

## THE ISLA STEWART GIFT OF REMEMBRANCE.

The beautiful Lecture Hall at the British College of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, London, W., was an ideal setting for the presentation by the Isla Stewart Memorial Committee of the Gift of Remembrance, which, with fitting ceremony, was dedicated to the honoured memory of this noble woman on November 15th, when a large number of her friends and former pupils who hold her in affectionate remembrance assembled for this purpose.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Chairman of the British College of Nurses, presided, and briefly announced the object of the gathering.

She then invited the Rev. George Berens-Dowdeswell (who with Mrs. Dowdeswell, a Gold Medallist of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, had come up from Gloucestershire, to be present) to open the proceedings with prayer.

### Dedicatory Prayer.

Mr. Berens-Dowdeswell, who was vested in surplice and stole, then offered the following prayer:—

*O, Almighty God, Who useth all things for the advancement of Thy glory, bless, we beseech Thee, this Bookcase given in remembrance of Isla Stewart, for whose life and example we give Thee thanks, and grant that those who use its contents may advance Thy glory, grow in wisdom and grace, and help forward their fellow men, through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen.*

### Letter from Sir Thomas Horder, M.D., F.R.C.P.

The Chairman then said that it was a great disappointment that Sir Thomas Horder, Miss Stewart's medical attendant, who was with her at her death, and whom she held in great regard and affection, was unable to be present.

Mrs. Fenwick read the following letter from Sir Thomas:

"Dear Miss Hale,—It is with very great regret that I find I cannot be with you to participate in your dedication to-day. I had so hoped to be able to pay a small, but sincere, tribute to one who was such a pioneer in your profession, and such a loyal friend to many of us. The name of Isla Stewart is one which will continue to inspire innumerable members of the British College of Nurses, for the reason that it represents courage, enterprise, loyalty, and a high standard in the nursing profession.

I hope you will be able to add this brief message to the

words that will be spoken to-day, and that you will accept my sincere wishes for the Memorial Gift.

I am,

Yours very truly,

THOMAS HORDER."

### THE SPEECHES.

Mrs. Fenwick then called upon Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, a distinguished pupil, and close friend, of the late Miss Isla Stewart, to address the meeting.

### Speech of Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, S.R.N.

Mrs. Lancelot Andrews said: "It seems to me that there is something rather special about our meeting here to-day. We are accustomed, when anyone is greatly loved, for a memorial to be put up in his honour. Sometimes this is done in the first flush of sorrow, sometimes a later generation wakes up to the fact that a great character has passed away unrecognised and makes a tardy recognition.

The one which we are dedicating to-day comes into neither category. For seventeen years we have held in our hearts the memory of Isla Stewart with undiminished love, but there is no memorial to her, although we believe that, in the near future, there will be one in the hospital which she loved and in which she worked.

It has rested with one of her old and dear friends to propose the present memorial. One of the great principles which Miss Stewart held most dear was that of self-government. She desired that an Association of Nurses should be governed by the members, and by the members only, and there could be no more fitting place in which to commemorate her than The British College of Nurses, at a

special gathering of her friends, not for the moment as educationists, but as practical nurses.

Those of us who knew her at Bart.'s knew her not only as a nurse, but as a woman and a friend, knew her to be broadminded and large hearted. In debate nothing was taboo, unless it was religion—for Isla Stewart was a religious woman, as was shown more readily by acts than words. She was ever ready to give advice if asked for it, but she coerced no one. Misrepresentation and opposition did not pass her by in her work for the State Registration of Nurses. If the authorities of St. Bartholomew's Hospital had directed her not to take part in those early struggles I



ISLA STEWART,  
A Woman of Noble Qualities.

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