

gain something for herself but to help her group in its attempt to win the various cups that are offered for competition. In each group the average number of points gained by the group is taken. If there are some who are inclined to be lazy in their sport they lower the average of their group. Since the Group System has been introduced it is not very often that a girl is permitted to be lazy, even if she would like to be. The fellow members of the group make her do her share.

So far as we know the Group System, we have not found anything of which we disapprove. It enables the Prefects to know the girls better and brings the girls also more into contact with one another. As long as we can prevent the existence of all petty rivalry, the Group System must progress. The more healthy rivalry there is between the groups, the stronger each group will become, and, what is more important, the stronger and better the School will be.

—N. ELPHINSTONE.

#### **AUTOBIOGRAPHIES AND BIOGRAPHIES**

Most people believe that they are familiar with many of the long-dead actors of life, but is their knowledge very great? Queen Elizabeth—oh! yes, of course, she was rather vain and very fond of fine clothes. Drake—he was the man who played bowls while the Armada sailed up the English Channel. Even when Disraeli, a man who has died within the last fifty years, is mentioned, his main characteristic is often said to be a passion for “loud” waist-coats. Such answers as these are received again and again, and it clearly illustrates how soon a man, who was very prominent in his time, becomes dim and fanciful. The memory of Disraeli, a man who was always in the foreground during the last century, has become shadowy and unreal. His wonderful character and deeds are forgotten, and all that remains is a mere shadow—a passion for “loud” waist-coats.

To those who desire a thorough knowledge of the interesting people of the past such scrappy information is unsatisfactory. But how may they satisfy their knowledge of men who are dead and gone? History helps wonderfully, but history only touches on that side of their character and work which has been of historical importance. Their most reliable and most interesting source for knowledge of this type is in the stories of the lives of men—biographies or autobiographies as they may be.

Biographies may perhaps reveal character in a clearer sense, since they will often illustrate many little traits which the man himself would have hesitated to describe. They are made more interesting by the fact that the reader has the opportunity of seeing the character through the eyes of another and from different points of view. The biographer is friendly, and although the faults are not in any way hidden, the best of his nature is brought to the