

ATHLETICS AND ORGANIZATION.

That the principle of organization enters more into the world of athletics creates another study in contrasts from which fruitful lessons may be drawn. Sports have passed from the local phase to that of national dimensions and been raised to the height of national competition. Not so long ago our fathers indulged in their youthful pastimes calling for untutored strength and endurance with hardly a thought of the athletes of old who took their feats more seriously. National athletic associations furnished the next significant step, and now the past and the present are united periodically in the revived Olympic games.

Initial impetus was given the movement by the construction of semi-public gymnasiums, where boys indulge in wholesome forms of recreation under competent teachers. In this respect the Y. M. C. A., private societies and educational institutions have been mutually helpful. But the universal tendency in all this work has been toward centralization of its direction, fixed rules for all branches of sport and the adoption of methods capable of general application. There can be no doubt that results achieved have demonstrated conclusively the wisdom of the steps taken.

The wonder of it is the spread of organization to even this branch of human activity. Formerly boys and men enjoyed their sport in a haphazard way, but now students in the college, the high school, the lower grades conform to exact specifications. The child who has not entered school tries to perform according to fixed standards. Even the neighborhood "gang" studies the book of rules before starting its competitive games. And on the whole organization

has promoted clean, manly sport and discouraged its opposite. Fair play, as well as development, has been an underlying purpose.—Ex.

PRIMITIVE SCHOOL BOOKS.

The Hornbook, invented in 1450 and used considerably up to the close of the eighteenth century, was the usual text book of the elementary school. A thin slab of hard wood was covered with parchment on which were printed the capital and small letters, numerals and some elementary syllables and words, says Charles Winslow Hall in the National Magazine. Over this a thin sheet of transparent cow's horn was placed and firmly bound so that no moisture could penetrate. This, the Bible and the sampler on which little girls painfully stitched the letters of the alphabet, some "godly saying" and a border of "herring stitch," or some conventional pattern of impossible flowers and foliage and the legend, "Mary Smith, her sampler," or the like were about all that the children used up to the beginning of the eighteenth century. The A, B, C book, Book of Manners and the Assembly's Shorter Catechism came into use soon after, and a spelling book was printed in America in 1736. The New England Primer, one of the most popular as well as the most curious text-books of its time, was published somewhere about 1687-1690, and had an enormous circulation and use in America.

Harry Jones, of this year's class, is now taking a complete course in the Capital Business College in Salem.

Nick Hatch, an admirer of the song, "He's a College Boy," has lately composed a mate for it entitled, "Peg Tops."