

A.A.A. TITLES

CHANCES OF NEW RECORDS

PROBABLE CHAMPIONS

By H. M. ABRAHAMS

The Annual Athletic Championships take place at the White City Stadium on Saturday, when the 23 events will be decided. Altogether the entries total over 400, and while there are no competitors from Germany or Italy, a large contingent is promised from Hungary, while France, Holland, Sweden, Poland, Greece, and Cyprus are also to be represented.

J. Sir (Hungary) has expressed his intention to defend his title in the 100 yards, but I nevertheless feel that A. W. Sweeney (the dual Empire Games Champion) will avenge his defeat of last year. Sweeney has one of the most magnificent finishes imaginable, but at present his starting leaves much to be desired. An indifferent start is the only thing likely to rob him of honours.

R. Murdoch will not defend in the furlong, for which Sweeney is also entered. Chief opposition will come from C. Berger (Holland), winner in 1933 and European Champion last year. It will be interesting to see how G. L. Rampling fares in this event. He is allowing his 440 yards' title to go by default.

Stothard and Lovelock

It is not difficult to suggest that J. C. Stothard and Jack Lovelock will win the half-mile and mile respectively. Nevertheless, if J. V. Powell, K. Kucharski (Poland), J. A. Cooper (the present title-holder), and M. Szabo (Hungarian and European Champion) give of their best, we should see a marvellous final and perhaps something of the 1 min. 53 sec. order. The heats of this event will be won in times which have often won the final.

Will Jack Lovelock get near to record in the mile? If M. Szabo elects to go for this event, he is quite capable of making Lovelock run a little. I know that Lovelock is in a sense not interested in records as such—he always runs to win, but it is to be hoped that the British public will be given an opportunity of seeing this great runner at his best. He deserves the appreciation of a British crowd, which will only be forthcoming to the full if the time is a fast one.

The European champion R. Rochard (France) is entered for the three miles. At his best he has beaten 14 min. 5 sec. for the distance. With W. J. Beavers (the Empire champion), R. T. Thomas, C. K. Allen, and others, this race should be another worth going a long way to see.

Balkan Marathon Winner

The Balkan Marathon winner, S. Kyriakides, has come all the way from Cyprus to compete in the championships, and without being unpatriotic, I think one can wish him good hunting.

J. Kovacs (Hungary) and the European champion is capable of making D. O. Finlay (winner of the 120 yds. hurdles for the last three years) go all the way, but I fancy Finlay's chances of being the first man for 30 years to win this event on four successive occasions. A. A. Cooper is in a class by himself in the two miles walk, and main interest will centre on whether he will beat his own best championship performance.

Foreign entries for the field events are, as usual, formidable. M. Bodosi (Hungary) will not defend his title in the high jump, but there are at least half a dozen foreigners who have beaten 6 ft. 2 in. In the long jump R. Paul (France), the holder, recently set up a new French record of over 24 ft. 11 in. Three of the Hungarians entered have beaten 24 ft. The former British record-holder, W. Peters (Holland), is entered for the hop, step, and jump; while the most thrilling entry for the pole vault is Keith Brown, of Yale, who recently cleared 14 ft. 5½ in. for a new world's record. Another world's record-holder is H. Anderson (Sweden), who is entered for the discus.

While there are certain to be a number of disappointments in athletes who are entered not competing, there can be no doubt that this year's championships promise better fare than ever.