

expressed her amazement and indignation at the appointment against which the meeting was called to protest. When she first heard of it she thought it just a joke in very bad taste—it seemed too outrageous to be true. She spoke of the whole-hearted enthusiasm and self-sacrifice of Miss Stewart in her work, not only for the good of St. Bartholomew's Training School, but for the whole nursing profession. Amongst other things, Miss Stewart felt most strongly the absolute necessity of a minimum of three years' training in the wards for all nurses. The speaker said she felt most acutely, as all Bart's nurses did, the slight and insult to Miss Stewart's memory, that a lady trained in the School was not appointed as her successor, and that indignation was increased tenfold by the fact that the institution from which the new Matron came grants its certificate at the end of two years. Had there been no good women trained under Miss Stewart available for the post, and well equipped for it, Bart's nurses could have made no complaint of the Governors going outside their own hospital, but even then they had a right to expect the authorities would have made a three years' certificate a *sine qua non*, and that they would have appointed a lady who had already held a Matron's post—but they did neither.

Those who loved Miss Stewart had been united in one common bond of sorrow—they were now united in one common sentiment. All felt most truly thankful she had passed away, and had been spared this cruel blow, which would assuredly have broken her loyal heart.

The Chairman then invited Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, formerly Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to support the resolution.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that she ardently supported every clause of the Resolution, because a sense of righteous indignation prompted her to instantly protest against an incredible injustice to the living and the dead.

"Who," she asked, "could have imagined that, with tears still salt in the mouth for the loss they have so recently sustained, that hundreds of Bart's nurses, during the past shameful week, should have cried passionately, 'Thank God she is dead,' and that it is a relief to us to know that our dear Isla Stewart sleeps serenely in her little green grave. She had a tender heart; ingratitude base and bitter might have broken it.

"Her faithful sisters stand sentinel, knowing full well that no power of evil can tarnish her fame. To-night we must make that quite clear. Callous and cruel has been the indignity offered to her memory, but a record of such noble service, such blessed kindness, such exquisite loyalty in every relation of life possesses a sweet savour, an imperishable and exhilarating essence, which is, and must for ever remain, a joy.

"She has out-soared the shadow of our night."

Mrs. Fenwick then read the letter sent by the King (then Prince of Wales), President of the Hospital, to Lord Sandhurst, the Treasurer, on the occasion of Miss Stewart's death, when Sir Arthur Bigge wrote:—

"His Royal Highness had known Miss Stewart

for some years, and fully realises what a great power for good she was, not only in the administration, but as a personal influence in the hospital."

And an extract from the Report of the Treasurer to the Governors, April, 1910, in which Lord Sandhurst writes:—

"As head of the nursing staff Miss Stewart did much to improve the system of education and training of the nurses, and thereby secured greater efficiency in the nursing of the Hospital, which I understand from the medical staff is of an unusually high standard.

"Although my personal acquaintance with Miss Stewart extended over little more than a year, I frequently had occasion to consult her on matters of importance, and I at once realised that the Hospital had in her an officer of very exceptional ability."

With this official testimony before them Mrs. Fenwick thought the Governors, whom she has always found reasonable men, would want to know, as that meeting wanted to know, why Miss Stewart's pupils had been penalised, and her system ignored, by the Election Committee, which had appointed a Matron's Assistant to succeed her in office.

Mrs. Fenwick referred also to the point in the resolution, that the lady appointed came from a hospital where nursing is guaranteed after an insufficient *two years'* term of training, and to the consequent depreciation of the value of the St. Bartholomew's certificate of *three years' training* in the wards. All the world over that certificate has been the open sesame to professional preferment of the highest responsibility.

Mrs. Fenwick contrasted the conditions at St. Bartholomew's where the remuneration was good, no sweating of private nurses permitted, and where liberty of speech and conscience were conceded to all, and thus loyalty to authority maintained, with those at the London Hospital, where a certificate is awarded after two years' experience, for which upwards of £100 must if possible be paid, or in lieu thereof a further term of indentured labour is exacted, when at least this sum is deducted from the fees paid for the services of nurses on the private staff. The system was frankly commercial.

She then referred to the action of the authorities at St. Thomas's, Guy's, and King's College Hospitals within recent years, who invited distinguished Matrons, trained in their own schools, to return and superintend the School of their Alma Mater. Why was not this done at Bart's, and even if it was thought wise to advertise the post, why was an age limit inserted known to exclude all the most prominent women trained in the School, and why did the advertisement require no substantial professional experience from candidates for so important a post. The appointment made, when first announced, seemed so incredible and monstrous that it was considered a libel on the Election Committee. But this unspeakable thing had been done.

"We want," said Mrs. Fenwick, "an inquiry because we want to know why this outrage has been perpetrated. Alas! man is very much man

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