

## DR. MARY WALKER, TANGOIST

Dr. Mary Walker has a new excuse for her old cry, "Cut out the skirts!" In the vernacular of the day that is the next step in the evolution of dancing, according to the famous Washington woman who simply won't wear them.

The dear lady does not mean we are not to have fascinating femininity present when we do the grapevine with the double dip or slide a subtle variation into the caterpillar glide. She wishes to be taken literally. She objects to the clinging garments that handicap her hesitation, tangle her tango and mess up her maxixe. She is eighty-one years old and hasn't worn dresses for over sixty years. Now she is demonstrating to startled Washington that the new dances justify her lifelong fight against the clothing of her sex.

Nothing in official life at Washington has upset the natives quite so much as the spectacle of Dr. Mary Walker, "the grand old woman," of the National Capital, the original new woman and the pioneer of women suffrage, clad in her familiar black trousers, or pants, as she prefers them called, doing the "Dr. Mary Walker Glide" at the slightest provocation. She is the only woman in the United States, she asserts, who knows the real joys of the new dance steps, because she is the only woman in the United States to whom congress has granted permission to wear the bifurcated garment. Other women wear slashed skirts but, according to Dr. Mary, they do not know the first note in the sexery of freedom.

"The modern dances are not immodest any more than were the old round dances," declares Dr. Walker. "I have long contended that women's clothes were dangerous on the dance floor, and there is nothing which will make the women of this country come to their senses and don proper attire so quickly as will the need of proper attire in dances.

"See now when I stoop in the dress reform dip there is none of my leg exposed; but take the little girl who is dancing with me. She is wearing one of those narrow skirts, and it is impossible for her to keep it from slipping up and exposing her knees. The dress reform for women which I have advocated for many years is sure to come, for it is sensible, and woman is at last finding herself."

Dr. Walker is not only an ardent follower of the present school of dancing, but has invented several numbers herself, among them being the Mary Walker glide and the dress reform dip. Her first appearance as a dancer was made at a private dance given by the Women's Democratic club in Washington not long ago. Since then she has gladly danced on numerous occasions for private exhibitions and at social affairs. She dances principally with women, though the sex of her partners makes little difference to the well-known doctor, as she dances equally well with a man or a woman. Neither, however, must have the slightest scent of tobacco about them, for if there is one thing aside from a skirt which Dr. Mary despises it is smoking. The odor of the finest cigar or cigarette disgusts her and makes her peevish.

Dr. Walker explains that she has taken particular interest in the dances of the day because of the opportunity to demonstrate the superiority of her manner of dress over that now in vogue for women. Dr. Walker is still the quaint little figure she has been for sixty years, wearing her black trousers and frock coat and top hat on all occasions, accompanied by a stick or umbrella. For evening she wears stickpins, of which she has a wonderful and varied collection; also the two decorations; attached to her by con-

gress for bravery as a surgeon during the Civil war, as well as a wrist watch. The watch Dr. Walker wears in a most unusual manner in the center of her left hand, the bracelet part being too big for her wrist. She says that having the watch on the back of her hand is really most convenient.

Dr. Walker's age seems to be of little concern to her, and she is quite as alert physically apparently as she was sixty years ago, when she gave the world an active jolt on dress reform. She is very seldom ill, and then dispenses with the services of a physician, ministering to her own needs. Once when suffering from a serious attack of pneumonia Dr. Walker was taken to a hospital. It was very much against her will that she was taken to the institution, but when the authorities insisted upon her wearing what she described as a "frilly, flimsy, chilly, foolish nightgown" instead of her pajamas Dr. Walker rebelled, and still in a serious condition left the hospital and went to the home of a friend.

So ardent an advocate of dancing has Dr. Walker become that she has recently posed for a moving picture firm. The pictures were taken on the terrace of the public library with the capitol in the background and a hurdy-gurdy playing dance music for the celebrated dancer, because she declared that she could not possibly achieve the proper rhythm to the pictures without music. The little escapade attracted a large crowd of curious spectators, but that never caused Dr. Walker to lose her rhythmic balance.

## THE CHORUS GIRL AGAIN

If you were to be asked the question, offhand, which is subject to the greatest temptation, the chorus girl, the artist's model or the shop girl, the chances are ten to one you would answer the chorus girl, says the New York Telegraph. The idea generally prevails that she is the object of more temptation and insult than the girls in other walks of life that lead to bread winning, but the idea is wrong. Johanna Kristoffy, of the Aborn Opera company, who has had experience in all three of the above-mentioned occupations, bears out the statement, and declares the shop girl encounters the greatest temptations to lure her from the straight and narrow path.

"I would a thousand times rather take the greater temptation in life of either the show girl or artist's model than stand behind the counter of a downtown store taking the petty annoyances and covert insults of the shop girl," she says. "She must bear many indignities simply by ignoring them, because her livelihood depends upon her keeping the position whereas in both the professions, if she has a voice or is at all good looking, she can assert her dignity and be respected."

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