I recently paid a visit to the "Truth," Music Hall, to see the demonstration by Mr. Bartos-Wright's instructors of the Japanese system of self-defence, and I thoroughly enjoyed the display.

While there I heard, as one always hears on such occasions, many remarks and criticisms on the system. It was while listening to some of these arguments that I was led to believe that the average Englishman is a terribly sceptical and self-conceited individual. He appears, as a general rule, to be inclined to a considerable degree when comparing foreign systems with his own. This unfortunately does not occur in sporting matters alone, but in matters both commercial and political.

The majority of Englishmen are very much inclined to comply with foreign suggestions. They appear to believe that the best of everything belongs to them and that they alone

and it is only when the facts of the arguments are thrust down their throats, generally very much to their surprise, and at the most inopportune time that they are convinced otherwise.

I recall another occasion when the same opinion was forced upon me, and I think I may mention it by way of comparison.

It was some two years ago when Professor Norton-Smith was giving his well-known exhibition of horse-breaking at the Agricultural Hall, Islington. I was very much interested in this display, perhaps because it was something out of the ordinary, but principally because I am a lover of all animals. On many occasions during his stay I visited the Hall, and the same arguments and heated controversies were always forthcoming. There was always some one or other assuring "they knew a particular horse, he could not manage" or they were certain he used drugs to make the animals do this. Yet it is well known that the Professor handled and trained the most unruly members of the equine race given to his charge, and used only scientific methods to bring about these results. The fact was that people were prejudiced against the Professor before they entered the building, simply because his system was different to theirs, and even when they had seen the performance they would come away still dissatisfied.

On the occasion of which I am writing, the same arguments were being held, and the same remarks were being made. I heard one man say, "They are all very well, while performing with one another, but put them to our style of wrestling and they would be masters." Now the question at issue is not "Can they wrestle in our style?" but, "Does our style of so-called self-defence compare favourably with those of other countries?"

It is all very well to say that boxing is the noble art; it may be, but is it as good from a purely self-defence standpoint as the system which is being propagated by Mr. Bartos-Wright and his clever Japs?

In writing this article I make no pretence of giving a complete description of this system which is known by the name of "Bartitsu."
of him on some occasion or other finding himself in a tight corner, in the selection of which he has had no choice.

It is on these occasions that we may find it handy to have a knowledge of "some style" of self-defence.

I may be, in fact I am of opinion myself, that I am somewhat infatuated with everything in the way of sport that is new. At any rate, I always make it a practice of giving new methods a trial, but I am just as quick in disregarding them if I find that they are no better than the old.

I have no intention of encouraging the abandonment of boxing and wrestling; I admire these and practice them both. They are both excellent sports. Boxing is specially for training a quick eye, good balancing apparatus. If I may use the expression, and for teaching the muscles to respond sharply to the intimation of the will.

Wrestling in all its different styles is good for developing strong powers in all the muscles of the body. Perhaps as arts in themselves, they neither can be directly named self-defence when compared with Karate.

A knowledge of either may come to handy in an unexpected moment, and, of course, a man having a fair acquaintance with both would be a dangerous opponent for a Holligart to grapple with.

But, I say, are excellent in their way. Scientific boxing and wrestling are sports to be encouraged; they keep the muscles strong, the eye quick, the lungs healthy, and the brain clear and alert. What I wish to express is that we must not be blind to the facts of the case in this problem, as we have been in matters military and naval. We must speak of the difference that sets us the best, and give honor where honor is due.

It has been proved without doubt that from a purely self-defence standpoint a wrestler in the English style stands a very poor chance with an exponent of the new system of self-defence.

I have been for treating Judo as a means of self-defence against attack by the street, and it is in this respect that it is the most useful.

As a knowledge of the theory is of very little use without a certain amount of practice, to enable one to use the different styles with effect, we must consider it from a competitive point of view.

At first sight it appears to be a highly dangerous kind of sport. When one is in danger, earnest is not well be made at. This, however, one would be his life depended on the result. In friendly competition, however, this need not be the case, and it has been shown by actual proofs that accidents and injuries are very few and far between.

It has been stated in one of the sporting papers that the rules governing Karate are of a very elastic nature. This they appear to be when judged by anyone accustomed to English wrestling. There is this, however, to say for the Japanese style: "It leaves no doubt as to whether a fall has been gained or not, and no argument to be discussed regarding the decision of the referee."

Almost every country has its own national style of self-defence, but most of them are practiced under such stringent rules that when an exponent of any one of them meets an unprepared who directly faces these conditions (and covers to methods which are) he finds himself out of court.

La Cane, La Savi, and La Pari (which is La Savi, with a little English boxing thrown in) are all very well in their own ways, and would, as I have said of