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## Editorial.

### THE ISLA STEWART SCHOLAR.

When the question of a National Memorial to the late Miss Isla Stewart was considered, the Committee formed to further the scheme were unanimously of opinion that nothing could be so appropriate as one which would afford increased educational facilities to nurses. Throughout her distinguished professional career Miss Stewart identified herself with the promotion and improvement of nursing education, realising that education on the right lines was the keynote of that nursing efficiency which is of the utmost importance to the community, and she was especially anxious that opportunities should be afforded to nurses—who had shown evidence in their training of executive ability—of obtaining instruction fitting them to undertake the duties of Superintendents of Training Schools and other administrative posts. It is a curious coincidence that, without consultation, our colleagues in the United States should have decided upon a similar memorial to the late Mrs. Hampton Robb, who, in America, held much the same relation to the nursing world as that filled by Miss Stewart in this country. In this connection Miss L. L. Dock writes: "How lovely and beautiful your memorial to Miss Stewart. Is it not a sweet coincidence that we both thought of the same kind of memorial to our departed ones?"

The proposal that the scholarship to be established as a memorial to our great leader should be tenable at Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York, is a very happy one, for true education is acquired from books to a limited extent only—most valuable is the knowledge gained by foreign travel, by contact with others, by observing many points of view; and the privilege of

passing through the course at Teachers' College, under the guidance of Miss A. M. Nutting, R.N., and other leading Superintendents of Nurses in the United States, must be a liberal education for any trained nurse.

The aim of the Memorial Committee is to collect a sufficient sum to endow a scholarship in perpetuity; but this will take time, and it is desired that the first Isla Stewart scholar should go into residence at Teachers' College in September next. The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, therefore, have guaranteed the £160 which it is estimated will be required for the year's expenses, and will have the honour of maintaining, as the first scholar, one of their own members. It is fitting that the first nurse to hold this scholarship should be a graduate of the school to which Miss Stewart devoted the best years of her life; it is fitting also that when the permanent memorial takes shape the scholarship—to hold which will be a most coveted honour—should be open to the graduates of other schools also. This is in accordance with Miss Stewart's generous breadth of view, which was not limited to one school, but included the better education of the nursing profession as a whole.

When the proposition was first made that a memorial should be established which should worthily commemorate Miss Isla Stewart, the only thought in the minds of those initiating the scheme was that of honouring a great woman. The events of the last few weeks have unfortunately made them aware that the additional duty is now imposed upon them of guarding a reputation happily too great to be tarnished by desecrating hands, and of protecting the memory of the silent dead from premeditated detraction.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)