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Editorial.

THE ENDOWMENT OF WOMEN'S EDUCATION.

It is an auspicious indication of the interest of the Queen in women's education that her Coronation Year is to be marked by the inauguration of a scheme for the endowment of home science in connection with King's College for Women, University of London, and that on her Majesty's Birthday, May 26th, the announcement should be made of the foundation of an institution, to be called "Queen Mary's Hostel," as a residence for women students and their practical training in the domestic arts, by means of which it is proposed to foster a sounder knowledge of the laws which govern health, sanitation, and household economy. The promoters of the scheme believe that by insuring that "in the future every girl's education shall include some knowledge of the science which affects her home problems, and some practice of the domestic arts, the whole standard of home life would be raised, and trained experience substituted for instinct and tradition, which have hitherto been the chief guides for mothers."

The *Times*, commenting on the scheme, remarks, "if the nation is to hold its own in the world, it must seriously set itself to do what the rest of the world is doing—in many cases much more strenuously than we have yet learnt to do—to substitute organised knowledge for instinct, tradition, and the rule of thumb in all departments of human activity. If we cannot school ourselves to do this—to make as good a use in the coming time of the rule of knowledge as we made of the rule of thumb in the days when there was no rule of knowledge to guide us—we shall assuredly find ourselves

worsted in the long run in the industrial struggle for existence."

Briefly then, for the details of the scheme have received wide publicity in the daily press, it is the outcome of the desire to mitigate the present gigantic waste in infant life, and the loss to the nation by preventable disease due to ignorance—in these matters, trained nurses play an important part, and the scheme has therefore a special interest for them. More and more their skilled work is requisitioned in social service of this nature, and the means whereby they may best qualify themselves to respond to the demand made upon them has engaged their serious consideration.

To give effect to the above ideas, it was necessary for a University to open its doors to special courses for training women in the study of the science of the household, and thus ensure for our schools a continual supply of teachers trained to impart the knowledge on which the necessary reforms must be based.

King's College for Women has made a most successful start, but adequate endowment is needed, as no University courses are self supporting in this country, and the cost of first class teaching cannot be met out of fees alone. It is therefore necessary to raise the sum of £100,000—£20,000 to provide a hostel for the practical training in domestic arts, and as a residence for women students, £20,000 for building and equipping laboratories, and £60,000 for the endowments of salaries for professors and lecturers.

Already two generous donors have come forward, one to provide the funds for Queen Mary's Hostel, the other for the laboratories, and, in addition, £10,000 have been subscribed towards the £60,000 required for the endowment of professorships and

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