St. Mary's College of Domestic Science Dublin Illustrated Souvenir

City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee

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This statement was made by His Grace Most Rev. Dr. McQuaid, D.D., Archbishop of Dublin, during his speech when he blessed St. Mary's College, which was formally opened on June 16, 1941.
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At the formal opening of the College, Mr. Derrig, Minister for Education, in the course of his speech said:

"If, as he believed would be the case, the college exercised its influence on wise and well-considered lines, it would assist the State to maintain one of its most cherished principles—the preservation of family life. He congratulated the Dublin Vocational Education Committee on this highly-important addition to its activities."
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St. Mary's College of Domestic Science is conducted under the auspices of the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee. The building was completed in June, 1941, and has been designed to meet the need for an institution where a sound practical training in all branches of Domestic Economy, not only for those who work in the home, but also for those who require such training as a means of earning their livelihood can be obtained.

The main function of the College is to offer those types of Domestic Science Instruction which cannot be provided in the ordinary school. The building has been designed and equipped for this purpose.

The activities of St. Mary's College will serve the City of Dublin directly, but it will also have a national importance. It is to be responsible for the work of training Teachers of Domestic Economy which was formerly carried out at St. Kevin's Park, Kilmacud, Co. Dublin.

In addition to this important work, the following Courses have also been arranged: Household Management, Institutional Management, Chef Apprentices, Day Junior Domestic Course for Young Girls. Under all these heads, complete courses of instruction are arranged, and though it is possible that courses will be taken mainly by people from the City of Dublin there is no reason why persons from any part of country should not come to Dublin for these specialised courses.

In addition to the specialised courses just mentioned, classes in single subjects covering the whole field of household activities are also arranged. These consist of classes in Cookery (all stages), Laundry, Needlework, Dressmaking, Household Management, Embroidery and Art Work, Housecraft, etc. These subjects are, and have been, available in the existing Technical Schools, and the College, therefore, in this particular aspect, will be merely supplementing the valuable work which has been carried on in Domestic Economy under the City of Dublin Vocational Committee for many years.

Finally, there will be facilities for public demonstrations in various branches of Domestic Economy, and it is hoped that these lectures and demonstrations will become a very popular and important feature of the work of St. Mary's College.

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The site selected is in a good position, near a principal thoroughfare, and conveniently situated in regard to transport in all directions.

The building is designed for the teaching of Domestic Economy in its more advanced branches.

Before plans were finally approved, visits were made to similar Schools in London, Scotland and Sweden, and the building is planned on the most up-to-date lines and in accordance with modern practice, as seen in the places visited, and in conformity with home requirements.

Subjects to be taught cover a wide range, and include Drawing, Needlework, Laundry, Dressmaking and Design, Housewifery, Cooking, including Institutional and Hotel Work and the Training of Chefs, Applied Science, Domestic Housekeeping and Physical Culture.

The Training of Teachers will be an important part of the work of the School.

The building is designed on straightforward lines, in keeping with its site and surroundings, and is faced with Irish granite worked in Dublin, and Irish red bricks from Ballinhodley, Co. Cork. The bricks selected are of pleasing colour and texture, and they blend with the granite dressings and with the general surroundings.

The Grounds consist of Bicycle Store, Lecture Hall and ancillary apartments, Cloakrooms, Lavatories, Store and Boiler House in the basement.

The ground floor consists of Bicycle Store, Lecture Room, Administrative Office, Model Kitchen, Art Room, Cloaks, Lavatories, etc.

The first floor contains Teachers' Rooms, five Dressmaking Rooms, three Housewifery Rooms and Housewifery Store.

The second floor comprises accommodation for the Caretaker, Science Room, Six Kitchens and a large Kitchen Store.

The top floor contains the Gymnasium with Cloakroom, Laundries, Institutional Kitchen and Servery, Restaurant, Pupils' Common Room and a completely furnished Four-Roomed Flat for the Teaching of Domestic Housewifery.

The plan has been made to give maximum solar aspect in all rooms and corridors.

In the centre, opposite the entrance, the main staircase is situated, with a Passenger Lift beside it, and at each end of the building in Marlborough Street and in Thomas's Lane, secondary staircases are situated for entrance and emergency purposes.

Construction is of substantial load-carrying brick walls, with floors and a flat roof of reinforced concrete.

Floors generally are finished in wood block or lino, and Terrazzo and tiles are used in parts of the Kitchens, Laundry and Lavatories.

The Kitchens and Laundries are tiled to a height of approximately 6 feet.

The roof, to which access is provided from the main staircase, is covered with asphalt.

Heating by low pressure hot water with automatically stoked solid fuel boilers, and Electric Lighting and Power has been provided throughout.

In each kitchen, gas and electric cookers are installed. These Cookers are of different types to ensure varied experience for the Student. Cooking by coal, anthracite, oil and turf are catered for, by means of an 'Eagle Range', Esse Cooker and "Quick meal" Oil Cooker. In one kitchen an open turf fire with swing crane has been fitted.

The furniture and fittings in the Kitchens are in mahogany, and all working tables are fitted with stainless steel tops. The tops are in monel metal, with chromium-plated plate racks fitted above. The floors in all the Kitchens are in teak wood block.

The Laundries, on the ground floor, are fitted with suites of white glazed tills, with wringers mounted on them. There is a "Dairy Maid" Gas Boiler, Thor Electric Washing Machines, Ironers and Hydro Extractors. In the Drying Room there is a coil of heating pipes, and a special cabinet for quick drying is installed.

The Dressmaking and Millinery Rooms on the first floor are furnished with Chest of Drawers, Hanging Cupboards, Wardrobes and Tables in mahogany. In each room a raised platform, complete with folding mirrors, is provided for fitting and demonstration purposes. The floors are covered with lino.

In the Lecture Theatre, in the basement, a Screen and Projection Room are provided. This room is fitted with Gas and Electric Cookers for demonstration purposes. The seating is formed with tubular chromium-plated frames, with teak seats and writing ledges raised in tiers. Windows combined with a ceiling light provide very adequate illumination by day, and electrically operated blinds are fitted to the windows and doors.

The Gymnasium is well fitted with the most modern equipment, including balancing beams, window ladders, wall bars, vaulting horses, etc. This room has been designed and equipped to provide for its use as a badminton court. The floor is in maple and mahogany, and the fittings in pitch pine. Ample changing accommodation is provided in the annexe to the Gymnasium.

The Restaurant accommodates 56, and the furniture is of mahogany, with brown leather upholstery to the chairs. Service to it is from the Institutional Kitchen and Servery, which is equipped with all modern gas and electric cooking apparatus enabling Pupils to gain experience of Institutional and Hotel Cooking and Service, under actual working conditions.

The Teachers' Common Room, on the third floor, adjacent to the Restaurant, is furnished with easy chairs, writing desks and built-in book shelves all in mahogany. The floor of this room is in lino.

The Model Flat consists of Living Room, 2 Bedrooms, Kitchen and Bathroom. The rooms are furnished in mahogany. Fitted hanging cupboards are provided in the bedrooms. The Kitchen is equipped with gas cooker, combination sink and refrigerator. Hot water is obtained from an independent boiler, fitted in a recess. The walls and floors are tiled.

The Bathroom is tiled in primrose, and equipped with primrose coloured fittings with chromium-plated taps, etc.

The Main Hall is finished with a Terrazzo floor, with marble dado and columns, and the staircase is in cream Terrazzo relieved with a red line. The balustrading is in wrought iron, with chromium-plated handrail.

The fittings throughout the building are in mahogany, with an oiled, waxed and polished finish, fitted with bronze ironmongery.
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