

### In Memoriam.

At the Meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, to be held on April 22nd, Miss Mollett, the Hon. Secretary, will give a short valedictory address in memory of the Founder of the Council, touching on the irreparable loss sustained by the members in the death of their President.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, held on April 8th, it was agreed to invite representatives of nursing societies with which the late Miss Isla Stewart was associated to meet at the Hospital on Saturday afternoon, April 30th, to confer on the question of an appropriate Memorial. The President, Miss Cox-Davies, will preside.

#### THE CANADIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

MY DEAR MRS. FENWICK,—I am writing to express my sympathy, and the sympathy of all Canadian nurses, not only for yourself, but for all nurses across the sea, who have known and loved the late Miss Isla Stewart, the honoured Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

In the first sad hours of grief, such an irreparable loss seems altogether appalling, but the influence of her life can never cease, and its impelling force will, we trust, bring to the great cause she loved, others who will continue the work begun by her, in accordance with her high ideals.

"They shall rest from their labours, and their works do follow them."

Yours faithfully,

MARY AGNES SNIVELY,

President, Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses.  
Toronto.

#### THE DANISH COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Mrs. Hans Koch, the Secretary of the Danish Council of Nurses, has forwarded to the President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland the following letter:

DEAR MADAM,—The sad tidings of the death of Miss Isla Stewart has been received by the members of the Danish Council of Nurses with great sympathy and sincere regret.

We fully realise how much the nursing profession of Great Britain has lost in Miss Stewart, and we wish to add that we feel sure that your sisters from all over the world, who through the International Council of Nurses have had the privilege and the pleasure of learning to know Miss Isla Stewart, participate with all their heart in your loss.

We know what a beautiful and noble life hers was. May it be an example and an encouragement to us all.

In deep sympathy,  
For the Danish Council of Nurses,

HENNY TSCHERNING,  
President.  
Copenhagen.

### Care of the Body After Death.

#### NOTES OF AN ADDRESS DELIVERED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

By THE REV. E. F. RUSSELL,  
Chaplain-General of the Guild of St. Barnabas.

#### INTRODUCTORY.

In introducing the subject, the speaker said that the question of the care of the body by no means belonged to him; his function generally ended where that of the nurse began, and, with the other friends of the dead, he was dismissed that the nurse might do her own particular work. So he could not speak as an expert. But there was an art as well as a science of nursing, and when you came to the art of nursing that concerned the mind, the morale, the character, the objects, the ideals of the nurse, with all of which things he was bound to have something to do.

He begged nurses not to lose their idealism, and related that it had been said somewhere that one day the Synthesis, and Reason, and Abstraction met and wished to confer together. They began by putting Feeling and Sentiment outside the door, but Feeling took the light with her and left them in the dark. So it would surely be found in nursing or in any department of women's work that if Sentiment were put outside the door she would take with her the light that was all important.

He then related the tale of the "Brothers of Pity" (Fratelle de la Misericordia), as told by Mrs. Ewing, that great Brotherhood who have for centuries charged themselves with the care of the sick and the dying, and especially of the friendless dead, and who are beloved without measure in Italy as the friends of the friendless, and how a small boy coming on a picture of the Brothers in his godfather's library tried to follow their example by giving honourable burial to the dead bodies of birds, and frogs, and beetles. "There you get the unspoiled instinct of a compassionate child's heart."

#### A PLEA FOR REVERENT PITY IN THE CARE OF THE DEAD.

The speaker then said:—

Some of us perhaps can remember—and we find it difficult to forget—the first time that we looked upon the face of the dead. Of course it is absolutely impossible that the poignant emotion of our first view of the dead face should remain with us; indeed it is not desirable that it should.

I always remember, and to some of you I have quoted, that little sentence of dear old Dr. John Brown's, whose name is one always to be thought of with love and veneration, who, speaking of one of the great Scotch sur-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)