

decision accepted. This was as true in her family circle, as I had many opportunities of observing, as amongst her friends and acquaintances; and many were the instances in the old St. Thomas's days in which a patient's domestic difficulties were straightened out after consulting the Sister, so great was the reliance placed on her judgment.

Of her generosity it would be difficult to speak in terms of exaggeration. It was innate and spontaneous. When Isla Stewart gave, she gave unsparingly, and of her very best, whether in the form of counsel in time of difficulty, help in adversity, or the more material things which contribute to the enjoyment of life. Who can ever forget the lavish generosity displayed at those delightful parties and country outings at which she loved so much to entertain her friends!

This trait in Miss Stewart's character was strikingly expressed in her relations with children. Nothing afforded her greater pleasure than to give the youngsters a good time and to regale them with everything their young hearts and stomachs could desire. And she seemed to know intuitively what they liked best. This was exemplified in the case of my own son, who was fortunate enough to be her godchild, and who was consequently devoted to her.

Miss Stewart was fortunate in possessing a fine sense of humour, which, as is usually the case, not only contributed to her keen enjoyment of life, but, as she more than once confessed, frequently enabled her to surmount a situation which would otherwise have been intolerable. Miss Stewart also possessed to an unusual degree a sense of proportion, an endowment which, I am convinced, was largely responsible for the invariable soundness of her judgment.

Of her courage, her loyalty and sympathy in suffering, time, I fear, will not allow me to speak, but that Isla Stewart possessed the attributes of greatness will be recognised by all who knew her.

Her well-spent life was an inspiration. Her untimely death a calamity.

Two subjects were very near to her heart. The State Registration of Nurses and the Development of Co-operative Training—neither of which, unfortunately, did she live to see realised. The unsparing way in which our Chairman has worked for the fulfilment of the former is known to all, and in her efforts she was greatly assisted by the loyal and whole-hearted support of Isla Stewart. The movement in the direction of co-operative or reciprocal training has, so far, made but little headway, being largely hindered by the prejudice shown by the matrons of so many of the larger hospitals.

Although more than seventeen years have passed since Isla Stewart died, I can vividly recall that final scene when we laid her to rest one early spring morning on the slope of one of the beautiful hills which partly encircle the little town of Moffat. Standing at her graveside I then realised to the full, as did others there who loved her, that we were bidding farewell to a great personality and a splendid friend."

#### Speech of Miss Susan A. Villiers, S.R.N.

The third speaker was Miss S. A. Villiers.

Miss S. A. Villiers said:—"It is a great pleasure to those who knew Miss Isla Stewart in later days to hear, as we have heard to-day, of the beginning of her nursing career from her old friends. A characteristic which specially impressed me about her was her great, broadminded interest in all that concerned the nursing profession. She was the first Matron of a large general hospital to persuade her Committee to give facilities for co-operative training between general and infectious hospitals. That was 18 years ago, when most of the Matrons were against the proposal.

Miss Stewart was always careful to point out to her pupils the advantage of obtaining a knowledge of other branches of nursing besides general nursing.

Again she urged us to keep up our interest in things outside the Hospital. There were at St. Bartholomew's Hospital when I entered it as a probationer some very devoted women, holding the position of Sister, who seemed to have no interests outside their own wards, and it appeared almost to some of us that if we desired to be really good nurses we ought to adopt this line.

Miss Stewart encouraged recreation outside our work, and spoke to us, in her lectures, on this subject. I think that any Matron who points out to nurses early in their career the benefit of cultivating some outside interest is not only training women to be of greater use in public work than would otherwise be the case, but also to be pleasanter to their patients.

I am glad that the Isla Stewart Memorial Committee has decided to place this Memorial in The British College of Nurses. There are pioneers in all professions, and Miss Stewart is one of those who fought a most gallant fight."

#### Mrs. Fenwick's Remembrance.

Mrs. Fenwick speaking from the Chair said:—"I have listened to the words of remembrance spoken by devoted pupils and friends of Isla Stewart, with deep gratification, and although it is seventeen years since she passed away her personality is evidently still fresh in all their memories. I preceded her as Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and as she was not trained in that School it was not until after she was in residence that we became acquainted. Every woman is not sufficiently liberal minded to appreciate a predecessor—and when she invited me to tea and welcomed me warmly in the little old house in which I had spent so many happy years, I realised the generous qualities of character which set her apart, and commanded for her so much affection and loyalty.

From that day—until the day of her death some 23 years later—we worked in a happy friendship for the evolution of efficient nursing education in our profession and for the solidarity and legal status of Nurses. Alas! she did not live to see the Nurses' Registration Acts agreed in Parliament or to take part in carrying out their beneficent provisions, but Isla Stewart stood quite alone in professional rank in her devoted support of the bitterly opposed Registration reform campaign, and this was the more meritorious as she was not temperamentally cast for contest, but once convinced of its righteousness, she never swerved in its support, quite regardless of self-interest. Indeed, what I most admired about her was her acute conscience—and those of us who were privileged to work with her, watched her grow and grow and bloom wiser and greater every year. Her life enriched the annals of the Nursing Profession and shed lustre upon it—her death left imperishable regret—memory of her is all sweetness.

Isla Stewart loved literature—she handled and absorbed great books with reverence—so that it is meet that our Remembrance of her should be associated with this characteristic, and we all take part in the blessing of the Bookcase as intimately appropriate, also we have learned with great pleasure that the ground at St. Bartholomew's Hospital is now being cleared on which the Isla Stewart Library is to be erected by the munificence of the New Nurses' Home Fund, subscribed by members of the Nurses' League which she founded, and the generous concurrence of the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

I will now read from the inscription on this silver plate which is to be affixed to the Bookcase—

'In honoured memory of Isla Stewart, a woman of noble qualities, Matron and Superintendent of Nursing, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, 1887-1910. This Bookcase was placed in The British College of Nurses, on November 15th, 1927, by those who hold her in affectionate remembrance. In commemoration of her life-long devotion

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