## TIMES MONDAY SEPTEMBER 8 1997

## Athens awakes to an Olympian hangover

AFTER a weekend party over the award of the 2004 Olympics, Athens will white up today with a monumental bill in prospect.

In prospect. The Greek capital is an inefficient, polluted **Civ**. A chronic shortage of money in a deficit-ridden economy, has been holding up with projects for decades. Analysis question where the Greeks are going to find the E2.2 billion needed to pay off the Olympic Streed costs and there is hardly uny evidence that the financial aspect of the Games has been thought out.

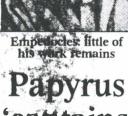
The first priority is to modernise an objective pathic transport system, which the rival Romans hattine ed as the city's weakest link. The first trains in a new underground system he expected to be operating by the end of 1999, relieving a hepelessly inadequate rail service and overstretched bus network.

Thanks to the storts of people such as Dimitris Avramopoulos, the thy's Mayor, Athens has improved its appearance since the mid-1970s when Constantine Karamanlis, then Prime Minister, wondered aloud whether the only solution might be to "tear it all down and start again".

Mr Avramopoules efisared that the Olympic Blothinocture was 80 per dent chiraplete by the end of last year. He is confident that the Oames will be a "fitting testament to the remaissance of our sity".

renuissance of bor sity". The biggest improvement, due to come on stream a 2009, is an international import capable of handling to califion passengers a year. The carbot of the Olympics was the main reason why the work passed through Greeces inclusion and the tape.

tape. Not all Greeks want increases and bother and corruption of the Olympics. Some trouble readily revive another old suggestion by Mr. contained - to strip the Gamia at old in commercial elements are and stage them permeasure the groves of ancient Charlen, where the highest area was an olive wreath.



'contains work of Greek writer'

BY RICHARD OWEN

A CONFERENCE in Sicily will this week will hear evidence that a long-neglected 'papyrus is a "missing link" in the surviving warings of Empedocles, me fifth century BC Greek philosopher, physician and statesman who popularised the theory that all matter is made up of "four elements" — earth, water, an and fire.

The papyrus, dating from the 1st century BC, is of Egyptian origin and was acquired by the University of Strasbourg in 1904. It was recently rediscovered by a Belgian scholar, Alain Martin of Brussels University, who claims that a consists of 70 lines by Dapedoctes.

claims that is consists of to lines by bapedocles. Although Empedocles was influential as a thinker, little of his writings have survived except in the form of except in the gap was of extraordinary importance". Empedocles was born on the Sicilian coast and,

Empedocles was born on the Sichian coast and, according, to legend, jumped to his death in Mount Emil's volcanic crater trying to prove his divinity. A poet and philosopher — he developed the theory of the fransmigration of bound — he is regarded as a founder of modern medicine.