

THE ISLA STEWART ORATION.

The evening of Friday, November 24th, 1911, will long be remembered by those privileged to take part in the ceremony of the first Isla Stewart Oration, in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall of the City of London. It was indeed an occasion of historic interest, which the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland organised in commemoration of a most illustrious nurse, who was for nearly a quarter of a century Matron of the great hospital of St. Bartholomew within the City boundaries, for although Orations in honour of famous men have been founded to keep alive the memory of the great dead, never before has this method been adopted to commemorate the life and work of a noble woman.

The atmosphere of the Council Chamber was in strong contrast to the bleakness of the elements outside. All was light and warmth and brightness. The beautiful twelve-sided chamber, with its richly carved screens glazed with the arms of the livery companies, had been decorated with lovely chrysanthemums by Miss Beatrice Cutler, the Hon. Secretary of the National Council, who during the last years of Miss Stewart's life rendered her such loyal and competent service in her capacity of Assistant Matron, and by Sisters of the hospital who acted as stewards. These were Miss Simpkin (Sister Hope), Miss Patterson (Sister Mary), Miss M'Cormac (Sister Matthew), Miss Clowes (Sister Casualty), Miss Latham (Sister President), Miss Nuttall (Sister Colston), and Miss Vergette.

In the place of honour was a vase, once a favourite possession of Miss Stewart's, filled with beautiful yellow chrysanthemums, and as the stewards showed the members of the League—many of whom were in the indoor uniform of the hospital—to their allotted seats, they gave to those who were not already provided crimson roses, which of all flowers were most beloved by Miss Stewart, and a beautiful bunch of the same lovely flowers decorated the platform table.

Punctually at 8.30 Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the National Council of Trained Nurses, took the Chair. On her right was Mrs. May Wright Sewall, Founder of the International Council of Women, and on her left Miss Cox-Davies, President of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. Those who were invited to seats on the platform, the majority of whom were present, and many of whom had been associated with Miss Stewart in her work, were the Lady

Helen Munro Ferguson, Member of the Advisory Council Territorial Force Nursing Service; Lady Dimsdale, Vice-Chair, and Lady Beachcroft, members of the Executive Committee of the Service for the City and County of London; Lady Strachey, President of the Women's Local Government Society; Miss E. S. Haldane, LL.D., Vice-Chairman Advisory Council Territorial Force Nursing Service; Mrs. Perrin, President of the Society of Women Journalists; Miss Annie Damer, past-President of the American Nurses' Association; Mlle. Gosselin and Mlle. Bordet, officially representing the Nursing School of the *Assistance Publique* at Paris, Miss M. Peyton Jones (Member of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, Australia; Miss L. V. Haughton, Matron of Guy's Hospital; Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C. (Matron-in-Chief T.F.N.S.); Miss Amy Hughes, General Superintendent Q.V.J. Institute; Mrs. Shuter, Hon. Secretary Isla Stewart Memorial Committee; and the Presidents and Officers of the following Leagues and Societies affiliated to the National Council of Trained Nurses:—Miss M. Heather-Bigg (Matrons' Council), Miss E. Barton (Chelsea), Miss H. L. Pearse (School Nurses), Miss L. Baker (St. John's House), Miss Cartwright (Registered Nurses' Society), Miss Elma Smith (Central London Sick Asylum, Hendon Branch), Miss C. B. Leigh (Cleveland Street Branch), Miss A. Smith (Kingston), Miss G. Rogers (Leicester), Miss M. Mollett (Royal South Hants), Miss E. M. Musson (Birmingham), Miss C. Forrester (Victoria and Bournemouth), Miss I. C. Keogh (Irish Nurses' Association), the Lady Hermione Blackwood (Ulster Branch I.N.A.), Miss B. Kelly (Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin), Miss M. Breay, Hon. Secretary, Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, and Miss B. Cutler, Hon. Secretary National Council of Trained Nurses. Filling the seats in the centre of the Council Chamber, and looking down from the gallery by which it is surrounded, were professional colleagues, friends, and former pupils of Miss Isla Stewart, the white caps and trim uniforms of many of them adding greatly to the picturesque quality of a memorable scene.

THE CEREMONY.

In opening the meeting the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, said:—

The heroic has always appealed to the human heart.

Thus we surmise that the Valkyrie, when they bore hence the souls of those warriors, decreed worthy to be slain in battle, acclaimed

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