

A FOREWORD

of a certain differentiation and variety. It will be noticed also that the Memoirs are more personal in tone than is common in such a publication as this. But it was scarcely possible, even had it been desirable, for one who knew most of these boys intimately in school, and came to know them much more intimately out of school through the War, to write in the impersonal style of a typical chronicler; these lads were, one and all, the loved and honoured Sons of the School as of the Home, and have brought sorrow and pride to both by their untimely but heroic passing. Their names on our tablet and the story of their immortal sacrifice should be a perpetual inspiration to untold generations of pupils who may pass through the halls of the old school.

P. C. I. sent slightly over five hundred boys to the War, a large number of them lads who were still in their 'teens and whose chief interest in life hitherto had been Rugby and Baseball.

"But when the bugles sounded war,
They put their games away."

Others had left the school for College or business, but few even of these had passed out of their twenties. It was, indeed, as has so often been said, a Boys' War (caused, however, by Men); and, as Sir Philip Gibbs writes, "As long as history lasts the imagination of our people will strive to conjure up the vision of these boys who went out, not as conscript soldiers, but as volunteers, for the old country's sake, to take their risks and 'do their bit' in the world's bloodiest war." And assuredly there has been no tragedy in history comparable to "the tragedy of all this sacrifice of youth."

In this tragedy P. C. I. has had her own share. Out of a