

AROUND THE HALL

Memories.

As our ambition is not to issue a publication the news portions of which shall have nothing to do with the date which it bears, Christmas (1912) will have passed into history, and the New Year will be well begun ere these notes appear in type. But it is only fitting that we enroll a line of happy record in this issue of the festive season that has gone. Among the greatest boons of the Christmas and New Year holidays are the happy memories that are so often left behind in all well-regulated homes and communities.

What not a few men whose lines have fallen within these halls and dormitories have on more than one occasion said in due compliment of this Farthest West "Westminster Hall"—situated as it is, near the far-famed Stanley Park, Vancouver City, B. C.—has been true in the experience of quite a number of men now. The College has been their "Home" in a fairly full sense.

At no time are we so much reminded of this as at the Christmas season, and the Christmas dinner of 1912 will be remembered by the men who have had some years' experience of the Hall as an occasion when Christmas fare was provided which should leave no reasonable man the least occasion to cavil at the arrangements. However radical young men may be in politics, we are all in many ways apt to become more conservative with increasing experience of life—we are always tempted to compare the good of a former day with the conditions of the present; and in experience of the Hall some men have already had occasion to hark back to the days of the first matron, Mrs. Garnham, who was a lady esteemed and liked by all the Boys. To say that the present matron, Miss Loudoun, who was present at the first Christmas dinner provided under her supervision, is proving in every way a worthy successor to Mrs. Garnham, leaves little more to be said—unless it be that her office and duties are greater in that the work and responsibility have much increased since the former days, for there is now to be considered, not only the enlarged "Hall," but also the "Annex" fully occupied by students.

Perhaps a line of reminiscence is not out of place. So rapidly has the institution grown, that already, of the total number of students who have been and who are connected with the College, the number is comparatively small of those who were present at the Christmas dinner, say, in 1909, when Captain and Mrs. Logan (now of Agassiz) not only were responsible for the provision of the main bounties, but themselves attended, and with Principal and Mrs. Mackay, made up something of a family party at the Hall. At that time, too, we had with us Mrs. E. I. Menzies (nee Chalmers), missionary of Wenchow, Cheh-kiang, China, sister of one then engaged as secretary and librarian at the Hall, and now associated with the life and work of this Magazine. Mrs. Menzies was returning to China from furlough in the Old Country, and came by Canada to visit her brother and other friends in the East and in Calgary.

On checking recollections with others, it seems that though we have now something like 40 or 50 men connected with the Hall in the winter preparatory term itself, apart from extra-mural students, or students who live outside, and