

The Passing of Miss Isla Stewart.

On Thursday, March 10th, with every tribute of affection and respect, Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, was laid to rest.

AT CHILWORTH.

As we briefly stated last week, the end came at Chilworth, Surrey, on Sunday, March 6th, where, with her friend, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, she had gone for a short rest. They left town on the previous Thursday, and on Saturday a very happy letter was received at the hospital from Miss Stewart, but on Saturday morning she was not well, and the local doctor was summoned. In the afternoon Mrs. Fenwick telegraphed to St. Bartholomew's for a nurse, Miss Stewart herself naming Miss L. M. Low, Night Superintendent, as the one to be sent. By a later train, in response to another telegram, Miss Janet Stewart, her sister, accompanied by Dr. Horder, who has recently been attending her, and Miss E. Nicholson, Superintendent of the Nurses' Home, arrived at Chilworth, and on Sunday, Miss Cutler, the Assistant Matron, went down also. Everything possible was done for her, but nothing availed, and she passed to her rest on Sunday at 8.15 p.m. It was surely an ideal end—the end she herself would have wished—in harness till the last, and then two golden days in the peace and loveliness of the country, spent with the friend with whom she had been associated in her public work, for over twenty years of close comradeship and affection, and attended in her last hours by a member of the staff of the hospital she had served so faithfully, and nursed with affectionate devotion by those who owed their skill to her teaching and training.

AT THE HOSPITAL.

On the Monday evening, accompanied by Miss Borthwick (Sister Lawrence), and Miss Nicholson, the remains of their beloved Matron were brought back to the hospital, and were received at the Smithfield entrance by the Sisters, the flag which floats over the hospital as a mark of its Royal foundation drooping sorrowfully at half-mast. Then as the body was carried into the mortuary chapel, beautified by loving hands with fragrant Madonna lilies, the Sisters, with Lady Hampden Smith, a former Sister and intimate friend, formed in procession, and followed it into the mortuary chapel, where a short service was held, conducted by the hospitaller, the Rev. H. S. Close, and the Rev. Dr. Lewthwaite, Vicar of St. Paul's, Clerkenwell. So she came back to the hospital, to rest for awhile in charge of the Sisters

and nurses who loved her well, and who were keenly conscious of many kindnesses and gracious actions towards them on the part of the Matron who took so real an interest in their personal and professional welfare.

On the Tuesday the mortuary chapel was in charge of Miss Birch, House Sister, who is usually responsible for it, and of Sister Martha, who ordinarily undertakes to supply and arrange the flowers, and on the Wednesday the Sisters were on duty in rotation for half-an-hour at a time.

THE CHAMBER OF PEACE.

Throughout Wednesday many reverent feet trod the steps leading to the quiet sanctuary. Sisters, nurses, members of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, maids from the wards, and the Home, and members of the civil staff, all came to visit the place where the mortal remains of their Matron lay enshrined. And surely something of its peace and beauty stole into the hearts which were sore for her, and brought a sense of comfort and rest.

The casket, of plain unpolished oak, with a brass plate inscribed "Isla Stewart," and the dates of her birth and death, lay in simple dignity before the altar with its pure white lilies, and on it, or near by, rested the flowers sent by those who were closest to her. The cross sent by the Nursing Staff of the hospital, composed of orchids, lilies of the valley, and white heather, nearly covered it. It bore the inscription, in letters of gold, on a white ribbon, "In loving memory from her Nurses," at the foot was the hospital shield, carried out in white stock, and purple violets, fringed with orchids, and with a knot of black and white ribbon, inscribed, in silver letters, "To our dear Matron, from her Sisters, St. Bartholomew's Hospital"; deep crimson roses were sent by those who knew her love for them—by her sister, Miss Janet Stewart, by Miss Cutler, whose lovely wreath hung at the head of the casket, and by Miss Amy Tibbett, who served her so faithfully and devotedly. At the foot was a beautiful wreath of orange tulips and deep yellow daffodils "from the private nursing staff in affectionate remembrance." In a place of honour also was the wreath bearing the words, "Dear Isla Stewart, from her friend Ethel Fenwick," composed of Madonna and Eucharis lilies, lilies of the valley, orchids, frezia, and white tulips, with Parma violets interspersed, and opposite a bunch of white heather, sent by Sir Rudolph and Lady Hampden Smith.

From the Medical and Surgical Staff came a wreath of lilac, lilies, and smilax; from the

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