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AS I WAS SAYING

by FRANK WARD

SPORT OF GENTLEMEN

FENCING is generally considered to be one of the quieter and more gentlemanly sports. But even they have their troubles. Take the case of 19 years old Laurence Gough, of the University College Club who is shocked to learn that the Irish Fencing Federation has suspended him for life. And I must say that my sympathy is all with Laurence.

It happened this way. When the Irish team for the Olympic Games in Mexico was picked, Laurence was not included despite the fact that he claims he can beat some of the men already picked. He has pointed out to the Olympic Council that not only can he beat some of the team but that some of the team ARE ACTUALLY SELECTORS.

So the Fencing Federation proceeded to suspend him for life on the grounds that he had brought the organisation into public disrepute.

Before the dispute gets into the international sphere surely someone can bring the warring factions together and if necessary hold a series of trials to decide who has the right to a place on the side. The idea of a selector including himself on the side seems, to say the least of it, a bit thick.