

BEAUTY IS NOT NOW PROBLEM OF NEW DRESS

English Girls Ask "Is It Business-Like?"—Gay Colors, Short Skirts, Low Necks Tabooed.

UNIFORM IS DISCUSSED

London Business Men Opposed to Bobbed Hair and Feet If Their Right to Lay Down Law.

By MARGARET WALTER
LONDON (By Mail)—No "is it prettier?" but "is it business-like?" is what girls are asking each other just now in London.

The whole question of office dress has been stewing since the girls were admitted to the front desks (where they shovel the money about) of London banks. At a recent meeting of bankers in the city—a very solemn affair—one of the serious questions discussed, but not settled, was whether it would be advisable to put their girl clerks into uniform.

In some of the banks in the city the women have always had to wear a sort of dark blue overall, which they at first resented very much but finally submitted to it because of its economy. In other banks girls have worn anything they liked, and gradually the frilly clothes, the bobbed hair and the jazz jumpers of the bank girls have excelled even those of the typists in their gaiety.

The climax was reached when knitted silk came into vogue. The girl bank clerk could not afford real silk, and after spending a great deal too much on artificial silk jumpers they had to wear them even when they had stretched out of all proportion and become lower in the neck and looser around the shoulders than even the most daring had planned. The silk jumpers were the last straw for the bank managers—or presidents, as we call them.

First of all business men do not like bobbed hair. Employers feel that it is within their rights to decide about the dress of their girl employees. And they have laid down the law about what is business-like and what is not. Actually, there is more need of regulation here than in America. Fashion is more liberal here. Girls are more inclined to develop individual styles; there is less natural conformity than at home.

No gay colored jumpers, very short skirts, very high heels, bobbed hair, low-cut necks and short sleeves and frilly summer blouses, are banned as "unbusiness-like," and the girls have got to submit or be put into overalls.

Colonel Welch Makes Home of Military Academy Gymnasium

Making over a gymnasium into a nine-room house means the use of considerable carpentry ability, manual energy, planning and a vivid imagination. Colonel John B. Welch, 78-year-old teacher-carpenter, has done all of these.

When the old Welch Academy was leased to the University for a women's dormitory, Colonel and Mrs. Welch were reluctant to leave the estate which had been their home for eighteen years. Last winter they lived on South Garth avenue.

Colonel Welch could not keep away from the acres he loves, and during the last six months, besides taking care of his flock of more than 100 hens and raising chickens in incubators, he has made his dream come true of a little home in what used to be the gymnasium of the University Military Academy. And a cozy little home it is, made at a minimum cost, every bit of lumber used being on hand.

Approaching from the winding path leading from Stewart road across the creek and up the hill to Welch Hall, a company is always admitted at the front door, so we knocked there.

Mrs. Welch greeted us cordially. The open fireplace made us picture the room in winter with a rosy glow over the book case filled with printed treats, and over comfortable wicker chairs, rugs, and the simple home-like atmosphere which characterizes this room, partitioned off by beaver boards from a kitchenette in the rear. Two bedrooms occupy half of what was formerly the gymnasium. The hard-wood floor, put in especially for dances, which were sometimes held at the military academy, facilitated the making over of the building, which already had water and light connections.

"Instead of going to Michigan, we camped here," said Mrs. Welch. Then Colonel Welch came in, dressed in working clothes consisting of blue overall coat, old trousers and army campaign hat.

A stairway has been built leading downstairs to the stone floor of the gymnasium building. Partitions of beaver board mark rooms that are yet to be completed. Colonel Welch plans to have a dining room, kitchen, workroom, storeroom, and den downstairs.

Colonel Welch is prouder of his den than of any other part of the home. Here he will have his books, chemicals, and microscope, for he is interested in biology. A huge desk, lounge, and shelves all around, make this den a place of ease for him. His workroom is another favorite place, where tools and boards abound.

Twelve o'clock struck, and it was time to feed the chickens. We started toward the chicken houses, but a detour re-

sulted when the serenity of the hillside landscape and the majesty of the trees overwhelmed us. Colonel Welch pointed out an oak which his wife calls "Monarch," so perfect is its symmetry. There are more than 100 black walnuts and oaks on the estate, besides maples, black cherries, elms and poplars.

"I like the primitive condition of things here as much as anything. I would hate to leave this place because I have been associated with it so long," he said. "Most of these trees grew up during our residence here."

Colonel Welch was in reminiscent mood, and answered questions about the founding of the academy, which has been discontinued for three years. He described the land as he found it when he came here, how he bought out the University Academy, run by three young men who started it, when the University gave up its preparatory work, how he taught in a brick building on Sixth street opposite the Parker Memorial Hospital before purchasing the present site of the academy building. The twenty-two acres in his tract included the land from the railroad to the cemetery and back as far as the present Garth avenue. Stewart road was then Maple street, and there were no houses out as far as that, and no Stewart Bridge.

The University Military Academy, a private preparatory school of the New England type, was reached by crossing the railroad and following a winding road up the hill through the gates which today give a picturesqueness to the estate.

"A great many people thought I needed a guardian because I moved over here," Colonel Welch laughed. "They called me all kinds of names, and then after I got settled they thought I had a long head. The property has grown valuable now."

The land with Colonel Welch's homestead was the larger part of the forty acres through which the railroad cut northeast to southwest. The part on the east of the railroad is still intact and belongs to the Rollins estate. The first academy building was burned down a few years after it was erected, and a black walnut and oak tree, standing in front of the present Welch Hall, show unhealed scars of that fire.

The school which Colonel Welch conducted was modeled after the typical preparatory school that is found around Boston and in Massachusetts. More individual work is done on the boys in these schools than out West, according to Colonel Welch. "One of the troubles of conducting a small school out West is that you cannot compete in athletics," said he. His school was limited to thirty boys.

Regarding the change from a boys' school to a girls' dormitory, Colonel

Welch said, "I like to see the girls. It is certainly quieter here with the girls than with boys."

When Colonel Welch built his house, the city water system did not extend out that far. The cistern, now unusual, still stands, and the septic tank, which he had built, was one of the first in this community. For light, a gasoline tank was erected a little distance from the house. The pasture land by the creek is now rented out for pasture, and the mowing of cows has become a standard alarm clock for Welch Hall girls. What was intended for servants' quarters is now a tool house, of which Colonel Welch makes continual use.

His imagination has not ceased with the culmination of his dream of a home in the former gymnasium. As we strolled over the acres facing on South Garth avenue with the former approach to the old academy, his garden also keeps him busy.

Colonel Welch is a graduate of Wesleyan University at Middletown, Conn., from which he holds an A. B. and an A. M. degree. His class of 1870 held its fiftieth reunion last year, and ten of the former college boys got together with Colonel Welch for the occasion.

His title of "Colonel" was bestowed on him by a former governor of Missouri, who, because of his conducting a military academy, gave him a commission.

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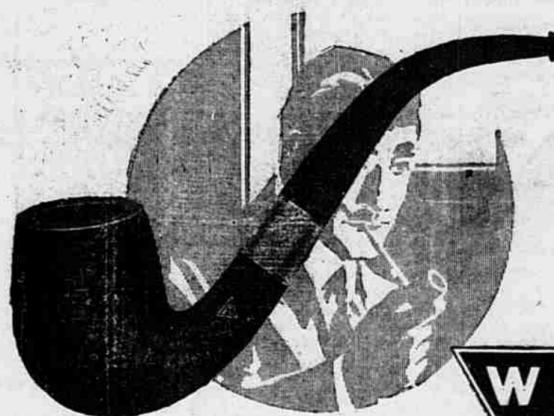
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