

They were men of tall stature and of immense weight. A circular mound some 10 or 12 feet in diameter, on a raised platform in the middle of the building, is the place selected for the performance. On a given signal two of the number present themselves and commence the contest. They eye each other for a while, as if watching a chance to catch their antagonist off his guard, stamping the ground as if with impatience. At length they close together, a struggle ensues, the result of which is that one is forced off the mound; so the contest ends. This was repeated hour after hour, and the audience generally, as they also do in their theatres, come prepared to make a day of it; for waiters with rice, fish, and other eatables, and saki, are constantly in attendance to minister to the wants of the spectators.

The streets are full of life and movement. People are wending their way home, or to the bathing-house, which, strongly lighted up, shows through its lattice bars crowds of both sexes enjoying the luxury of the bath. The tea-houses are filling, and the plaintive sounds from the sam-i-sen are heard from many of the upper stories. Gaily painted and figured lanterns are flitting to and fro, and light up somewhat dimly the shops and roads, for the gas is not as yet laid on all over the city, and the law still remains in force that everyone after dark