

chiefly deals with the second. Against the growing interest in athletic matters there are constantly urged objections to the effect that many perfectly healthy young men are injured beyond repair by strains and shocks to vital organs received in the course of training or competitive sports even among those who avow much confidence in the value of physical exercise; yet many declare the pity of it because such havoc is wrought thereby. Instances are cited, rather vaguely it is true, of fine fellows utterly wrecked by contests on land or water, of lives cut short by overtasks at so-called sports. After pointing out how important it is for medical men to define and point out dangers and urgently insist on their avoidance in such cases, Dr. Taylor proceeds to argue that even the best and wisest of medical teachers can err in opinion, and cites as an example an assertion of Dr. B. W. Richardson: "I venture to affirm there is not in England a trained professional athlete of the age of thirty-five who has been six years at his calling who is not disabled"; and the same author as saying: "When the artificial system of training ceases, the involuntary muscles, the heart especially, remain in strength out of all due proportion greater than the rest of the active moving parts of the organism." Dr. Taylor maintains that this authoritative statement has swayed the judgment of thousands of thinking men. He has had these views on the damage done to involuntary muscles quoted to him again and again. Such cases he considers are indeed possible, and from such causes do they come in the laborious ranks of iron-workers and those who put forth in long days excessive and continued muscular exertion. Among professional athletes the heaviest strains must come, as upon the output of the most concentrated force alone comes to them honest reward. Dr. Taylor has collected the brief histories of a score of these men now living, which he thinks at least illustrate how vigorous and sound such men may be even long after the age limit which Dr. Richardson has assigned to them. These histories are interesting, and some of them very remarkable, and Dr. Taylor is strongly of opinion not only that the judicious pursuit of bodily exercises, either in the line of ordinary avocations, special duties, or sports, tends greatly to maintain and enhance the vigor of both body and mind, but also

that the hurtfulness of severe muscular exertion short of profound exhaustion is merely temporary and recoverable, and that dangers to internal organs and vital centres are comparatively rare. —*Lancet*.

A GREEK MEDICAL WORK 2000 YEARS OLD. —In the last number of the *Classical Review* Mr. F. G. Kenyon, of the British Museum, who last year edited the newly-discovered papyri of Aristotle and Herondas, describes another similar manuscript recently obtained for our national collection, which contains an ancient treatise upon Medicine by a Greek author, probably of Alexandria. The work, which has apparently hitherto been lost, is of much interest, and the following *résumé* of the state and contents of the manuscript condensed from Mr. Kenyon's report will indicate its importance. The papyrus is of tolerable size, measuring twelve feet, and bears thirty-nine columns of writing, each about three inches in width. Towards the end the writing is more compressed, and the concluding portion, which comparatively contains the largest amount of matter, is fortunately in exceedingly good condition, but the other parts of the papyrus are both torn and rubbed and the text frequently barely legible. As to the treatise itself, the first eighteen columns are devoted to quotations from earlier writers as to the origin of diseases, and present to us so many quotations from Greek medical authors of the earliest times that if the text can be tolerably well restored it will prove most valuable. Among the writers cited are Euryphon of Cnidus, Herodicus, Hippocrates, Timotheus of Metapontum, Philolaus of Croton, Polybius and Menicrates, Dexippus of Cos, Petron and Philistion, and Alcamenes. In quoting from some of these writers the author tells us he obtained their extracts from a work of Aristotle. Mr. Kenyon suggests this was not an authentic work of that philosopher, but the one cited by Galen, as bearing his name, which was really written by his disciple Menon, and thinks it probable that much of this papyrus text is derived from Menon's work. These quotations appear to cease with authors of the fourth century B.C., and then the more original part of the work is taken up. Unfortunately, just here the writing is very defective, but it car-