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## EDITORIAL.

### THE POWER OF EXAMPLE.

There is nothing more potent in the world than the power of example which, often unknown, liberates forces which influence thought and action.

Those who came under the influence of the late Miss Isla Stewart need no reminder of her most lovable personality, but they in their turn will pass, and it was a happy determination upon the part of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland to arrange that biennially an Oration bearing her name should remind nurses, in the generations to come, of one who having gained a foremost place in her profession set so fine an example, regarding her high position as a trust, to be used for the welfare of others. A trust which she discharged so well that it is as a leader of nurses rather than as the Matron in the great hospital whose honour she guarded so jealously, that she will be remembered and honoured by future generations of nurses.

On Thursday, November 27th, the Isla Stewart Oration was delivered by Miss Mollett, whose genius of pen and speech is well known, and who further had the advantage of intimate association with Miss Stewart in much of her public work. We can best do justice to this fine Oration, which is to be published in pamphlet form, by one or two quotations.

"Isla Stewart never forgot that she was a citizen of the world. The recognition of this truth bears with it obligations she never failed to acknowledge and carry into practice, no matter at what cost to herself. She showed an unflinching courage in championing the views she held to be right. Frank, open, and loyal in her public life she allowed no fears for her personal well being

to hinder her in the work and methods she felt to be true and just. Of her strong belief in the future and possibilities of our profession, I need say little; it is well known to us all; it was a driving force, a motor power, so strong with her that it carried conviction with it, and exercised an astounding influence on those with whom she came in contact. With strength, courage and humour, she faced the inevitable opposition against progress, championed our cause, and accepted victory or defeat with equal serenity. She was very hard to beat for, like the English at Waterloo, she did not know when she was beaten. Her death has left a void that has not been filled, and a memory that will not lightly fall to the ground.

"Great is the power of example.

"The record of a noble life, the triumph of great endeavour has the power to rouse us like a trumpet call; it pricks us like a spur when we are sluggish or indolent; these heroes were of our flesh and blood, great as their achievements may have been, they were earth of our earth, as they struggled, we struggle; as they were tempted, we are tempted, as they won, we may win. Amongst them are those whose example leads us to the highest heights, their words and deeds pass before us like a glorious roll of drums, leading us to brave battles. They bore themselves well, and we in our humble way must bear ourselves well to be worthy of them. . . .

"Never for one moment did Isla Stewart falter in her allegiance to the principles that should raise nursing to the status and dignity of a profession; she had no manner of doubt that ultimately this would be brought about, but had she seen no hope of its fulfilment, she would still have fought simply and unaffectedly for what she held to be right and just."

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