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The New Uniforms Are Smart...

By Virginia Rowe

Have you seen the new foods uniforms? What? You didn't even know there were any? Well, you might have known that those ill-fitting, unbecoming garments we've had to wear to foods lab for so long would go sooner or later. Now we can actually look smart putting around in foods classes!

These new dresses are certainly improvements on the ones we bought when fitted styles which are so popular. The white uniform is one of those sleek, new notched collar, the shorter sleeves, and white uniform is one of those sleek, new fitted styles which are so popular. The white uniform is one of those sleek, new fitted styles which are so popular. The white uniform is one of those sleek, new fitted styles which are so popular. The white uniform is one of those sleek, new fitted styles which are so popular.

Speaking of these new outfits, did you know that Iowa State women wore uniforms before there was even such a thing as our Home Economics Division? Yes, they did! In 1901 the first ensemble was adopted. It was only partly a uniform, since there weren't many girls taking the economics course. In those days, the noble dress for school was a white skirt-waist, with a black ribbon around the neck, and a dark skirt. The costume was completed with the addition of a white apron. This was gathered on a band around the waist, and completely covered the skirt, since it was one full and long.

You've doubtless heard how the Home Economics Division was established in 1911. At that time the first real, honest-to-goodness Iowa State College foods uniform was ordered. This outfit consisted of a pink dress, a white apron, and a white cap. The dress was made in the fashion of the hour—long sleeves, high neck, full waist, the very long skirt gathered on a band at the waist line. The material was heavy gingham. The apron was of the same general cut—long, full skirt gathered to a band, and held up with cross straps in the back and a bib in front. The cap was of the nearly extinct variety commonly called "dust caps."

In 1915, we are told, some of the details were changed. The pink gingham dress still held sway, but you'd never have recognized it. The neck was lowered—and a white pique collar was added. The sleeves were shortened and finished with cuffs of similar cut and material. The skirt was slightly shorter, and not quite so full. The cap was discarded shortly after this change took place, and since everybody wore hairnets anyway, this was not designated as part of the ensemble. The apron was the only part of the earlier uniform to last through those drastic changes. It continued to be as before, and almost covered the lovely pearl buttons which now decorated the front of the dress.

We've heard some reports of the changes made by the art students in the garb of the cooks! In 1915, or thereabouts, any pastel color would pass inspection—and green was often used to trim the fetching pink dress of the years before.

By 1910 the girls were getting quite brave, and had chopped off another inch or so from the bottom of both dresses and aprons. The dresses were of much the same type, but the aprons were really changed. Instead of gathering the skirt to the waistband, we find our first fitted skirt. These aprons still completely cover the dress, however.

The uniforms that started most of us in our kitchen careers were adopted in 1924. At the time these were first worn, skirts were very short and straight, so these were right in the vogue. Since there is no way to adjust the waist line, they are not particularly becoming, as judged by our present day standards.

And so we have with us a new uniform, which is neat, smart, and modern.