



Training for Service at Haverford

By President Sharpless

THERE is a general disorganization of college work all over the country as the result of the war conditions. In Haverford it has taken a different form than elsewhere. We have the large number of young men who desire to aid the government in the prosecution of the war. We have also a number both in the faculty and the student body, who accept the traditional views of the founders of the college, and who wish to make them more than traditional by personal conviction based on inquiry and evidence. When the first serious excitement came for military enlistment, it seemed that a large proportion of the college would be disposed to take any service that should be presented. Under the spur of the moment it was proposed to form a military company and have training on or off the college grounds. On further reflection, however, many of the students thought that such a move would tend to an unfortunate disorganization of the college, and almost on the spur of the moment a proposition was made which seemed to solve the question. Training of a non-military character was proposed and the whole college vigorously adopted the proposition. Thus under the very active co-operation of some of the members of the faculty and the leading students the movement has been carried through in a most successful way. They have now been at it long enough to appreciate the fact that it is an excellent preparation for any service which they might be called upon to render to the government, and it is also peculiarly a Haverfordian affair in which we may all unite.

The college has been divided into four sections, each one of which has one exercise a week. One of these sections in one of the following forms has largely completed the leveling of a baseball field, another has studied the science and practice of ambulance and relief work, another the mechanical and scientific principles involved in automobile management and the fourth the problems of camp life and sanitation. Once a week the whole of the four groups go off on a "hike" of some miles in length. The effect of this is to put the whole college in an excellent physical condition, and to turn attention to the duties of national service of some sort when needed. Seven of our students have gone to the Officers' Training Camp at Fort Niagara, seventeen have joined the Ambulance Unit, Number 10, and have sailed for France. A few others have enlisted in various branches of service, but have not been called out. A number have gone to work on farms or are preparing for this service during the summer vacation.

All of this will of course have its effect upon the size of the college another year. Fortunately there is every prospect of a large Freshman class, and our Sophomore Class will also retain most of its membership. From the two upper classes a number will doubtless be taken away, but we are in thorough accord with the resolutions adopted by the College Presidents of Pennsylvania at a recent meeting as follows:

"In view of the serious need in the near future for men broadly educated, capable of solving the great problems, spiritual and intellectual, that will arise in this country, we believe that students in our colleges of liberal arts should continue where possible throughout their courses of study, and that all young men who can avail themselves of the opportunities offered by our colleges should be urged to enter."

This sentiment of the college authorities has been endorsed practically by the government at Washington.

The new administration of Haverford will doubtless be confronted by serious problems and the strain of the last three months will be to some extent carried over, but the policy of Haverford College has already developed would seem feasible and proper and in the future might be construed as follows:

That our young men should not be carried away by sudden excitement into any serious movement which would control their future; that those who feel it their serious duty to go into the fighting ranks should receive the sympathy of the college; that those whose consciences make them feel that entrance upon the same course would be wrong should be encouraged to be true to their convictions, and that the college should be held together as far as possible on the basis of the liberty and inviolability of every man's honest, educated conscience.

ISAAC SHARPLESS.

The Reply

By Harry C. Hartman

Love you alone, and you entirely?
Give you my hand, my heart, my life?
Heed not the fellowship of others?
Just to be a slave to your delight?
Forsake the home where I was fostered?
Forget the friendships of the past;
Love you alone, and you entirely?
But think you, child, such love can last?