

their valour as they passed into the light of Valhalla!

In the Saga, in which are comprised the mythology and history of the Northern races, the note of their clangour was also sounded on Courage.

In mediæval times the troubadour sang in courtly style the praises of chivalry and love.

Later, Science acclaimed the deeds of its Masters in academic Oration.

Always has humanity craved immortality, and inspired praise of the great dead. The material passes—the essence remains. Thus those of us who knew and loved Isla Stewart would share with those who knew her not, and those to come; the inspiration of her fine personality, we would have the nurses of the world know, from generation to generation, of her courage and chivalry, of her loyalty and love.

For this purpose we members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland are here to-night, to listen to and acclaim the first Oration to be delivered in her honour. But the eager desire to venerate her memory is not a national impulse only. Here we have Letters from the Nurses of Germany, of France, of Canada. Miss Annie Damer, a past-President of the American Nurses' Association, and Mrs. May Wright Sewall, the founder of the International Council of Women, are present to take part in the Ceremony. Mlle. Gosselin and Mlle. Bordet represent officially the great Nursing School of the *Assistance Publique* at Paris. Miss Keogh, the President of the Irish Nurses' Association, and Lady Hermione Blackwood, the President of its Ulster Branch, are also here, and with them the Presidents of the numerous nursing associations which owe so much of their vitality to the great example of Isla Stewart. We have also the support of many women working in the front rank of the movement for the social elevation of the human race, of which trained nursing is but a part.

From those absent—yet present in spirit—many letters of regret have been received, a few of which I will read to you—

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

DEAR MRS. FENWICK,—As President of the International Council of Nurses I should regard it as a high privilege to be with you and take part in the Ceremony of the first Isla Stewart Oration. Unhappily my work prevents it. Will you, therefore, kindly give a message of deepest sympathy to the Assembly. To remember Isla Stewart is not only the duty of British Nurses, but of nurses all over the world, as her life's work has been an inspiration for all of them in furthering the highest ideals of our profession.

In a few months we hope to see all of you in Cologne for the meeting of the International Council and Congress of Nurses, which will be inspired by the spirit of the dear pioneers we have lost. Then we will commemorate together those dear to our hearts and Isla Stewart will stand first.

You are quite right, we must not mourn that she has left us, but rejoice that a great woman like Isla Stewart gave the whole of her life to our beloved work.

I was glad to read that such distinguished friends from over seas as Miss Damer and Mrs. May Wright Sewall will be with you, and that such a large circle of the leading nurses in the United Kingdom will gather together for the Oration.

I have to forward another message of love and sympathy from the nurses of my own country. Isla Stewart is not forgotten by any of those who came in touch with her, and the name of this splendid woman is well known and held in honour by every member of the German Nurses' Association.

Ever truly yours,

AGNES KARLL,
*President of the International Council
of Nurses, and of the German Nurses'
Association.*

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

To Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President National
Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

MY DEAR MRS. FENWICK,—As the representative of the Trained Nurses of the Dominion of Canada, may I be permitted, on this great occasion, not only on my own behalf, but on behalf of the Nursing Profession of Canada, to join with you in offering our tribute of appreciation of the character and life's work of the late Isla Stewart. For nearly a quarter of a century the late Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital was known to the trained nurses of Canada as a woman possessed of great strength of character, lofty ideals, fixedness of purpose, courage and devotion.

We knew her not only as a great nurse devoting her life to the welfare of the sick, endeavouring to perfect the management of the great Hospital she superintended, training and educating hundreds of young women, who counted it no small honour to receive their education in nursing under her wise guidance and just rule, but also as a woman who had a fine and generous outlook, full of public spirit, who did not confine her energies and talents wholly to her own immediate sphere of work, but was ever gracious and willing to devote both voice and pen to assist in the furtherance of high ideals and educational standards among nurses the world over.

The name of Isla Stewart will appear on the pages of history as one of the great nurses of the twentieth century! But not until that last great day when "the books shall be opened" will it be known how many noble and devoted nurses of

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