

# TROJANS AT THE FRONT.

## HOW THE CLUB RESPONDED TO THE COUNTRY'S CALL.

### A SPLENDID RECORD.

It was about forty years ago that the Trojans came into existence. Their foundations, therefore, are practically Mid-Victorian. The interested visitor to the commodious club premises in Cumberland-place will, indeed, grasp this fact when he compares the photographs that hang on the walls and notes in the more faded groups certain quaintnesses of costume, such as the peculiarities as "side-whiskers" and other minor signs that go to mark the famous "period."

But the early Trojans were splendid sportsmen, and those of them who survive must feel that there never was a finer moment in the club's history than the present, when, paradoxical as it sounds, the activities of the organisation are at a standstill, and members are scattered to the ends of the earth.

#### THE GALLANT TWO HUNDRED.

In August of last year the membership of the Trojans reached the admirable total of 300. Never had they been in a more flourishing state. Then came the war. Within four weeks of that fateful day when Great Britain drew the sword

and threw away the scabbard, of those 300 Trojans practically 200 were in the forces of the Empire. It was a magnificent response to the call of patriotism, and one of which Trojans may for all time be justly proud.

#### WENT AT THE FIRST CALL.

As a matter of fact the number of Trojans at the Front has been augmented but little since those early days of the war. The reason is easily explained: practically every member who was fit, of age, and free from the graver responsibilities of life, went at the first call. One might have thought, indeed, that they had been silently waiting all these years for the unique chance. And in this connection it must be borne in mind that among those 200 who figure on the Roll of Honour no member of the Civilian Corps or other merely semi-military organisation is included, although many of the elder members are strenuously engaged on patriotic work of an unofficial character.

#### FACING THE ENEMY.

These Trojans who have so readily exchanged the field of sport for the field of battle are scattered far and wide. Some are facing the Germans in the trenches of France and Flanders, some are helping to throw back the Turks from the hills of Gallipoli, others are in Egypt, yet others in India. And of the gallant company who from the first have thus been scattered to the four winds there are some who will never come back. To them all honour. Strangely enough they all fell very much about the same time.

#### DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY.

There was Lieut. E. Mansell Pleydell, the member of a famous fighting family, whose military traditions go far back into English history; there was Second Lieutenant C. F. Sealy, son of Colonel Sealy, of Hambledon; there was Second Lieutenant L. B. Neely, formerly a dentist in practice in Southampton. There three, each of whom was killed in action in France, were members of the Trojans Fifteen of 1913-14. In addition to and in conjunction with these must be noted Lieutenant H. J. Osborne, one of the club's hockey players, who was killed in action at the Dardanelles.

#### TROJANS WHO HAVE WON HIGH HONOURS.

But as well as those who have become distinguished in death are those who, happily, have become distinguished in life. Notably Lieut. Holbrook, whose submarine feat of unparalleled skill and daring in the Dardanelles gained for him the V.C., and Second Lieutenant H. Mansell Pleydell (brother to Lieutenant E. Mansell

Pleydell), who won the Military Cross, the new honour, in France.

At the present moment several Trojans are in hospital recovering from the effects of wounds. These include Captain R. W. Jenson, captain of the last football fifteen, Captain George Griffith, Lieutenant Wilshire, and Second Lieutenant Parry. According to the latest information all are making satisfactory progress. It may perhaps be mentioned in this connection that Capt. H. A. H. Smith, although not wounded, came home from France on leave last week. He has since returned.

#### LOOKING FORWARD.

It is interesting to note that of the Trojans last playing football fifteen every member is serving with the forces. Of the cricket team of the summer of 1914 all are serving but two. Of the last Hampshire Fifteen, largely composed of Trojans, everybody is serving. Of the last playing hockey team all but one are serving.

It must be understood, of course, that the Trojans are playing no games at the present time. Not a football, cricket bat, or hockey stick has been touched since the beginning of the war. But in spite of the by no means small difficulties, both financial and otherwise, that have resulted from the general disorganisation, the Executive, with the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Ian Macdonald) and others are seeing to it that no permanent disabilities occur. What a happy day it will be when the members who have remained behind are able to welcome home those who in the fighting time have helped to maintain the honour of the Trojans in particular, and that of British sportsmen in general!