

THE ISLA STEWART ORATION.

Referring editorially to the Harveian Oration *The Times* said: "Among the various devices which have been adopted for the purpose of keeping alive the memory of some great benefactor of the human race, few have been more efficacious, or more likely to promote the following of his example, than the delivery of an annual oration descriptive of the character of his work, of the consequences which flowed from its performance, and of the lines upon which it might be continued for the benefit of the present and of future generations. The method lends itself with special advantage to the commemoration of discoveries made by a great physician or a great surgeon, whose researches have laid the foundations of new developments of the art of healing and have prepared the way for changes fraught with benefit for countless thousands of mankind. Among such men the first place must undoubtedly be given to William Harvey, the discoverer of the circulation of the blood, in whose honour the Fellows of the College of Physicians are annually exhorted to follow his example of searching out 'the secrets of Nature by the way of experiment' in order that the knowledge thus acquired may be applied to the cure or to the prevention of disease, and, consequently, to the general promotion of the welfare, the longevity, and the happiness of the present and of future generations."

This was the fundamental principle contained in Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's suggestion, as President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, that the Council's memorial to its late revered President, Miss Isla Stewart, should take the form of an annual oration, for, as time goes on, the value of her work for humanity, and for the nursing profession which she served with such loyalty and devotion, will be more and more apparent, and the consequences which flow from its performance will increase in ever-widening circles.

It is fitting that, by the kindness of the Lord Mayor and Corporation, the first of these orations should be delivered in the Guildhall of the City of London. It was to the sick in the great hospital of St. Bartholomew—the only general hospital within the City boundaries—that twenty-three years of Miss Stewart's life were devoted.

The oration will be delivered on the evening of Friday, November 24th, at 8 o'clock, by Miss R. Cox-Davies, President of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, and Principal Matron of No. 1 (City of London) Hospital of the Territorial Force Nursing Ser-

vice. This is, we believe, the first occasion on which an oration will be delivered in honour of a woman, and it will therefore be specially interesting, not only to Miss Stewart's pupils and friends in the nursing world, who need no such reminder to keep her memory green, but to women generally.

IN MEMORY OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

"I just hate memorials!" we heard a Matron exclaim last week, "they only expose the disloyalty and ingratitude of human nature." We had been discussing the result of the appeal of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee. First of all the fussy interference of people who had in no way been associated with her in life; secondly, the jealous monopoly of the right to dictate how the genius of the Lady of the Law should be commemorated, by a few hospital officials; thirdly, the insufferable attitude of this self-elected little oligarchy towards the rank and file of the profession who, by their arduous work, are carrying on the great traditions of the founder of skilled nursing.

The manner in which the Memorial has been muddled is entirely the fault of the Executive Committee of the Fund, and their failure might have been predicted from the first.

But to turn to their report placed before the few members of the General Committee who attended the tardily summoned meeting last week, we find that 12,000 appeals have been sent out at the astounding expenditure of £300, that this huge expenditure has only resulted in the receipt of £2,803—a net result of £2,503. Advertisements were inserted in a large number of papers—fancy a paid public appeal for funds in such a cause! Could anything be more absolutely tactless and hurtful to the feelings of Miss Nightingale's family, to whom she was almost a sacred personality?

Collecting sheets were issued through the Matrons to hospitals and nursing schools throughout the United Kingdom and the Colonies, to the members of the House of Lords and the House of Commons, to the Mayors of England and Scotland, to the Army and Navy, and to medical men. We are informed that nurses have given about £500, soldiers some £750, so that the community at large have only contributed some £1,550, and to extract this miserable pittance has cost 11 per cent. Failing public support the Committee of the Fund will now appeal to the money bags of the City

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