

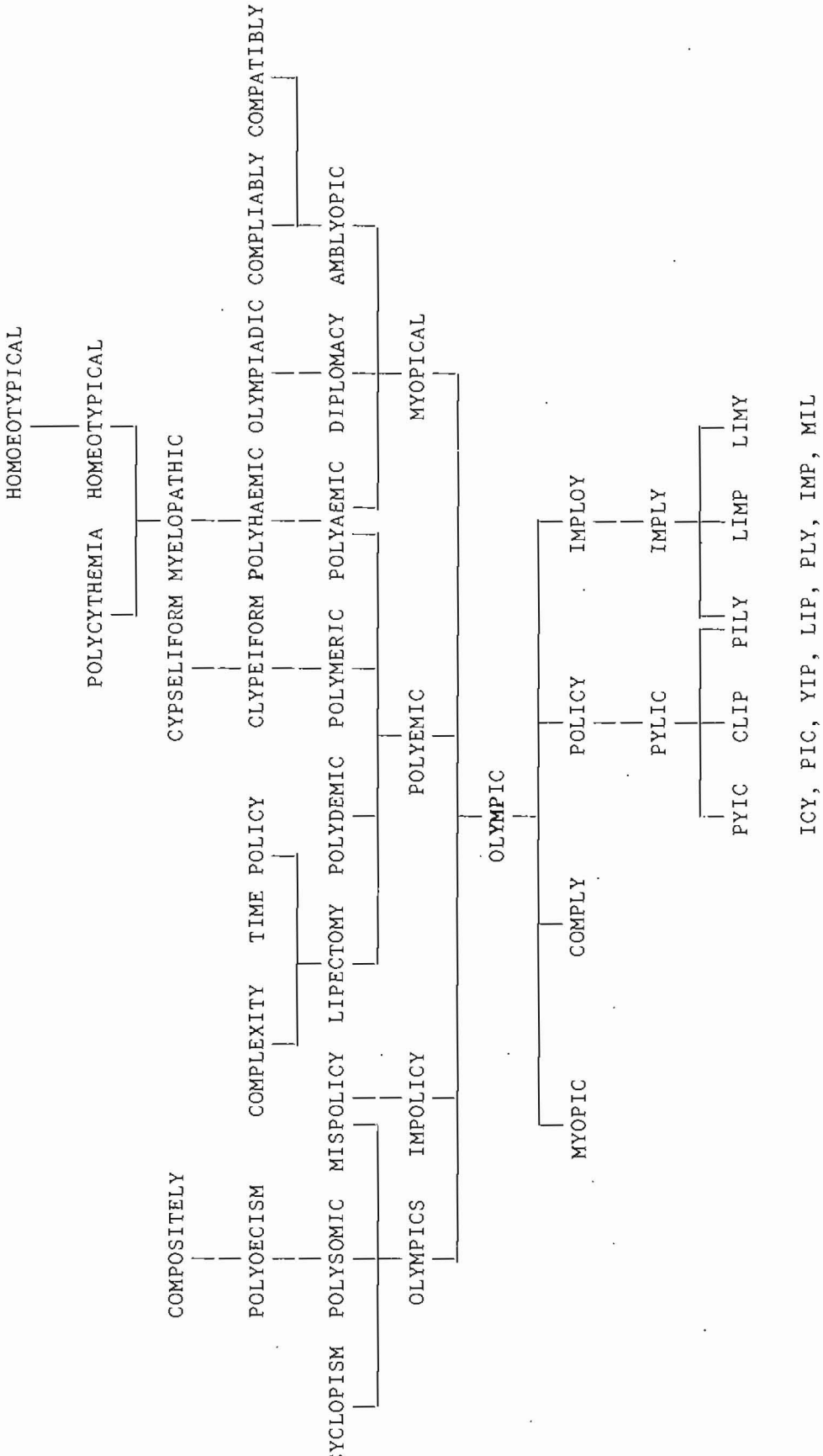
OLYMPIC ROOTS AND BRANCHES

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In the February 1984 *Word Ways*, Darryl Francis presented a quiz based on words whose letters can be rearranged to form OLYMPIC and one other word. Believing that the Olympics deserve further logological celebration, I present in this article an application of "Word Roots and Branches", described in the August 1979 *Word Ways*. Briefly, a word root consists of a diagram showing how a word can be transdeleted to shorter words in single steps (in a single step transdeletion, one letter is removed from a word and the remainder rearranged to form a new word). For many seven-letter words, the root becomes an extremely dense thicket of interlocking tendrils, but for OLYMPIC, given on the next page, the root based on words in Webster's Second Edition is rather simple. Does the fact that three of the six-letter words are *comply*, *myopic* and *policy* carry the message that the Olympic committee is autocratic and narrow-minded?

The branch of a word is obtained by single step transadditions. For OLYMPIC, the branch based on Webster's Second Edition is not too complex to diagram. Most of the words are rather technical in nature, the only really common ones being *diplomacy* and *complexity* (beside the related *Olympics* and *Olympiadic*). Again, one is struck by the number of words relating to policy or deficiency of sight (*myopia*, *amblyopic*, *cyclopism*). There's even a prescription: *lipectomy* refers to the cutting away of fatty tissue!



ICY, PIC, YIP, LIP, PLY, IMP, MIL