

Obituary.

HAROLD CRABTREE.

IN Harold Crabtree Charterhouse lost a schoolmaster, and his colleagues a friend whom they could ill afford to lose.

A wrangler and a keen mathematician, he came to Charterhouse to teach Mathematics, but his deep piety leading him to claim a share in the teaching of Scripture, he was soon found to possess a remarkable knack in opening the eyes of boys to the beauties of Isaiah. Thus he gradually took up the teaching of English (his success with small boys in Shakespeare was remarkable) and, later on, of Classics in place of his mathematical work.

In his mathematical teaching he was very lucid and particularly neat in the arrangement of his own work, so that he excelled in inculcating good style; he always had his desk full of papers and solutions neatly docketed and immediately available when wanted, and he thoroughly understood how to work to a scheme.

At the time that he published his delightful book on *Spinning Tops and Gyroscopic Motion*—which has obtained an international reputation—only a small percentage of his school work was mathematical, and he was always somewhat apologetic for having “accidentally” written such a book.

His all-round capacity was shown in games as well as in work. As a boy (besides being Head of the School) he had been in the Football XI. and Captain of Cricket and of Fives. When he first returned as a master, he kept up his cricket, and played a good deal of fives: he was also a keen winter sportsman and a good skater, but owing to the heart and lung trouble, which in the end carried him off, he had to give up these things at an early age. The necessity of avoiding high altitudes was a severe blow. Of the school games I like to think that he most regretted fives. In this his tricky left-handed cut and strong volleying made him a redoubtable opponent and an admirable partner, and there was no more pleasant member of a weekly game.

I suppose what made him so universally popular was his cheeriness and his fund of genial and ever-ready repartee, and it was an object-lesson to see how thoroughly he remained his cheery self when he had to give up, one by one, the various recreations which he had most enjoyed.

All the last years of his life he was constantly troubled with shortness of breath if he exerted himself, for instance in walking uphill. But in spite of poor health, these years were probably the happiest in his life. In 1910 he married Miss Douglas, and two children came to them, a boy and a girl. Then in 1912 began new and interesting work as a housemaster, in which he succeeded admirably from the start in spite of the fact that he had to fill the place of the oldest and most popular of Carthusian housemasters.

Among his other activities may be mentioned: his keenness in the affairs of the Old Carthusian Club; his driving of a small motor-car; his writing and publishing a small volume of poems, the title of which was typical of the man, *Amicus Amicis*. He died early in 1915, and by a tragic coincidence his widow has since lost a brother, killed in action on the anniversary of her husband's death. C. O. T.