each club must be a member of the B.J.A. and each member of the team must