

sinned a second time. . . . She reigned supreme by the power of her own strong personality. She needed to make no rules, because she trusted her people, and because she trusted them they gave her of the very best. She made for herself a high standard, filled her life with high ideals, and, because she did so, we her nurses who loved her, and served her because we loved her, tried to do the same.

She served the authorities of her hospital with the utmost loyalty, gave them of her most devoted, most cultured, most reliable labour. Because she did so she taught us smaller people what was meant by *esprit de corps*, what was meant by loyalty to your hospital. Is it any wonder that round about our dear old hospital there grew up that clannish feeling which made it said, not always without some envy and jealousy. "Oh, you Barts people are so proud of yourselves: you always hang together"?

We were proud of ourselves, unspeakably proud of our fine old hospital, proud beyond words of our magnificent training, and the centre of it all was our Matron.

Our evening would be ill spent if we did not, before we part, try to gather up and take away with us, for our own use, two or three lessons from her character. I have chosen three qualities that most appeal to me; and I take her

*Courage.*—The main part of Miss Isla Stewart's public work for twenty-three years was done on the unpopular side, . . . deliberately, as a matter of conscience, she chose the path that was beset with thorns because she considered the best interests of the nurses themselves, and the suffering humanity they cared for, demanded that she should do so. She gave herself—her high position, as far as was compatible with her duty to those she served, and whose opinions did not always coincide with her own—her intellect, her time, her money. With the utmost generosity she gave of all these things to the unpopular side of nursing politics. Some women are born leaders, born fighters. This was not so with Miss Isla Stewart. . . . With a fixity of purpose that was dauntless, that allowed of no side issues, she just went forward, and never admitted the possibilities of defeat. To many of us is given the don't care courage of disposition, to how few the cultivated true courage of principle that sweeps all aside in its straight journey to the one true end.

Next I take her *justice*. Her most generous one-eyed quality of justice. The justice that made her words ring true, that made her nurses reverence her as their Leader. The justice that made her respected in her life and in her death, by friends and opponents alike. And lastly, *Charity*. Her wonderful gift of loving-kindness.

Which of us ever heard Miss Isla Stewart say an unkind word of her fellow men and women? Often misjudged, often misunderstood, often held up to the scorn of her world by those who seemed wholly unable to recognise or appreciate the qualities within her, which of us ever heard her give the hard and unkind word back?

And so we close our book of memories, and turn our faces from the bright light behind once again to the strenuous work-a-day life in front of us, grateful, happy and cheered for the gift in our lifetime of so good a friend, so large-hearted and generous-natured a woman, so great a leader.

I should like before I close to acknowledge my great indebtedness to the many kind friends who have helped me from their recollections of Miss Isla Stewart in putting together this record of her life and work. To her sister, Miss Janet Stewart, to her two old friends, Dr. Caiger and Dr. Bruce, to many of her fellow workers, and last, but not least, to the close friend who shared with her all her highest ideals for our profession—Mrs. Bedford Fenwick—who, with the most generous unselfishness, has been always ready with a suggestion here, a guiding hand there, to put the whole into shape; to one and all of these I would ask you to add your word of gratitude with mine to-night.

Miss Cox-Davies resumed her seat amidst loud applause.

Miss Annie Damer, having been presented to the meeting as "one of the leading trained nurse-superintendents of the United States, a past President of the American Nurses' Association, and one who of late years has taken a leading part in all branches of sociological and preventive nursing," rose to support the Oration.

#### TRIBUTE OF MISS ANNIE DAMER.

Miss Damer said: No words of mine can add to the eloquent tribute which we have just heard, but I desire to testify to one thing—the inspiration which Miss Isla Stewart has been to us in America in regard to nursing education and registration.

All true genuine Americans when they come to England desire to go to Plymouth to see the spot from which the *Mayflower* set sail, and we are apt to think that the *Mayflower* carried all the pioneers to America, and that since that time the pioneering work has been done on the other side, but in regard to nursing organisation you in this country have "blazed the trail." for us. In pioneer work two different and difficult phases are encountered. First there is the land covered with forests which the pioneers

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