

as at other institutions is far and away ahead of the condition in the nineties. Indeed it would savor of ingratitude for us to permit a backward step at this time. It is for us to add to the sum of progress rather than to stand still.

I suppose that no one could be orthodox in athletics who did not hark back to the time of the Greek athletes. And on a subject of this kind, to consider their work is not only permissible, but extremely pertinent as they met these same questions and found the same difficulties that we are experiencing today. A work by E. Norman Gardner on the subject of "Greek Athletics and Festivals," gives us many valuable lessons from their experience. In the time of Homer there were no stated meets, but the sports were spontaneous activities of the leisure class and were celebrated chiefly at the funerals of great men. The rewards at this time were given in memory of the dead, rather than for the reward of the victor, and were given to the losing contestants as well as to the winners. The worth of the prizes indicated the amount of honor to the dead and these gifts were in many cases of great value.

During the first few Olympiads valuable prizes were given, but at the seventh the reward was a wreath of wild olives and any further rewards that were given to the victor were given by his townspeople or friends. These however, increased in value until in the sixth century, B. C., "the popularity of athletics, the growth of competition, and the rewards lavished on successful athletes completely changed the character of sport. The events, remained the same, but a change came over the attitude of the performers and the spectators. The standard of the performance was raised and athletics ceased to be recreation and there soon appeared the evil of overcompetition."

As the standard was raised, long and strenuous training was required and hence arose a class of professional trainers. It was not long until there arose also a class of professional athletes. Gardiner says that "before the close of the fifth century, B. C., the word for athlete had already come to denote the professional athlete as opposed to the amateur. And Euripides says of the athletes of that time: 'In youth they strut about in splendour the pride of their city, but when bitter old age comes upon them they are cast aside like threadbare garments.' It is not the athletes themselves but the nation that is to blame for such results."