

THESIS
on
The College Girl's Wardrobe
Submitted to the Faculty
of the
OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
for the degree of
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by
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Approved

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THE COLLEGE GIRL'S WARDROBE.

OUTLINE.

Introduction -

Discussion -

Kind - In consideration of climate.

Circumstances.

Approximate estimation of occupation of parent.

Expenses for school year.

Clothing necessary for average individual with places for addition and reduction.

Number - Fall.

Winter.

Spring.

Selection of styles.

Selection of materials.

Quality.

Design.

Appropriateness.

Making - Method.

Time.

Conclusion.-

The College Girl's Wardrobe.

The mother's first thought, when her daughter finishes her preparatory work and expresses a desire for College is, "How can I let her go?" This seems the greatest problem though when she becomes reconciled to the fact that she must lose her sometime, she debates with herself, "Is my daughter ready for higher education? Is she mentally capable just now? Is she mature enough to be away from the guiding hands of her parents? Is her health such that she could safely be allowed to enter upon the duties of a college education?"

When all these have been satisfactorily answered, there comes the question of her wardrobe. This has been placed last and of least importance. Though when the task of actually preparing it comes up we find it is of very great importance after all.

To be well dressed and to have suitable clothing ready for wear on all occasions contributes greatly to ones peace of mind. The thing then, of prime importance

is that the young woman's wardrobe be thoroughly prepared before she enters College.

For such a complete preparation it will be necessary to know something of the conditions governing dress at the Institution of her particular choice.

She should know with how much elaborateness or with how much simplicity the girls of that school dress; she should know the conditions of the climate of that particular region, whether it is cold, warm or moderate, or whether it rains a great deal, and if so she should know with what facilities and time she will be provided in order that she may keep her clothing properly pressed; then again she should know whether the facilities for laundering are adequate to supply the demands, or whether she will be compelled to plan for clothing that will require as little laundering as possible.

With all these considerations in mind the following suggestions have been offered as applicable to a girl coming to O.A.C.

The kind of clothing a girl will require at the Oregon Agricultural College should be chosen with a consideration of climatic conditions and also in consideration of the average circumstances of the girls who attend.

The climate of Corvallis, the location of O.A.C., though somewhat toward the southern part of the state, practically requires all that one would need in a city much farther north. While the rainfall is not excessively abundant, the atmosphere during the greater part of the winter is quite damp, necessitating rubbers, long coats and warm clothing. Furs are in evidence until quite late in the spring and are very comfortably worn. While it is quite cool in the winter, in the early part of the school year as well as the later spring months, it is quite warm; thus it practically means that one must have two outfits, a winter and a summer one.

Since O.A.C. is an agricultural college the greater part of the girls who attend it are farmer's daughters. However, this is no reason why these same daughters must be provided for in a different manner from those of our

city neighbors. The design has been to plan an outfit that may be appropriate for one in any walk of life,-- not too meagre for the well-to-do, not too good for the less fortunate.

The attire of the average girl at O.A.C. is quite simple. Her clothes show that they have been selected with care and good taste. The general as well as the special social atmosphere does not demand elaborateness in dress even for the Senior girl, much less for the Freshman. In fact, the plain inconspicuous, well selected and well made garment seems more in keeping with her years.

The typical college girl is very little known in her Freshman year. She is the sweet, innocent, unassuming creature, Nature intended her, in her early teens, to be. Her popularity increases with her college course, and when she becomes a Senior, she may dress with a little more elaborateness in keeping with her position and years.

Then, the true Freshman girl who wishes to make the most of her College life, will come prepared to be as unassuming as possible during her first year. Nothing

will aid her more materially in this than the unpretentious wardrobe.

As a suggestion to those who may be in doubt as to the number and kind of garments a girl will need at the afore mentioned institution we offer the following:

Outdoor Outfits

Tailored Suit

Rain Coat

Party Wrap

Special Dresses

Cookery Costume

Gymnasium Suit

Laboratory Apron

Everyday Dresses

School Dress (woolen)

Gingham Dresses

Shirt Waists

Home Dresses

Morning Dress

Kimono

Dressy Occasions

Afternoon Gown

Summer Gown

Party Dresses

Evening Gown

Old Summer Dress

To these others may be added as one wishes. Some things may even be omitted. The party wrap, though not necessarily an expensive affair, may be duplicated by the long rain coat. If this is long and comfortable it will answer very nicely for an evening wrap the first year. The afternoon gown may also be omitted and a pretty silk waist with the tailored suit used instead.

In all considerations, the average girl will spend as much for clothing at home as one in College. The fact that she is going to College need not necessitate the expenditure of a large amount of money upon her clothing. She may have in her wardrobe already several articles that need not be duplicated, if so, she is fortunate, indeed; but if she be compelled to purchase an entire outfit, with careful selection she may do so without great sacrifice.

In the selection of the styles all extremes should be avoided, for simplicity is the key-note of a well dressed woman. Then again where expense is to be considered extremes should be avoided because of the rapidity with which styles change.

Line and color are the two important points in planning ones clothes. Great care should be taken that the lines and curves suit the individual figure; that the best points be brought out and the objectionable ones be hid. The tall, slight figure should not be fitted on the same lines as the short, stout one. A little cleverness and study of effects will enable one to cut a gown quite simply and still have it close to the new lines. A bit of trimming, a high girdle, or an extended top skirt will give the new effect to a garment and yet leave it so that with slight alterations it may be made quite fashionable again.

The one garment of greatest importance because of its appropriateness on all occasions is the tailored suit. This is the traveling dress, the church dress, and, in general, the outfit suitable for any occasion. Hence it

seems quite economical that the tailored suit be part of the girl's wardrobe.

For this suit there are many different kinds of material any of which are quite suitable. Along the lines of suitings there is an endless number, as also among the serges. These range in price from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per yard and vary in width from 42 to 54 inches. A good one that will bear hard usage and yet look new and fresh for a long time is the Herring-bone serge. This may be had in almost any color and makes a neat, dressy suit.

Fig.1 illustrates a jaunty tailored suit made from navy-blue Herring-bone serge. The jacket is quite long and semi-fitting. The sleeves are finished with turnback cuffs with a single row of stitching at the upper edge; while the outer edge of the entire jacket is finished in the same manner. The back is left plain and fabric-covered buttons ornament the sides. The skirt, which is a nine-gored one, is finished with stitched seams and graduated bias pieces at the bottom.

Two people working nine hours per day finished this



Fig. I

suit in four days.

The cost of the garment complete is as follows:

7 yds. serge 48 inches wide	@ \$1.25	\$8.75
5 " cambric for inner lining	@ .06	.30
2 spools silk ^{and} No. 2 twist		.25
2 yds. linen facing	@ .20	.40
3 " lining(sunburst silk)	@ .40	1.20
2 doz. buttons	@ .25	.50
1 pattern		.15
	Total	<u>\$11.55</u>

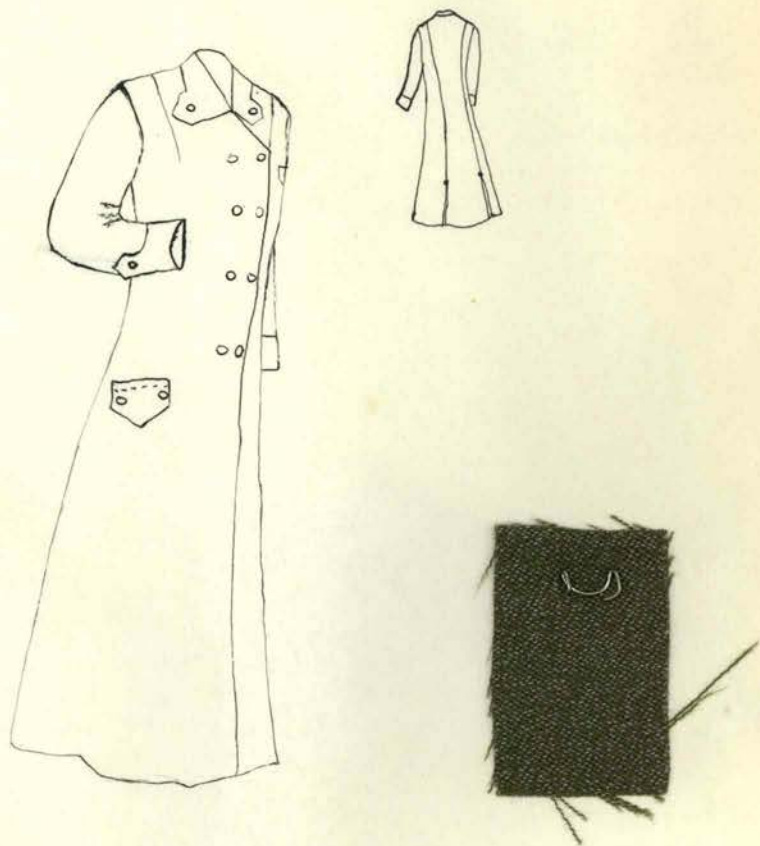


Fig. II

Fig.2 illustrates a long coat made of rainproof material for general wear. Cravenette is the most expensive material for such a coat, but is excellent for the purpose. Prices vary somewhat in the different materials though not to any great extent. The coat here shown is made of tan cravenette.

4 yds. cravenette 58 inches wide	@ \$2.50	\$10.00
2 bolts binding ribbon	@ .10	.20
2 yds. soft linen facing	@ .20	.40
1½ doz. buttons	@ .25	.38
1 spool silk		.10
1 pattern		.15
	Total	<u>\$11.23</u>

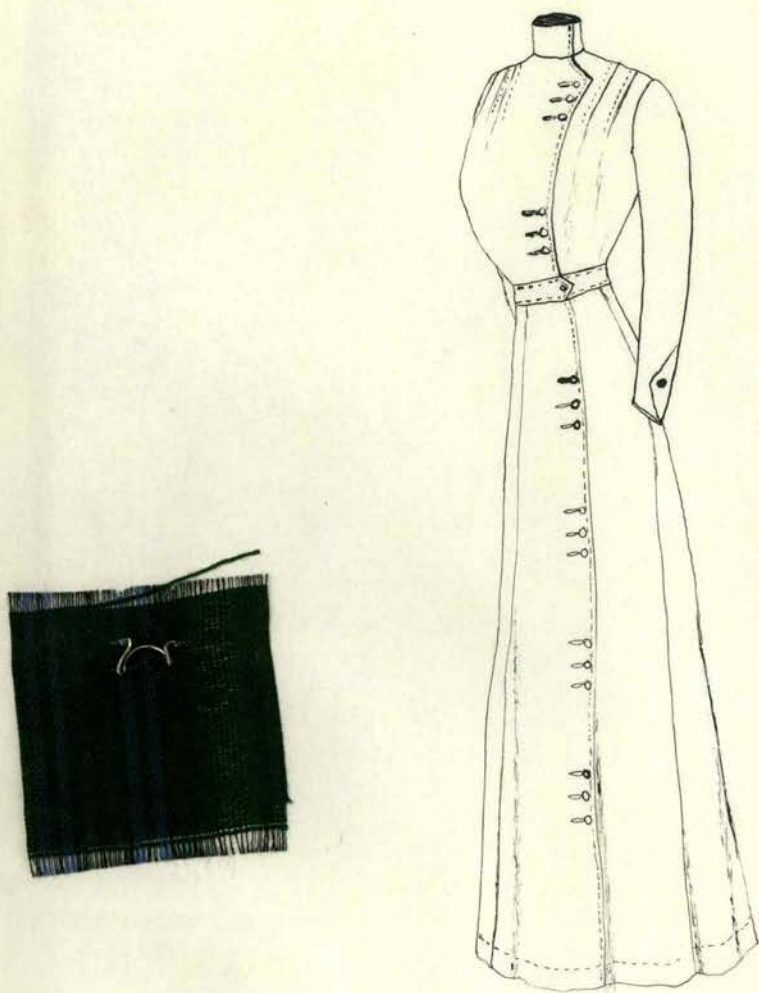


Fig. III

The school-dress is the one that will see the most service and for this reason should be simply and neatly made. There are a great number of materials to select from. The chief thing to be considered in selection, is that the fabric is not one that will soil easily. Serges or mohairs clean readily and always look well. Any striped or checked material is better than a plain one for the reason that plain goods show dirt spots more readily than do the figured ones. Dark shades of red, brown, blue or green can be worn by almost anyone.

Fig.3 illustrates a neat and attractive school-dress, the severeness of which can be relieved by dainty white collars and cuffs.

For warm weather in the spring as well as for that in the fall, one or two gingham dresses are found necessary. It is much easier to select materials for summer gowns because of the endless number of designs shown. These dresses if made with bias-band trimmings can be made very inexpensive.

Shirtwaists are always in place and one may have as

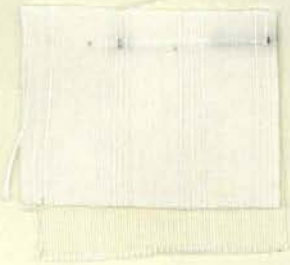


Fig. IV.

many as she chooses, though to depend entirely upon white shirtwaists means a great deal of laundering. Where time and facilities for home laundering are limited these mean large laundry bills. One tailored waist at least is necessary for wear with the tailored suit. Besides this, one should have a silk or mohair one for more dressy occasions.

The tailored waist here shown was made from lotus cloth at 40¢ per yard. The entire cost of the waist being

3 yds. material 36 inches wide	@ 40¢	\$1.20
1 spool thread		.05
4 pearl buttons	@ 15¢ doz.	.05
	Total	\$1.30

Silk is quite expensive, but makes a neat, pretty waist that is suitable for many occasions. Mohair or some soft, light-weight woolen material comes in widths from 36 to 40 inches and at 50¢ to 75¢ a yard. A waist of either of these materials should be made more elaborate than the white, tailored one; somewhat fancy, yet

still a shirtwaist.

It will require about two days each for the dresses and the two waists could be completed in three days.



Fig. V

For special school dresses the young woman will need a gymnasium suit, a cookery costume, and a laboratory apron, though the last may not be needed until the second year.

For the gymnasium suit, serge of a certain shade of navy blue is required. The bloomers are very full and the blouse plain save for the turn down collar and the turn back cuffs. To make this suit are required:

5 yds. serge 38 inches wide	@ 75¢	\$3.75
1 " elastic		.10
1 spool silk		.10
Fasteners		.05
	Total	\$4.00

The cookery costume also requires a particular shade of blue chambray. Fig. 6 shows the costume complete. The skirt is a plain seven gored one finished with a six inch hem. The waist has a front plait $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and on either side of it are three $\frac{3}{8}$ inch tucks. At the armhole are three more of the same size. The separate collar is made as wide as can comfortably be worn. The



Fig. VI

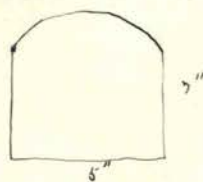
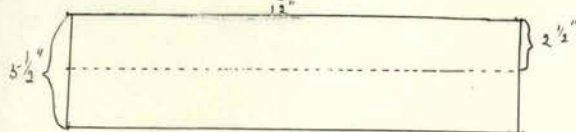


Diagram of cap.



sleeves extend 2 inches below the elbow and are finished with a 3 inch cuff. A straight belt 3 inches wide completes the costume..

For the apron white lawn 40 inches wide is used. The skirt is two inches shorter than the dress+skirt and also has a 6 inch hem. The shoulder straps,when finished, measure $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches and the belt 3 inches. The cuffs and collar should be $\frac{1}{2}$ inch narrower than the blue ones and are finished with $\frac{3}{8}$ inch hems. These button onto the blue cuffs and collar. The cap is made as shown in the diagram. It will require three days and the following materials to make this costume:

8 yds. chambray 38 inches wide	@ 25¢	\$2.00
$2\frac{1}{2}$ " lawn 40 " wide	@ 18¢	.45
2 spoals thread		.10
$1\frac{1}{2}$ doz. buttons	@ $12\frac{1}{2}$ ¢	.19
	Total	<u>\$2.69</u>

A home dress such as any girl wears at home in the morning will be found very convenient to put on while sweeping and cleaning about one's room. And for a rest robe, for sickness, etc. a kimono is necessary. It may

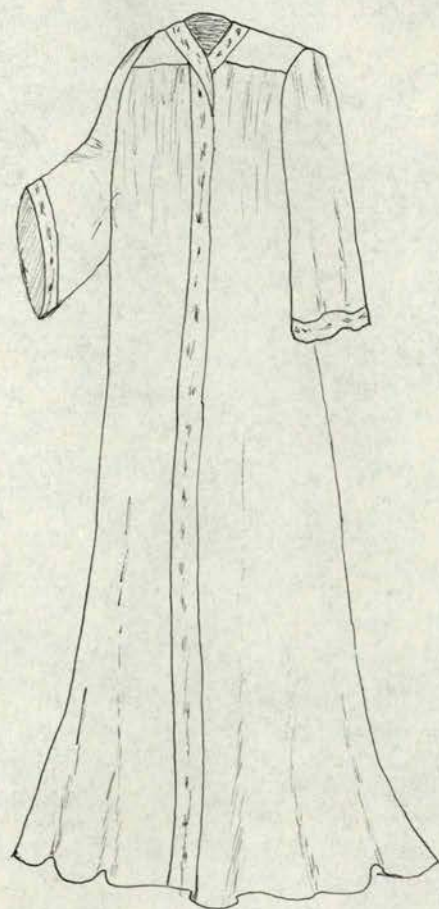


Fig. VI.

be of eiderdown, flannel, flannelette, or even cretonne.
The one here shown cost but \$1.60 and was made of bordered
flannelette. It could easily be made in a day.

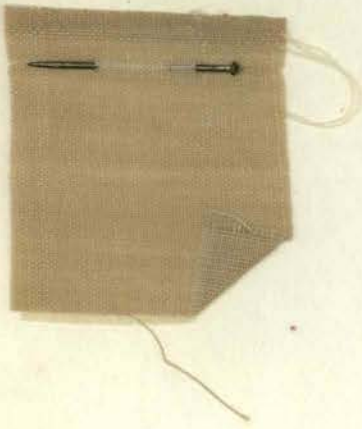
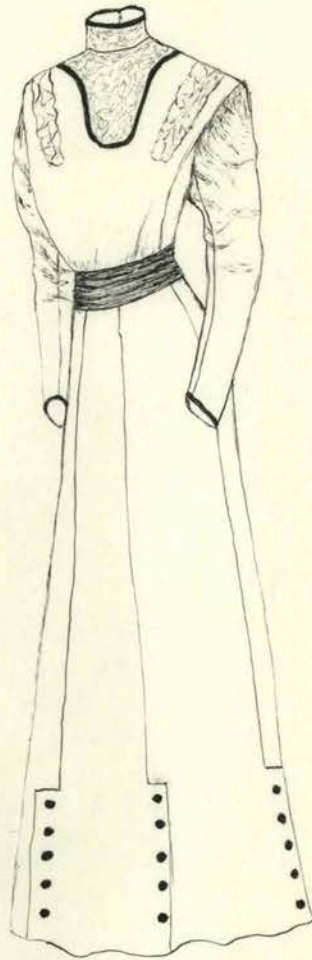


Fig VIII

Fig.8 illustrates a pretty afternoon gown made of dark red,all wool batiste. This gown can be worn on various occasions, such as afternoon receptions, informal parties, etc. It can also be made of fine French serge, mohair, panama cloth, challie, voile or silk. A nice black voile relieved by a white yoke or some color about the neck makes a beautiful costume, though somewhat more expensive ^{than} ~~than~~ the others.

The gown here shown has a normal waist-line, though the effect is somewhat empire. The trimmings are of dark red velvet, cream allover lace, and red and tan applique. The buttons are covered with velvet to match that on the waist. The skirt is a fine gored one with deep plaits —at the bottom of each gore.The entire cost of the gown is as follows:

8 yds.	batiste 38 inches wide	@ 50¢	\$4.00
1 "	velvet		1.25
$\frac{1}{2}$ "	all-over lace	@ \$1.30	.65
1 "	trimming		.30
1 "	lining		.06

2 doz. buttons

@ 25¢

.50

Thread & fasteners

.25

\$7.01

UNWINDABLE BOND

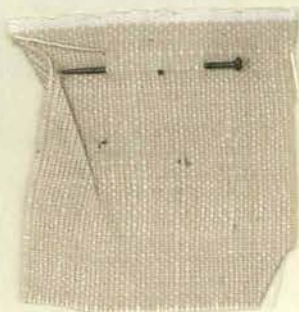


Fig IX.

For a summer gown that is suitable for dressy occasions the one here shown is very convenient as well as pretty. It may be made of white or colored material--white being more dressy but the colored more serviceable. The jacket is unlined and the seams finished with binding ribbon. The waist should be of the same material and made somewhat fancy so that without the jacket one may have a pretty dress. Indian head, linen, poplin, and various other materials are suitable for such a suit. The one used for this suit was tan linen at 40¢ per yard and 11 yards were required for the entire outfit. It will take about 3 days to make the suit, and the scalloping on the waist somewhat longer.



Fig X

A party dress of some soft material and of some simple design is necessary for formal evening functions. Fig.10 illustrates a girlish dress made from cream silk batiste with applique trimmings. The skirt is a five goared one with a few gathers at the waist. The waist is plain with a tiny round yoke and the sleeves are tucked. There are many different kinds of materials suitable for this gown. Suisine, India silk, mull, batiste, cashmere, and many others equally as good. For color any of the delicate evening shades may be selected, though for one that will not grow tiresome and always look well, cream is without an equal.

The dress here shown required:

9 yds. batiste 30 inches wide	@ 30¢	\$2.70
10 " applique	@ 15¢	1.50
Silk & fasteners		.15
	Total	<u>\$4.35</u>

Besides this dress one should have a plainer one for informal occasions. This may be any light summer dress of lawn, swiss or dimity. Every girl has in her wardrobe a summer dress of some kind that will do very

nicely. Probably the high-school graduating dress is yet available.

To complete the evening attire nothing is nicer than the party coat. This is large and loose and does not muss the dress. A coat of this kind will last for the full College course and is very cheap considering the length of time it can be used.

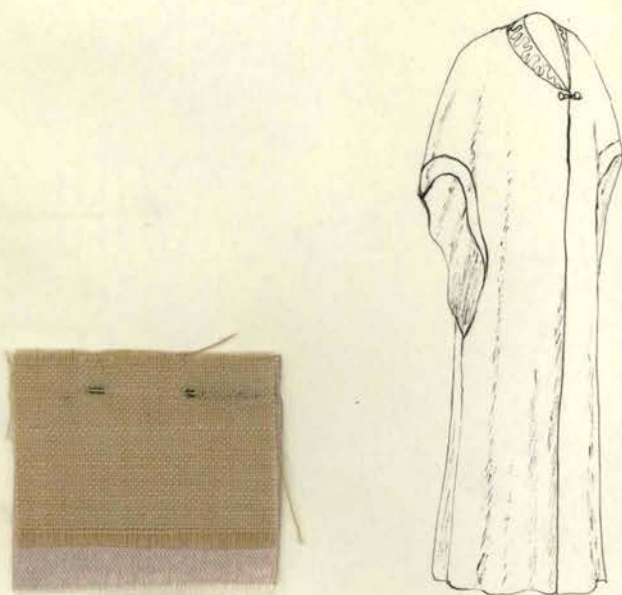


Fig. XI

Broadcloth is probably the best for such a coat because it has some warmth to it. This comes at prices ranging from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per yard and is two yards wide. Besides this there are various other kinds of materials used. The illustration shows one made of tan mohair. The small collar is braided in a simple design with brown soutache braid. Another beautiful coat, somewhat the same style, was made of pearl grey chiffon-broadcloth trimmed with panne velvet to match.

The one illustrated cost as follows:

5 yds. mohair 38 inches wide	@ 50¢	\$2.50
6 " outing flannel for inner	@ 6¢	.36
lining		
4 " satin lining 42 inches	@ \$1.00	4.00
4 " braid		.10
1-spool silk		.10
2 buttons		.08
Pattern		.15
Total		<u>\$7.29</u>

The other cost

3 yds. broadcloth 72 inches	@ \$3.00	\$9.00
1 " velvet		1.50
2 spools knitting silk for tassels	@ 35¢	.70
1 " sewing silk		.10
2 bolts binding ribbon		.30
1 yd. white taffeta for collar lining		.75
	Total	<u>\$11.35</u>

The latter was made in one and one half days, while the former took about three days.

This completes the outside wardrobe. For underwear two distinct sets must be prepared as before. Plenty of underwear is always acceptable and care should be taken that it is all in good order, for when school-work begins there will be no time to replenish ones wardrobe.

For hats two will suffice-- a winter and a summer one. At school hats are very little worn, especially in winter, though for school and common wear a fur toque made of some old fur boa or a small hat will ^{be} convenient at times. In summer one neat, pretty hat will do for both school and Sunday wear, though if one desires, a plain sailor for everyday wear and a dressy hat for other occasions.

Gloves, shoes and accessories, of course, must be considered.

To make the outfit complete, it will take about six weeks at best, and the garments here planned cost \$58.00. Allowing \$30.00 for hats, gloves, shoes and other necessities it is estimated that a wardrobe suitable for a

girl at O.A.C. will cost about \$90.00.

This may seem large to some, yet considering that several articles need not be purchased anew and that this sum is extremely small in comparison to the majority of those spent upon wardrobes, it does not seem extravagant that this amount be spent upon the girl's clothing. Many of the articles mentioned here will be wearable the second year. A little making over and a few additions will make it quite sufficient for another year.

We have thus shown that, though considered of little importance, the task of preparing a girl's wardrobe for College is great. The time spent in planning and purchasing has not been considered, yet one can readily see that the making is but one item of the problem.