

This Magazine is Dedicated to Rev. Brother W. G. Hall.



Occasionally there rises among men one whom we can call great. He can receive that title for a variety of reasons, but it usually happens because his accomplishments have been such as to make him outstanding. Such people also attain this honour because they are humble about what they have done, because they have gone about their tasks with no attitude of receiving earthly commendation. Brother Walter Godfrey Hall, who passed to his eternal reward in the early hours of Anzac Day this year, was such a man. Characteristically, when he died he was working for others: in Melbourne undertaking business for the Provincial Council of the Christian Brothers in West and South Australia.

*Brother Hall was both an ex-scholar and ex-teacher of C.B.H.S. As one of the original scholars here, he excelled in all that he undertook. When he returned here as a member of staff in the fifties, Brother Hall brought to the school the many gifts that he had; he gave these generously in the service of God, and the boys he taught. Here, as everywhere he was stationed, he lived and exemplified the motto of the Christian Brothers - *Facere et Docere: To Do and To Teach.**

It is no clichéd exaggeration to say the Brother Hall was an outstanding member of the Christian Brothers in Australia, and particularly in Holy Spirit Province, which comprises West and South Australia: it is a truth that cannot be denied. He held Headmasterships in three different States - Aquinas College in W.A., St. Kevin's College in Melbourne, Rostrevor College in S.A. His dynamic leadership, his selfless approach to everything he did were an inspiration to both staff and students in those schools.

In addition to these onerous duties, he was Chairman of the Catholic Pastoral Institute Council of W.A., a member of the Teacher Education Authority, and first President of the Association of Independent Schools; for the last ten years he was a member of the Brothers' Provincial Council, the governing body of the Brothers in Holy Spirit Province. During this time he visited C.B.H.S. on many occasions, the last time being ten days before his death, and he showed a great interest in all the developments. Last year he visited the school in his capacity as Acting Director of Vocations, while Brother O'Doherty was overseas. Yet, for all the high positions that Brother Hall held, he remained to the end a very humble, sensitive man and a very great Religious Brother.

Some tributes written at the time of his death express something of the way he came across to people. Chris Gaughwin, a former student and now an Adelaide Physio-therapist, wrote: "He was the type of man who made friends quickly and these friends never forget him. One only had to peruse the congregation at Brother Hall's Memorial Service held at Rostrevor College, to realise how many friends he made during his short stay at the College." In an editorial in ALPHA, Brother Manion wrote: "Certainly he was always a fighter, a man always reaching forward, always pushing into the unknown. His gentleness saved him from harshness to and from others, but it could not prevent the many frustrations and the mounting fatigue such activity brings. His health gave him cause for concern, and lately he must have been well aware that the call could come at any time."

Requiem Mass was concelebrated at Aquinas College on Thursday April 28th. Principal celebrant was the Auxiliary Bishop of Perth, Most Rev. P. Quinn, also a former scholar of C.B.H.S. and a contemporary of Brother Hall. The Mass was sung by students from Trinity College, and the Christian Brothers, under the direction of Brother D. McMahon, a former staff member of C.B.H.S. He was laid to rest in the Brothers' section at Karrakatta Lawn Cemetery.

Words are not adequate to present a picture of the man Brother Hall was. Perhaps, at least, they will convey a notion. He was a man of prayer, wit, intellect and charm. I feel that he can now say with the Italian poet Giuseppe Ungaretti, "Each moment I have lived... outside myself."

He was 53 years of age when he died, and he had given 36 of these in the service of God as a Christian Brother and each of us who knew him is a little better for that experience. We rejoice that he is now enjoying the reward of Eternal Life. Requiescat in Pace.

Brother P.C. Gaughwin. EDITOR.

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Life is unbearable for the man who does not always have an enthusiasm at hand.

(Maurice Barnes)