

The next step in the degradation of athletics came when contestants began to sell victories, as is illustrated by the act of Eupolis in the ninety-eighth Olympiad when he bribed his opponents to give him the victory. When this was discovered the giver and the taker of the bribe were heavily fined. Again in a later Olympiad, Callippus bribed his opponent in the pentathlon. Again quoting from Gardiner, "When corruption was possible at Olympia we may be sure that it was rife elsewhere. A class of useless athletes, an unathletic nation of spectators a corrupt and degraded sport—such were the results which we find in Greece within a century of the glorious seventy-sixth Olympiad which celebrated the freedom of that nation."

The training of that time was of the most distorted type, serving to specialize the athlete for his individual event. Thus we have exaggerated types of athletes, distorted for the sake of winning. It is said that the diet of Milo of Crotona consisted of eighteen pounds of meat, eighteen pounds of bread, and fifteen pints of wine a day. So great were the excesses of the athletes of this time that Galen, the great physician, said that the life of an Olympic victor was five years. Schaible says that "Greek athletics which in former days had rendered the Hellene a perfect being, physically, morally, and aesthetically, and had given rise to immortal works, perished ignominiously. Greediness after reward and the cravings of ambition were now become the incentive and frequently the athletes fought with vindictive rage contrary to all the established rules of the time."

A casual glance at the athletics of our own day will reveal some of the evils that wrecked the ancient games. From the wreath to the gift of the freedom of a city was not the transition of a day, but a gradual development step by step. It is this same insidious growth of commercialism that makes the man who is interested in the whole realm of sport so anxious that it be kept absolutely free from the slightest taint of that which would destroy one of the greatest forces of education.

The introduction of the distinction between amateurs and professionals was brought before the American public in connection with rowing. At the close of the Civil War, rowing was the national sport. There were three hundred and fifty rowing clubs and each club had its own standard; but the sport was fast approaching the stage of dissolution when William Curtiss issued a pamphlet entitled "Who is the Amateur?"