

Many rather conservative people laugh at seemingly modern fashions. But, really, they are not as new as they appear—a glimpse into any costume book will reveal this. Last season's vogue, for example, was the "Empire Line." This style made its first appearance in the Regency era (1800-1820) and it is interesting to note that this particular trend was originally dictated, even then, by Paris, and women were becoming increasingly interested in French styles because of the growing popularity of fashion plates and magazines. Another object for ridicule, nowadays, especially with the male section of the population, is the latest trend in women's hats. But these are very much like those worn by women at the time of George III. Their "mob" caps very closely resemble the "cloche" hats of today. Another recently-revived fashion which is strikingly similar to that of a former century is the "puff" sleeve, with the emphasis on the wide shoulder. These were known as "leg of mutton" sleeves and reached the peak of exaggeration in 1895. During the fifteenth century, women favoured the raised hemline in front; this was also shown very prominently last season in evening dresses. More noticeable in the past year is the return to styles first adopted in the 1920's; the main characteristics of this decade were the short skirt, a loose, unfitted line, pointed-toed shoes and large, toque hats.

Changes in fashion are very closely linked with history because clothes have to be adapted to the circumstances in which they are to be worn. Many fashions of the past have been inspired by the appearance of new objects, buildings and inventions. For example, the top hat first appeared at the time of the industrial revolution when factories were erected and tall chimneys were a very commonplace scene. The cone-shaped hat, called the Hennin, worn by the wealthy women of the mid-fifteenth century, originally came from France and was probably inspired by a church steeple.

Political situations have often influenced fashions: during wars, clothes have always tended to become rather dull and the appearance of women's clothes is very often more masculine and uninteresting. But, immediately after a war, clothes brighten up very noticeably.

Today, our fashions are dictated mainly by the Paris couturiers and some London houses. But, in the early days of fashion, the current styles were set by the reigning monarch, and the aristocracy. Perhaps it can be said that men and women used to be more fashion-conscious than they are now; at any rate, they had a great flair for colour and decoration in their clothes. Once a fashion had become "news," everyone adapted it to suit his or her purposes; for example, when the crinoline became fashionable, every woman wore it—from the most elegant lady of the aristocracy to the ordinary charwoman. Admittedly, people had more time in which to follow the fashions, and styles didn't change drastically every season as they do now. But women today have the advantage

over their predecessors with "ready-to-wear" and "off-the-peg" fashions easily available to everyone through chain stores and various schemes.

But fashion, and the meaning it had for people when they first realised it existed, cannot really be compared with the significance they have today because women wore more or less the same style for all kinds of activities, whether they happened to be riding, walking, or just staying indoors; whereas now we wear different clothes according to the activities we are engaged in. Moreover, the fashion industry has inevitably become so much more commercialised and fashions are changed just for the sake of keeping up trade and not necessarily because the public demands something new.

SUSAN SEWARD (C5).

TECH. TALK AND RACECOURSE RUMOURS

by Hambone

RECENTLY returned to the town is one of Northampton's greatest sons: Col. Washington J. Sciver, who, in common with many Generals and Majors, has just published his memoirs. Born in Wigan, the son of an Irish father and a French mother, the Col. can claim close associations with the town. He brilliantly failed his M.A. here and was trained in the leather industry, in which he soon got the boot. He served in the Lower Pigswill Infantry, being stationed in Antartica with three other untrainables. In his palatial residence in Smog Street, he told me of the encounters he had fought against the Penguins. "Yes," he said, "they even had the Penguins fighting for them. Damn clever, those Boers!" At this point, I terminated the interview.

Remembering the Ground Nuts Scheme which was proposed a few years back, the Editor suggested to one of our young reporters that he should go to East Africa and write an article entitled "Nuts." Which was what he said, too.

Another of our reporters has just returned from seeking information about the space-ship which was supposed to have landed in a field three miles west of Brixworth. Our reporter pushed his bicycle seven miles up a muddy cart track, was shot at by an enraged farmer, chased into a duck-pond by a dog, and spent twenty-four hours under a haystack in the pouring rain, after which he found the rumour was entirely unfounded. We regret we cannot print his report.

With the advent of the 1959 Cricket Season, I am reminded of last year's controversy over the best way to brighten cricket. Many people feel the hours of play should be extended, but no-one has thought of the poor player. I went, therefore, to Slshire, and asked the captain, Nat Howt, for his opinion. After a few seconds ruminating, he suggested: (a) not more than one player from each side on the field at once; (b) opening time to coincide with the hours

of play allowing players of each team to be usefully employed propping up the bar. The famous opening bat, Fred Bashem, suggested the fielding side should consist of one man, and the batting side of eleven, the bats being wider, and one stump used. Alphonse "Docile" Bumber, England's fast bowler, suggested that batsmen be abolished.

Following many requests, we have now opened an Advice Bureau. In a recipe I sent out to several correspondents, I said: "Add a little strychnine." This should have read "saccharine." I must thank the relatives of the correspondents for pointing out my error.

T. A. J. COCKERILL (U6 Modern).

SHAKESPEARE'S GHOST

SHAKESPEARE has haunted generations of schoolboys. The Editors have discovered that our own school has been honoured by a recent visit from Shakespeare's ghost. Some of his comments on the School are printed below:

The Chemistry Lab:

"a foul and pestilent congregation of vapours." (*Hamlet*).

Pell:

"Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world
Like a Colossus; and we petty men
Walk under his huge legs, and peep about
To find ourselves dishonourable graves." (*Julius Caesar*).

The Tuck Shop queue:

"if you give way,
Or edge aside from the direct forthright,
Like to an enter'd tide, they all rush by,
And leave you hindmost." (*Troilus and Cressida*).

Answers in class:

"You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless things."
(*Julius Caesar*).

"Most ignorant of what he's most assured."
(*Measure for Measure*).

School dinner:

"Poison be their drink !
Gall, worse than gall, the daintiest meat they taste !"
(*Henry VI*).

"Unquiet meals make ill digestions."
(*Comedy of Errors*).

"With eager feeding food doth choke the feeder."
(*Richard II*).

Baker:

"A snapper-up of unconsidered trifles."

(*Winter's Tale*).

A text-book:

"Was ever book containing such vile matter
So fairly bound?"

(*Romeo and Juliet*).

The exam-room:

"Write till your ink be dry; and with your tears
Moist it again."

(*Two Gentlemen of Verona*).

The Jazz Club.

"Their music frightful as the serpent's hiss!
And boding screech-owls make their concerts full!"

(*Henry VI*).

A pupil's report:

"Here are a few of the unpleasant'st words
That ever blotted paper."

(*Merchant of Venice*).

A goal for the Staff in the hockey match:

"Such a noise arose
As the shrouds make at sea in a stiff tempest,
As loud and to as many tunes—hats, cloaks,
Doublets, I think flew up; and had their faces
Been loose, this day they had been lost."

(*Henry VIII*).

R.I.P.

SEVERAL illuminating documents have come to light during excavations on the site of the ancient Art Prefab. Obviously, this monumental structure was of great antiquity, and its demolition marks the end of a rich and colourful history.

The translated documents reveal something of the hitherto secret past of the N.T.H.S.

500 B.C. The discovery of fire by a first-former.

5 A.D. Girl scalped and crushed to death in Tuck Shop queue.

324 Boy told to stop propping up wall. He did. Sixty-six deaths.

850 School invaded by screaming hordes of woad-painted Welshmen. Their descendants remain.

1125 Science master burned at the stake for dabbling in the "Forbidden Art."

- 1290 Giant tadpole emerged from pool and devoured majority of first-year pupils.
- 1400 Fourth-year boy told Geography master that Earth is round. Geography master committed suicide. State funeral.
- 1450 Plague struck. Mass grave under the School canteen.
- 1588 Part of the Armada marooned in Fish Pond.
- 1700 New School building completed in record time (100 years only).
- 1745 School Staff revolts against dreaded Head Boy Burnham.
- 1800 Mad midnight Ludo party on playing fields.
- 1915 School railings removed in economy drive.
- 1939 Sixth Form accused of enemy sympathies. Held in Tower of London before execution.
- 1953 Science Staff put School cat into orbit around Tower block.
- 1958 Fire Brigade called to remove birds' nests from the ventilation holes in the Tower block.
- 1959 County scholar arrested for displaying banner: "Hands off Brixworth."

ANON.

Sisson & Parker

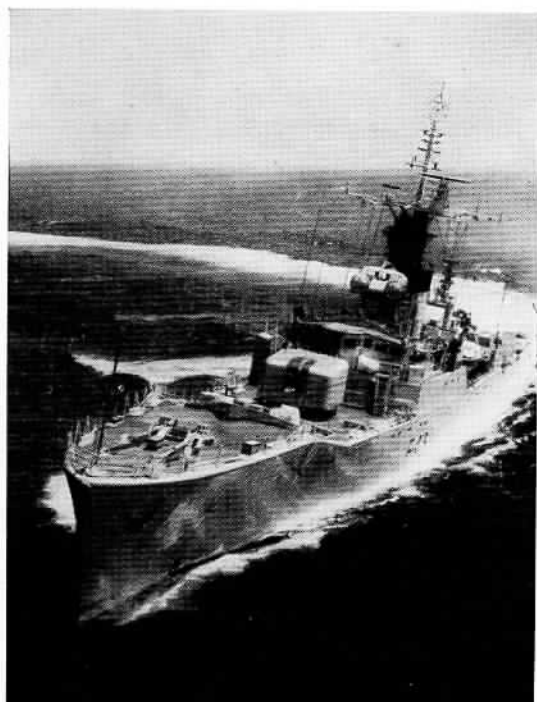
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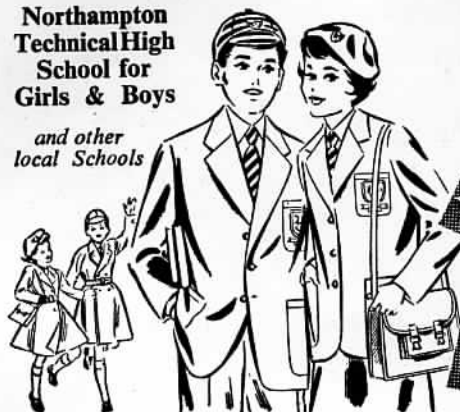
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