

THE
BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,451

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1916.

Vol. LVI.

EDITORIAL.

AN ANTI-WASTE CAMPAIGN.

The expense of the war now in progress, and the paramount necessity for thrift, in order that the resources of the nation may be available for its better prosecution, is apparent to all.

It is therefore at an opportune moment that the Institute of Hygiene, 33, Devonshire Street, W., has arranged an Exhibition, representing Domestic Economy, which was opened on Monday last by H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, and which has been in progress all the week.

The Princess, who was met by the Principal, Mr. Grant Ramsay, and received by the President (Sir William Bennett) and members of Council was at once conducted to the Reception Room.

The President, in his introductory remarks in welcoming the Princess, said that by her presence Her Royal Highness was greatly helping a cause which, always important, is just now urgently so to the Nation at large. He continued: "The word economy is very much in the mouths of us all now in connection with every form of expenditure. . . . Domestic economy, *i.e.*, the economy of the household, with which we are here alone concerned, seems, at first sight, strangely enough the most difficult of all economies. It is easy to forbid the use of imported foods, what we commonly call luxuries are easily done without, but when it comes to reducing the ordinary and apparently unavoidable expenses of the household the trouble begins.

"There is however one obstacle to economy, and so an aid to extravagance in the house, ignored by many, unknown to some, which is within the power of all to overcome, and that is 'waste.' The surest

road to economy is the prevention of waste. The object of the present Exhibition is mainly to indicate some of the ways in which waste in the household can be prevented, an object which is worthy of a supreme effort by all of us."

The Princess speaking with great feeling, earnestness, and charm said, "I consider it a great honour to be asked to come here to-day. Domestic Economy is a subject very near to my heart, and more than ever now when it is a terrible necessity owing to this terrible war. We want thrift, and then with a healthy mind and healthy body, and good cooking, comfort and contentment result. In the avoidance of waste in cooking the British nation seems worse than any other. I have seen a good deal of Continental methods, and one small piece of meat will often supply nourishing meals for three or four days. In this country it serves for one, and the best things are thrown away. It is hoped by education and training these national faults may be remedied, and anything which contributes to improvement in this direction, such as the work of the Institute, has my sincere support. In regard to technical teaching not only is instruction in cooking necessary, but the cultivation of cleanliness and order are of great importance. Such instruction is of comparatively little use to a woman if she has not an orderly mind."

"Then," continued the Princess, "it is so important about the children," and she went on to speak with great earnestness of the wastage of infant life. No one who heard her speak could fail to realize how deeply Her Royal Highness feels on the subject.

Let us hope that the exhibition, opened so auspiciously, may be fruitful in good results. Its promoters were assured by the Princess that it was very near to her heart to help them in any way she could.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)