

THE GIRL-STUDENT
AT OXFORD.

members from the various recognised bodies of women-students. These bodies are five in number: Somerville College, Lady Margaret Hall, St. Hilda's Hall, St. Hugh's College, and the Society of Oxford Home-Students. This last consists of girls who are carrying on their university education, living either at home or with families, and attached to it is the Hostel for Catholic students, St. Frideswide's, Cherwell Edge, built and supervised by the nuns of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. St. Frideswide's was originally a large private house to which have been added a chapel and a college, the latter containing private rooms for students, common-rooms, library, dining-hall and lecture rooms, on the same lines as in other colleges. The house is beautifully situated, in a very central position, and yet standing alone in the open, looking out on the North over the University Parks, on the East over the trees of Mesopotamia to Headington Hill, and on the South over New College playing-fields. Thus the rooms on all sides of the house have a charming outlook, admired by many a visitor from other colleges. In the beautiful little Chapel there is Holy Mass every day, and Benediction twice in the week.

As the students of Cherwell Edge form part of the Society of Home-Students, and, as such, are members of the Association for the Education of Women in Oxford, they have the advantage of being able to obtain grants from the Association's Loan Fund, should they need financial assistance to carry on their studies, and of competing for various prizes and scholarships.* They also share in the social life of the Home-Students, and join with them in their societies, entertainments and games. The internal administration of Cherwell Edge, however, exactly resembles that of the other Halls, though on a smaller scale. The students are under the Principal of the Home-Students, but they have their own Vice-Principal (a religious) and two or more resident tutors, who, besides teaching certain subjects, preside in the dining-hall and act as chaperons when necessary. An elected Senior Student is the intermediary between staff and students in the Hostel, and between the Hostel and other Colleges. She must also see that the

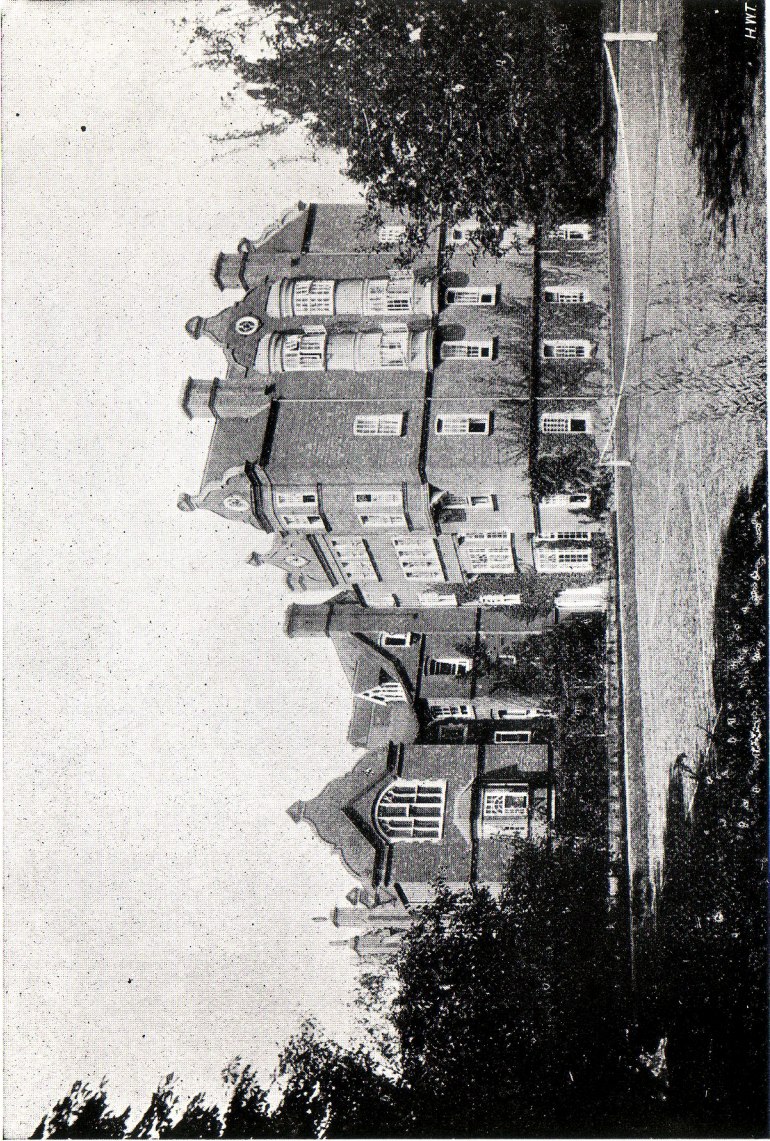
* There are also scholarships offered from St. Frideswide's. All particulars on these and other points connected with the courses of study can be obtained from the Vice-Principal, St. Frideswide's.

existing house-rules are kept. These rules, *e.g.*, silence in the passages during working hours, lights out at 10.30 p.m., and punctuality at dinner—the important meal of the day,—are formed simply and solely for the convenience of the students themselves, on whom rests the responsibility for their observance.

The foundation of this Hostel at Oxford renders it possible for a Convent-educated girl to finish her education at the University amid Catholic surroundings and in a Catholic atmosphere, while leading in every detail the life of the ordinary college-girl. It is a regrettable, but undeniable, fact that the majority of English Catholic girls are not on an equality with non-Catholics in intellectual matters. The education they receive at the Convent School is in every respect equal, in some superior, to that received by the modern Public School girl, but it is too often allowed to end there where it begins. There may have been some excuse in the past for this want of enthusiasm; it was not possible for Catholics to be admitted to any English University until the strenuous efforts of Cardinal Newman in this direction gained support and ultimate success. He foresaw the necessity of higher education for Catholics if they were to cope with the tide of modern intellectuality, and the position of the Catholic Church in England to-day is largely due to his life-long devotion to this cause. It remains then for Catholic girls to avail themselves of the privileges which have been so hardly won for them; and they can now do so under conditions in which their religious and moral principles, far from being weakened, may be developed and strengthened until they become a mighty power for good. The need for well-educated Catholic Englishwomen is becoming more and more imperative. It is the aim of the founders of St. Frideswide's, with the special approval and blessing of our late Holy Father, Pius X., to supply this need, and to enable the Catholic girl to further the interests of the Church, to serve her country, and to ensure herself a successful career, by sharing in every advantage that University college life can offer. It is a life full of poignant experiences, simple but intense joys, and only one sorrow, namely, "going down" for good. It is a preparation which, if worked out in the right spirit, should fit a girl to fulfil her duties efficiently in any state

of life. And it is not exclusively for the brilliant girl ; she is as exceptional at college as at school ; it is just as suited to the average girl as to the genius. In fact, it is not infrequently the average girl, well-balanced and level-headed, who can most profit by her years at Oxford. Perhaps the words of a tutor of long experience may illustrate this : " It is not ' Schools ' and the result of ' Schools,' it is having been here, that counts."





ST. FRIDESWIDES, OXFORD.

Tarrant, Photo., Oxford.

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