

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AND ISLA STEWART.

The graduating class of 1911 were the guests at the annual luncheon of the Nurses' Association of the Toronto General Hospital Training School for Nurses, held in the beautiful grounds of the hospital.

Miss Snively was present, greatly to the delight of the members, and her successor in office as Lady Superintendent, Miss R. L. Stewart, upon the conclusion of her address on "Superintendents of Training Schools," proposed two toasts which were honoured in silence—one to the late Florence Nightingale, Mother of Nursing, and one to the late Isla Stewart, her brilliant pupil, "whose noble work and untiring zeal for the profession of nursing will never cease to be remembered."

How gratifying it is to those of us who shared her labours, and knew her noble mind, that already throughout the great Canadian Continent, the name of Isla Stewart should be naturally associated with that of Florence Nightingale for honourable recognition by Canadian nurses! As time passes it will become universally recognised that no pupil trained in the Nightingale School for Nurses can ever quite attain the altruistic altitude touched by Isla Stewart in her devotion to professional ideals. The work she initiated is done. It cannot be repeated or undone. Resting on the rock of right, neither stress nor storm of contending interests can sweep it away. It was not the least of the sacrifices she made for us—the profession, as a whole—that her courageous demand for nursing unity and legislation brought her into acute controversy with the authorities of her Alma Mater at St. Thomas' Hospital, and resulted in a futile attempt upon the part of these men to depreciate her genius—by ignoring her existence. Just realise the situation.

The woman possessed of stupendous personality; ardently generous and upright, inspired by the flaming conscience and intelligence which alone produce the great citizen—neither to be intimidated nor bribed.

For she stood firm for the interests of the rank and file—herself holding the blue ribbon of the nursing profession—even when death came creeping nearer hour by hour, *from which she never turned her face.*

Then the Passing.

And what of her antagonists?

Shameful silence. Not one word of regret—or a flower to grace her grave—came from

the Training School of which she was, and will ever remain, the greatest pupil and glory!

Dear Canadian colleagues, your spontaneous veneration for the eminence of Isla Stewart reflects upon you the honour which you accord to her. We thank you.

E. G. F.

THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

Trained nurses are extending their usefulness and influence very rapidly in the mission field; and the impetus given to the movement in this country is largely due to the untiring work of the officers of the Nurses' Missionary League. We are indebted to Miss H. Y. Richardson for the following information, concerning the forthcoming activities of the League:—

Farewell Meetings.—The usual farewell meetings, to wish God-speed to the members of the League who are sailing for the Foreign Mission field this autumn, will be held on Wednesday, October 4th, at the University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C. There will be two meetings in the morning, from 10-30 to 11-15, and from 11-30 to 12-15, and among the speakers will be Mrs. Douglas Thornton and Miss Kirkpatrick. In the afternoon there will be a *conversazione*, at which it is hoped several missionaries will be present, and Mrs. Ashton Bond, of Uganda, will speak. In the evening, the "Sailing" members will each say a few words, and a lantern address will be given by A. T. Kember, Esq., F.R.C.S., of Hangchow, China. Further particulars will be given in the invitations which will be sent out with *Nurses Near and Far*, the official organ of the League, at the end of September, but it is hoped that members will make an effort to be present, and to bring as many friends with them as possible. Some members will, unfortunately, have sailed before October 4th, and so will not be able to be present.

Will members who are sailing for the mission field this autumn kindly let Miss Richardson know as soon as possible, giving her details as to their destination, society, and expected date of departure?

Lectures.—Arrangements are being made for a Course of Five Lectures to be given in November, at the University Hall, Gordon Square. The subjects will be as follows:—

1. "Some main objections to Christian Missions."
2. "The Problem of Pain: Has Christ an answer?" (Nov. 8th.)

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