

The Library is a charming octagonal room, oak panelled throughout, and, inset in an oak frame, with a suitable inscription below is the Plaque of Miss Stewart in bronze—a life-like portrait.

Above it the carving is semicircular in form and a laurel wreath, carved in oak, encircles the badge of the hospital. Let into the panels are ample bookshelves, with glass doors for the protection of the books; the deep window ledges give space for bearing heavy books and reading lamps, with chairs conveniently set. Comfortable arm chairs and small tables complete the furniture of this delightful room.

On June 1st, in the presence of many friends and pupils of Miss Isla Stewart, the Matron of the hospital, Miss Helen Dey, the Clerk to the Governors, Mr. Thomas Hayes, and the sculptor, Mr. Allan G. Wyon, the Rev. J. L. Douglas, Hospitaller, standing beneath the Plaque, veiled with a purple curtain, prayed for God's blessing "upon this Library, dedicated to the memory of His servant Isla Stewart, that it may ever be fruitful in all that is good."

#### THE UNVEILING.

There followed the unveiling of the Plaque by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who said:

"IN HONOURED MEMORY OF ISLA STEWART, MATRON OF THIS HOSPITAL, 1887-1910, I UNVEIL THIS MEMORIAL AND DECLARE THIS LIBRARY OPEN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NURSING STAFF."

The curtain fell apart, and the Plaque was revealed in its beauty and simplicity of outline; the opinion of many who knew Miss Stewart intimately being that the portrait was felicitous and lifelike.

#### ADDRESS BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

The address was appropriately given by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Stewart's predecessor as Matron and Superintendent of Nursing at the hospital, and whose comrade and loyal supporter she was for twenty-three years in the struggle for the State Registration and Organisation of Nurses, until "the one was taken and the other left."

Speaking of "Isla Stewart, Her Lovable Character," Mrs. Fenwick said:—

"We are assembled here to-day to honour the memory of Isla Stewart, sometime Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, a woman greatly beloved.

That love inspires our memory of the Founder of the League, so many years after we have lost her, is proof of her enduring charm of character, and the possession of those qualities which are more lasting than the most brilliant mental attributes.

It is personal character which decides a career, and in the successful and happy life of Isla Stewart, it was her generosity, her loyalty, her love of liberty, and keen sense of humour, which commanded the admiration and allegiance of her colleagues.

Isla Stewart was deeply interested in humanity, strong or weak, vigorous or sick, she had wide and sympathetic understanding of its splendour—of its tragedy. Her great and upright spirit expended itself in support of those she was content to follow, and the most gracious service was rendered to those who needed an uplift.

She had faith in Love and thus in turn was greatly beloved.

It is not every woman who is sufficiently generous to appreciate a predecessor, and when Isla Stewart welcomed me warmly in the little old house—in which we both spent so many happy years—and which formerly stood on the ground on which this beautiful Memorial Library has been erected, I realised the generous qualities of character which set her apart and commanded for her such deep affection.

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 we 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 not only the annals of the Nursing School of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, but 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 this Memorial Library as intimately appropriate.

We rejoice that the munificence of the New Nurses Home Fund subscribed by members of the League which she founded, and the very generous concurrence of the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has made it possible for the Nurses' School to possess for all time this inspiring Memorial. Those of us who knew her rejoice to see her fine face so exquisitely portrayed in bronze in the life-like portrait in its appropriate setting, and our younger colleagues who knew her not, will thus from generation to generation come into touch with the Founder of our League, and learn to emulate her great and enduring qualities: Obedience to conscientious conviction, her deep sense of Public Duty, her veneration for high ethical standards of Professional Life, and the gaiety and happiness which she radiated in her environment."

Thus ended a Ceremony, poignant with memories in honour of one "who revered her conscience as her King."

Tea was served in the very beautiful Recreation Room, and as always, Sisters and Nurses were indefatigable hostesses.

All the members of the League present realised the happiness of this wonderful occasion, and went away rejoicing at the fulfilment of their aspirations, delayed for many years, but worthy in realisation.

#### THE NIGHTINGALE SCHOOL, ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

##### The Nightingale Fellowship.

Miss Nightingale's Birthday on Sunday, May 12th, was celebrated in the Chapel, St. Thomas's Hospital, on that day. Archbishop Lord Davidson gave the address from the words "Behold I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it." The Chapel was full to overflowing and the Service was one which will ever be remembered by those present.

The following day, May 13th, the first Re-union Dinner of the Fellowship was held in the Nurses' Dining Hall. It promises to be the first of many, as great enthusiasm was expressed by many Old Nightingales who felt that returning thus to their Alma Mater was indeed a returning home.

It was followed by the first Annual Meeting in the Governors' Hall, where there was a very large and representative gathering of the members of the Nightingale Fellowship. At this meeting a resolution was passed to

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