

of this country, a service which the majority as yet but dimly recognise. It is this Association of Matrons of which Miss Stewart is President which has for the past fourteen years held a watching brief for the protection of the liberties of trained nurses, and which has taken the initiative in every movement for their general welfare. It has encouraged unity of thought and purpose, it has taken action in regard to every public question touching the interests of good nursing, it has submitted expert memoranda to Government Departments, urging the more careful nursing of our brave sailors and soldiers, under its ægis the National and International Councils of Nurses have evolved, and last, but by no means least, it launched the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, whose Bill embodying our highest professional aspirations, awaits its second reading in the House of Lords a few days hence. In all these organisations Miss Stewart holds high office.

This, you will agree, constitutes a very handsome record of duty well done. As a public servant, Miss Stewart deserves all praise, but it is her own self we warmly love.

We have it that as a nurse she gave liberally of her wonderful vitality to the sick poor, and that her practical skill has never been excelled. As Sister she was a kind and intelligent teacher, and as Matron we all know her as the benevolent and tolerant mother of the nursing staff—a devoted daughter—an affectionate sister—a true and loyal friend. More we cannot require of any human being.

Thus, when future generations of Nurses come to study the history of our times, and appreciate the lesson of her life, it will be the catholicity of her character, and the buoyancy of her temperament, which will capture and charm their imagination. They will realise that no power, or environment, could restrain or cramp the ardour of her spirit, and that her pioneer work for the organisation of the whole nursing community is in part their heritage.

THE ADDRESS.

Turning to Miss Stewart, Mrs. Fenwick said:

Honoured President of the Matrons' Council, I salute you. From your fellow members of the Council I am privileged to ask you to accept this Illuminated Address:

"We, the members of the Matrons' Council, welcome this as a fitting opportunity to offer our congratulations on your long and successful career. Your high character, unfailing courtesy, and large-minded tolerance have secured for you the respect and esteem of all connected with the nursing profession. As an

evidence of our affectionate regard, we beg you to accept this Address, with our best wishes, and our earnest hope that you may long be able to continue your important work."

THE TOAST.

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the Toast, "Isla Stewart. Long life to her, health, honour, and happiness."

The toast was received with enthusiastic acclamation.

PRESENTATION OF BOUQUETS.

A number of exquisite floral tributes were then presented to Miss Stewart, a specially graceful and charming interlude.

For the Matrons' Council, Miss Rogers brought an exquisite bouquet of Souvenir de Malmaison carnations, tied with turquoise ribbon. For the National Council of Trained Nurses, in place of Miss Forrest, Miss H. L. Pearse presented a bouquet of pure white roses, tied with green ribbon. The offering of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was made by Miss Huxley. It consisted of a beautifully arranged basket, containing masses of magnificent scarlet geraniums, corn-flowers, and white sweet peas, and tied with the national colours, red, white, and blue. The Scottish Registration Committee sent a lovely bouquet of salmon-pink Eckford sweet peas, tied with ribbons to match, and in the unavoidable absence of Miss K. L. Burleigh, Miss Appleyard, formerly a warm supporter of the Registration movement in Scotland, gave it to Miss Stewart.

A most splendid basket containing that pearl of roses, the beautiful and fragrant Mme. Chateney, and sprays of exquisite heliotrope, was the gift of the Sisters of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the presentation was made by Miss Mabel Sleight, Sister of Lucas Ward, but the assistance of a mere man was necessary to carry this magnificent trophy up the room. The nurses of St. Bartholomew's also sent by Miss Graham a charming bouquet of pink carnations and white heather tied with white satin ribbon. Miss Julia Hurlston, Senior Member of the Registered Nurses' Society, presented on its behalf a bouquet of choice roses. Perhaps the most *distingué* of all was a shower bouquet given by Mme. Alphen Salvador, of the roses of France, tied with the colours of France, this again was composed of the exquisite French rose, Mme. Chateney.

The Chairman then announced that M. André Mesureur would confer a signal honour on Miss Isla Stewart, and that he was commissioned to convey to her a special medal from the *Assistance Publique* of Paris.

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