

KENDO forum

by Musashi of the
Shinto Ryu

Summer training in Sweden

Mr. Roald Knutsen, 3rd *dan*, travelled to Stockholm to take part in the 10-day summer training of the Swedish Kendoka this June. As the guest of Mr. Robert von Sandor, the leading Kendoka, who is also well-known in European Judo as the General Secretary of the Swedish Judo Association, Mr. Knutsen had many opportunities of seeing Stockholm and some of the beautiful surrounding lakes.

Most of the Kendo training was conducted in the new Sports Hall in Southern Stockholm, where there are ideal facilities for Judo, Aikido, Karate and many other sports besides Kendo. The Kendoka met every evening except over the Mid-summer Holiday weekend. This break gave Mr. Sandor a chance to make a film record of *Iai* technique in the open air in the grounds of his home on the island of Lidingö, a few kilometers east of the city. The *Iai* was filmed on a large flat granite rock with the sea and a beautiful pine tree as a background. Mr. Knutsen reports that a hard wooden dojo floor is to be preferred to granite, which acts rather like sandpaper on the feet!

Final agreement was reached on the founding of the European Kendo Renmei and an announcement on this will be made shortly.

Shinto Ryu Dojo

After many difficulties resulting from the sudden loss of our Kennington dojo last December, we have at last secured permanent

accommodation at the Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, London, S.E.11, within a stone's throw of the Oval Station and very near our original headquarters. The practice evenings are changed to Tuesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. and new members will be most welcome—any age. Please write to Mr. K. G. Feltham, 116 Salcott Road, London, S.W.11, the club secretary, for details.

Warming up with archery prior to the *taikai*. Kyoto.



Sponge Shinai Experiments

An item of interest to British Kendoka who experience difficulty in obtaining *shinai* is the invention by Mr. Ozawa Isamu of a soft *shinai* made mainly from sponge, which he calls a *Nanshiki shinai*. This new-look practice sword is mainly intended for Primary and Middle School Kendo training and may well revolutionise basic Kendo practice.

The chief advantages of the *nanshiki-shinai* are:

1. A blow from this does not hurt.
2. Any basic Kendo movement can be made quite safely.
3. All training can be made without armour.
4. If necessary only a simple plastic *men* is required.
5. *Kirikaeshi*, *uchikomi*, *keiko*, etc., can all be made with sponge *shinai*.

Mr. Ozawa reasons that as in baseball they use a hard ball, in school teaching they use a soft ball,





The Iai-jutsu grading examinations in the Butokuden dojo,
May 4th, 1965.

so in Kendo the same principle could apply in teaching children. The soft *shinai* is still in the experimental stage and is now employed in more than ten schools for study purposes, but its use is going very well. Mr. Ozawa offers this invention as his contribution to Kendo.

Japanese Team Kendo Championships—May, 1965

The results of the team matches which were held in Osaka were:

- First — Aichi-ken.
- Second — Saga-ken.
- Third — Fukuoka-ken.

Two photographs of the great Kendo *taikai* held at the Butokuden dojo in Kyoto over the period of the Boys' Festival in early May are illustrating this month's column. These were taken by Mr. Jock Hopson, who attended part of the meeting with Mr. Oura. Mr. Hopson was only able to stay in Kyoto a couple of days, but did go to the early morning practice where there is a great gathering of all the leading Kendo masters in Japan because this is the most important event in the Budo year.



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Write for details:

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