

A

MONUMENTAL COINCIDENCE

THE FINE VIEWS which once could be gained from Stillorgan Obelisk have been lost, and the fine gardens in which it originally stood have disappeared. The obelisk may have been commissioned by Lord Allen of Stillorgan House, Dublin, as early as 1727, and was designed by Edward Lovett Pearce. On one of the surviving architectural drawings for the obelisk Pearce wrote: 'Lady Allen's burying-place, to be a monument to patience'.

In fact, Lady Allen died in 1758 and was buried in London, where she had moved after her husband's death. Ironically, the burial of a woman was found beside the obelisk in 1955, and was excavated by the late Dr Joseph Raftery. This woman had died from a possibly sacrificial blow to the skull and had been buried here in a stone cist some 3500 years previously. ■

Chris Corlett.

The burial of a woman found beside the obelisk in 1955.

