



The stoutest lover of Oxford cannot claim for it that the architectural splendours of the colleges have exercised much influence on domestic buildings in its outskirts. But academic brilliance and all the learning of universities do not necessarily provide fruitful soil for aesthetic achievement, and it has only been during the greatest periods of complete human activity - Athens under Pericles, Augustan Rome and Italy during the renaissance - that philosophy, letters and the arts have exercised a united sway and achieved a common acceptance. It is all the more pleasant therefore to find, after climbing



ENTRENCE FRONT

Headington Hill, that Mr Walter Cave has built, in High Wall, a house that follows successfully in the line of Oxford's Tudor traditions. Solidly and squarely built to meet the pleasant airs that blow across from the old city, High Wall looks down on the towers and courts across a garden so interesting that it must be further illustrated in next week's issue.

The house is entered by a corner doorway opening from a little paved space on a lower level than the large forecourt seen in our first illustration. The site slopes steadily westwards, which causes some attractive changes of level in the house itself. From the porch we come to an upper vestibule, from which three steps lead down to the spacious hall seen in one of our photographs. This is lit from the east by a tall twelve-light window above the staircase and from the west by the bay which forms a notable feature of the terrace front. The treatment of the room, with its screen of columns, its strongly beamed ceiling and simply panelled walls, suggest that blend of richness and homeliness which is characteristic of the Tudor manner. The north-west corner is given to the dining room with the kitchen quarters behind. At the south-west is the sunniest of sitting rooms, from which a corridor leads past a flower room to a south arcaded loggia with its steps to the broad paved path which runs round the south and west sides. In the dining room Mr Cave has worked in a later tradition, as the picture of the fireplace shows.

With its rapidly mellowing brick walls, their warm red heightened by the cool-coloured quoins, its broad roof and massive chimneys, High Wall is as pleasant a house as one may wish to see in Oxford or elsewhere. It is four years since the writer of this saw it and delayed to have it photographed until the garden should have grown up and lost its early bareness, and much has happened since which may change the face of modern architecture. However successful may be the issue of the struggle, it is unlikely that peace



ENTRENCE DOOR



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

will bring much taste or leisure for the gentler arts. Housing schemes there will and must be, on a colossal scale. The returning armies will demand a harvest of comfort after their struggle for the assurance of liberty. The current of human labour will return slowly at first into its old channels. For years to come it seems not unlikely that domestic work will tend to follow the austere and economical tradition of early nineteenth century classicism when purses were lean, rather than the opulent manners of the earlier Renaissance. LAURENCE WEAVER





THE HALL



SOUTH FRONT



THE DINING ROOM



THE WEST FRONT