

Supplement to the "People's Journal," October 4, 1930.



THE wonderful revival of Scottish country dances has led the editor of the "People's Journal" to present to his readers this book which has been specially written with a view to explaining clearly to those who are interested the movements of some of our best dances.

These dances form such a healthy social pastime and give so much more grace to the carriage that their encouragement is well worth while, and the editor hopes that his readers make use of the material they have to hand.

General Arrangement and Deportment.

The dancers usually stand in lines facing each other, and in dances of this formation four couples is usually a suitable number for a set. In this formation it is also imperative to note that the men stand so that the orchestra is on their left side while the women have the orchestra to their right.

The dance begins and finishes with a bow and curtsey.



In Scottish country dancing a good carriage and simple, unaffected dancing are desired. The spirit throughout is gay, and the dancing just sufficiently restrained for correct performance with regard to form, rhythm, and social quality.

The man holds his arms naturally by his sides, the woman holds her skirt with both hands, between thumb and first and second fingers, as shown in the accompanying photograph.

Mysterious Charm.

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Main Steps used in this Collection Giving of Hands.

The feet should be turned out, and while dancing should, as a rule, be held close to the floor with toes pointed.

.....

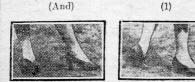
The dancing should be light and smooth, not too springy, and free from scraping.

.....



(2) Skip and Change of Step.

This step is used when leading down the middle and up again, advancing and retiring, and, generally speaking when progressing. The rhythm is the same as the pas de basque. The accompanying photographs will illustrate the movements, which are:-



(3) Slip Step.

This is used in going round in a ring in reel time :-

(a) Step to side with left foot: (b) Close right heel to left.

(a)





When leading partners, in turning or "poussetting," the movement is accom-plished by the "giving of hands." The man gives his hand to the woman with palm facing up.

(1) Pas de Basque.

This step, generally speaking, is used in setting and in poussette, and is the one used in setting to partner in the eightsome reel. The second position of this step is important. The photograph here should enable you to perform it correctly.

- (And) Hop on left foot, raising right with straight leg in front;
- (1) Step forward with right foot;
- (2) Close left foot up to right heel;
- (3) Step forward on the right foot.

(2) (3)





Leading Down the Middle and Up Again.

The couple give right hands and dance down the set for four bars. Then, still keeping hold, they turn towards each other and return up the middle to their places.

(b)



Main Steps-(Continued)

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Poussette Progression.

This method of progression was very often done in waltz fashion, but in the older and correct form both hands are joined as the accompanying sketches will show. The photograph shows the correct way to hold hands. The photograph on the previous page shows the correct way to hold hands.

hands.

the second couple into the second place, the second couple moving up to the top. The leading couple then repeat the dance, moving down a place each time, till finally they reach the bottom. Each couple, when they get to the bottom of the dance, stand still for one performance and then go on again.

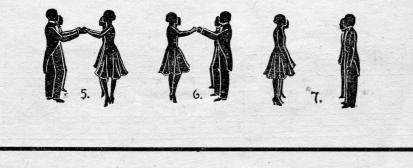


Description.

The couple going down move out on the man's side, while the dancers going up move out on the woman's side, as the first sketch here illustrates. The second sketch will show you the next move a quarter turn clockwise— and in the third sketch you will notice the next movement, one couple having gone down, the other moving up. In sketch number four you will notice that both couples have made another quarter turn clockwise, while from the fifth drawing you will see



that the next move is that both couples more in the centre. Sketch number six shows that the couples turn right about next, changing places, and in the last sketch the dancers have resumed their positions by moving up or down one place. The pousette takes 8 bars of music, the man starting off with the left foot, the woman with the right.



Circassian Circle

THE Circassian Circle, which is very suitable for an "opening" number, is one of our old dances which has never been allowed to die out. The dancers are arranged round the room in sets of four, each man with his partner on his right side, one couple facing clockwise, the other facing counter-clock-wise.

wise.

The sketch will illustrate this clearly. No. 1 couple, in white, are clockwise, and No. 2, the blacks, counter-clockwise. The dance is in reel time.

This movement is really a grand chain of four people starting by giving the right hand to your opposite.

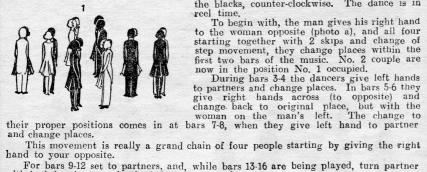
For bars 9-12 set to partners, and, while bars 13-16 are being played, turn partner with both hands, to arrive back in your own place.

Ladies' Chain.

In this graceful movement, during bars 17-20—the women give each other the right hand, cross over and turn the opposite man by the left hand. The women then cross back to their own places and turn partners by the left hand. This occupies hars 21-24. Each couple now moves on in the direction in which they were originally facing and meet the next couple coming towards them.

them.









Circassian Circle. Progression.

Progression. This progression is done by poussetting, the woman when facing her partner moving back-wards first of all. So at the first part of the poussette the couple marked No. 1 (facing clockwise) will move in towards the centre of the room, the other couple moving out, as in the photograph (b). The dance is repeated with a new couple each time.





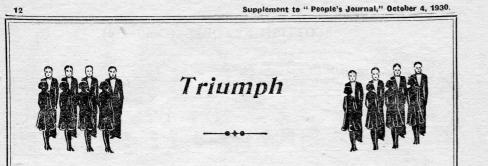












 $\mathbf{T}^{\mathrm{HIS}}$ picturesque dance is one of the most popular of our old dances and is always asked for without fail.

The dancers stand in two rows, ladies on one side and gentlemen on the other, and the first man stands with his left side nearest the orchestra. This is the position in all the dances of similar formation.

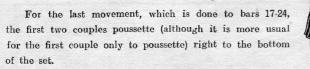


For the first 8 bars of music in Triumph the first couple leads down the middle and up again, and the first man presents his partner to the second man, who takes her right with his left. The sketch at the side shows this presentation.

The second man and the first woman then dance down the middle with nearest hands joined, the first man following.

Then the first woman, retaining the second man's hand, turns right about and crosses her arms, giving her free hand into her partner's right. The men, turning inward towards her, join their free hands at the back over her head, as in the sketch. This is done to the music of bars 9-12.

For bars 13-16 the three dance up the middle in this formation.

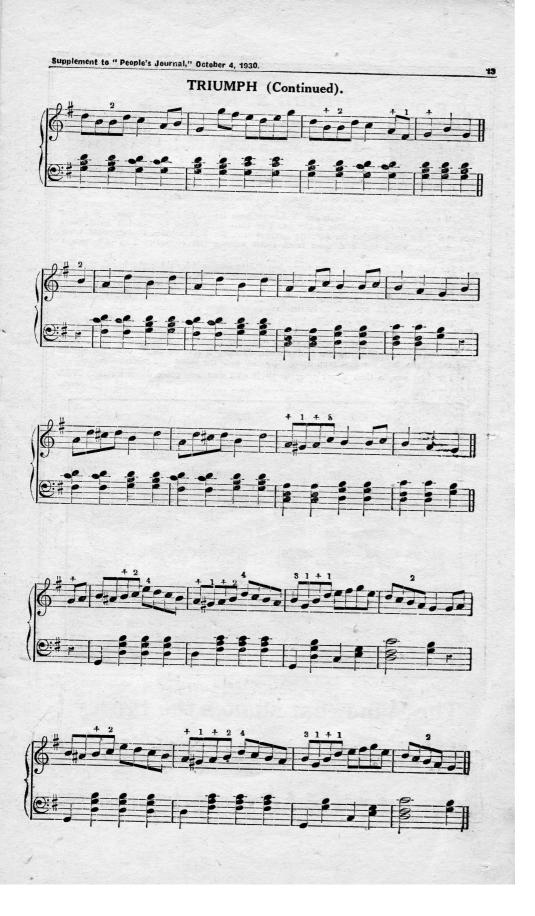


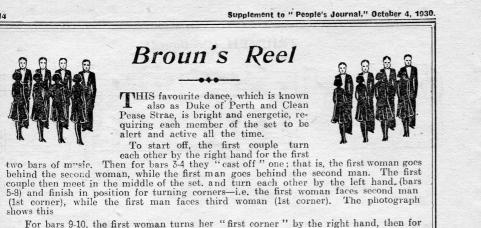


Triumph.

(COUNTRY DANCE.)







For bars 9-10, the first woman turns her "first corner" by the right hand, then for bars 11-12 the first couple turn each other by the left hand.

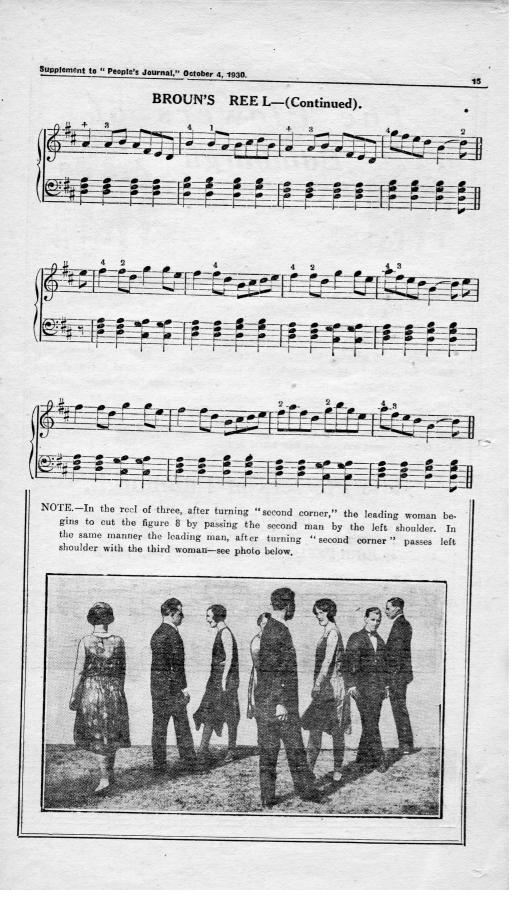
The first woman now turns her "second corner" (the third man) by the right hand, while the first man turns his "second corner" by the right hand also. This is done to bars 13-14, and for 15-16 the first couple turn each other by the left hand. The first couple now set to and turn by both hands the first corner during bars 17-20, the woman dancing as before with men, the man with women.

The bars 21-24 the first couple go to the "second corner," set to, and turn it. This is followed for bars 25-30 by the first woman dancing a reel of three with the second and third man, and the first man doing likewise with the third and second woman.

The first couple then dance over to their own side, one place down for bars 30-32.



The Wind that shakes the Barley. (REEL.)





THE title of this dance is at least indicative of the town of its origin, but the story, while interesting, is too long to be told here.

It has its own special music like most of the old dances, and again the dancersfour couples-are arranged in two lines as in Triumph.

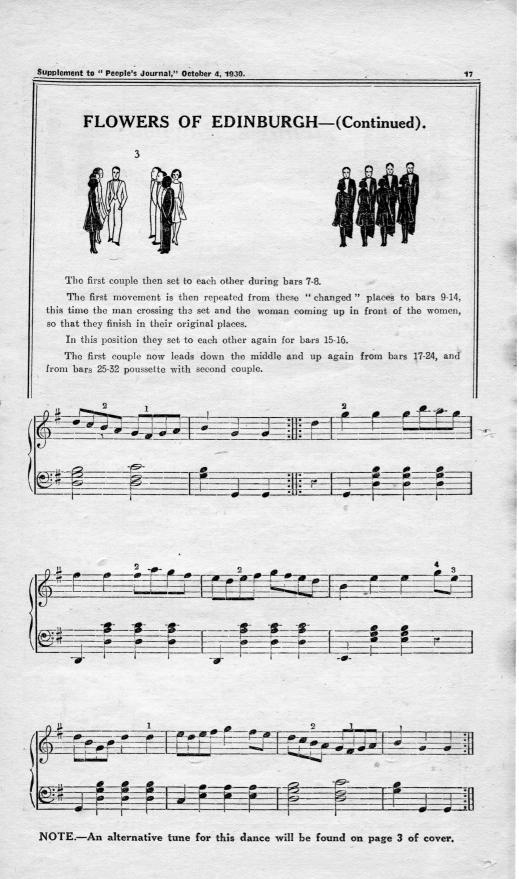
At the opening the first woman turns by her right and dances down behind the second and third women, and then, passing between the third and fourth women, she dances across the set to come out between the third and fourth men. Continuing, she dances up behind the third and second men till she reaches the place her partner has vacated. The man follows the woman down to the position between the third and fourth women, but, instead of crossing the set, he comes up in front of the third and second women, to land in his partner's place. They should arrive simultaneously, and this movement occupies the first 6 bars of music.

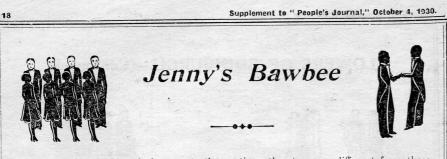
The Flowers of Edinburgh.

(COUNTRY DANCE.)

or JOHN PEEL (See note at foot of next page).







A^S this very old dance is done to strathspey time, the steps are different from those used in quick time. Instead of skip and change of step, change of step and hop is used. It is a smooth flowing step, and at the hop on the right foot the left leg is brought through to the front with the toe pointed and close to the floor.

Common Schottische Step.

Instead of pas de basque for setting to partner in this dance the common Schottische step is used. Beginning with the right foot, step sideways, close left to right heel, step sideways with the right and hop on it, bringing the left foot up neatly behind. This is re-peated to the left.



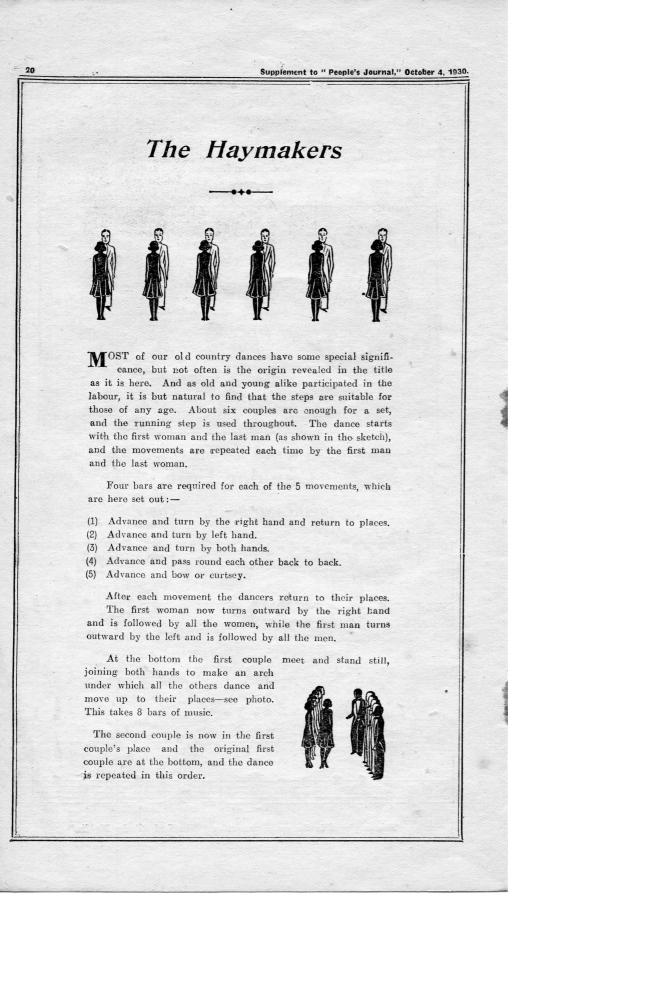
The Movements.

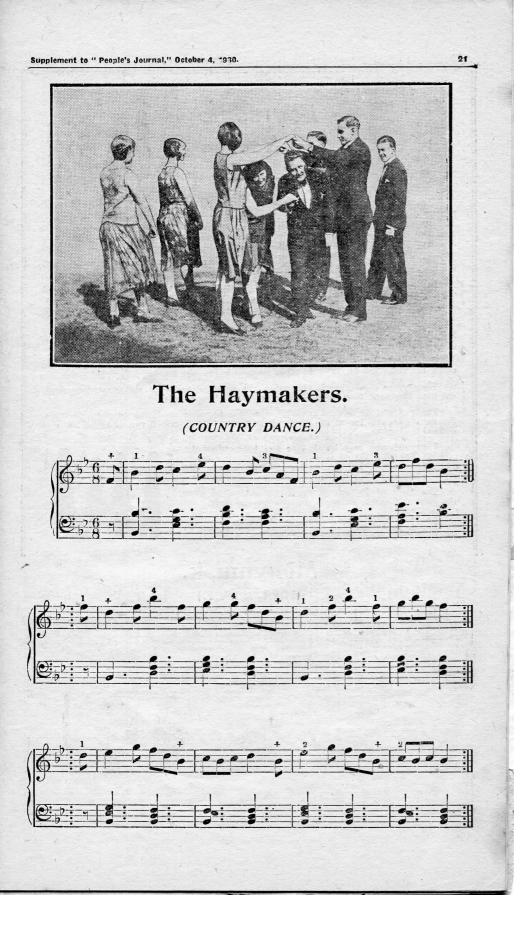
To start off the dance the first two menset to the first two women during the bars 1-2, and then do half right and left, namely, partners give right hands across, change places, and then the first man and second man give left hands and change places, while the women do the same. This comes in at bars 3-4, and the sketch at the right-hand top of this page will explain the move. For bars 5-6 they set again, and at 7-8 a half right and left brings them back to places.

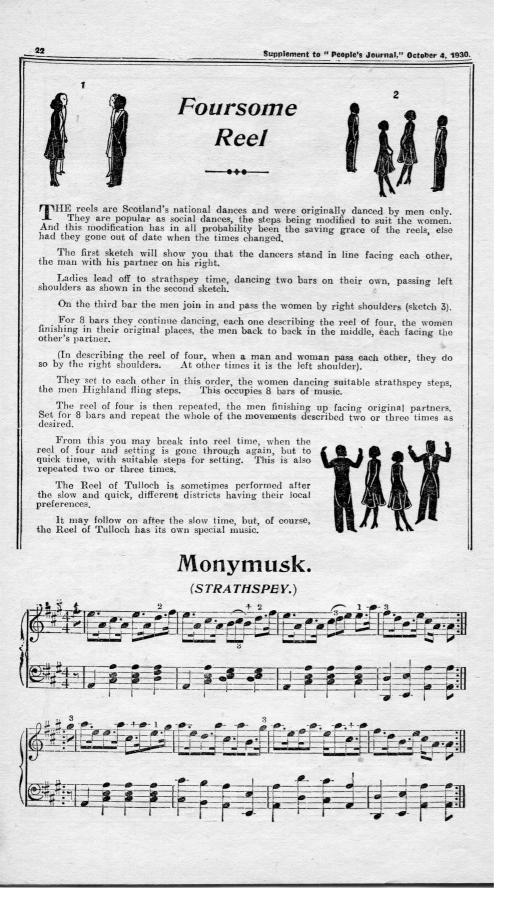
places. The first couple then leads down the middle and up again from the 9th bar to 16th bar. The second couple falls in behind, and both couples, looking up the set to begin with, perform the Allemande while 17-24 are being played. The Allemande, which is described below, takes the places of poussette.

The Lad wi' the Plaidie. The first 4 bars of music are repeated to number 5-8. The second 4 bars are repeated to number 13-16. Then the whole tune is played from the start to number 17-24.

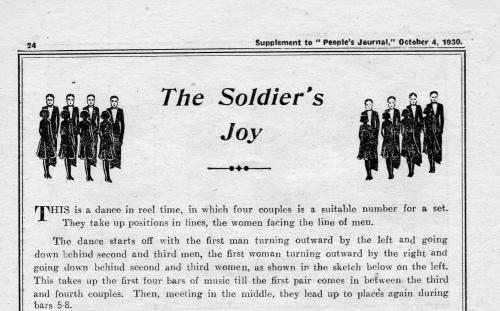












The first three couples then give right hands across (as in the photograph) and dance round for bars 9-12 with four skip and change of step movements.



They change now to left hands and repeat back to place for bars 13-16.

During bars 17-24 the first couple dance down the middle and up again, and bars 25-32 are taken up with first and second couples poussetting.

The first couple repeat the dance with third and fourth couples, and so on.



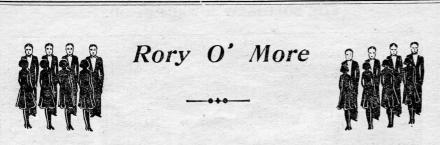
Miss Gayton's Hornpipe.







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A^T the opening of this vigorous dance the first and second women join nearest hands and advance and retire, while the first and second men do likewise. This continues to bars 1-4, and is shown in the small sketch below on the right.

The next movement, which occupies bars 5-8, is that the first two women dance under an arch formed by the first two men and cross over to the men's side, while the men cross over to the women's side of the set. The arch is seen in the photo below.

From these positions the same four advance and retire again to bars 9-12, as shown in the sketch to the right. And douring bars 13-16 cross back to their original places in the same manner as they changed pre-viously.



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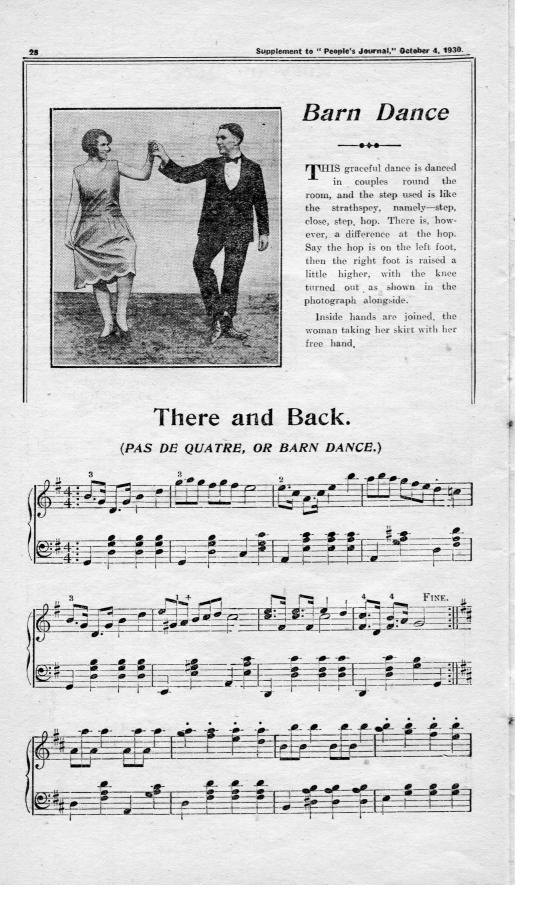
The first couple then leads down the middle and up again while bars 17-24 are being played, and poussette with the second couple to the music of bars 25-32.

Each district, of course, has slight variations on these movements.











Highland Schottische

THE position taken up in this dance is the same as in the old-fashioned waltz. The man hops four times on his right foot counting 1, 2, 3, 4. At 1 he points his left foot sideways; at 2 raises it behind; at 3 points it sideways; and on 4 raises it in front. The photos, 1, 2, 3, will clearly indicate what is meant, but, while these are given as separate movements, the actions must follow close on each other to give the cohesion which brings grace to this, one of the prettiest of our old dances.



The woman, starting off with the opposite foot, goes through the same steps,

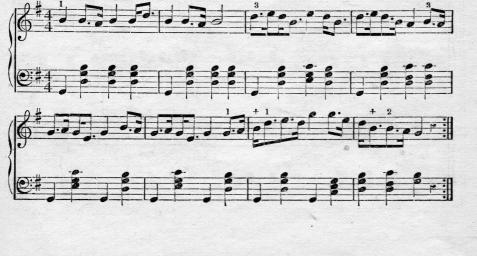
Both then do the common Schottische step described in "Jenny's Bawbee," namely, the woman to her right, the man to his left. This during bars 1-2. They repeat, still beginning with the outside foot and going in the opposite —direction during bars 5-4 (photo 4).

For bars 5-8 the couple go round and round step-hop, stephop. The move-

The movements are then repeated from the beginning.



What's a' the Steer, Kimmer? (HIGHLAND SCHOTTISCHE.)



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Waltz Country Dance

THIS very pretty dance, another of the old ones which has been kept alive in Scotland, usually follows on after the Circassian Circle, and is a restful change from the gay spirit of the last named.

In formation and progression it is similar to the Circassian Circle, but the time used being waltz time, the step must be adjusted to suit.

To begin with each sets to his or her opposite, all four starting together, and continue during the first two bars.



Then bars 3 and 4 are taken up in changing places, passing right shoulders as in the Circassian Circle, but not, as a rule, giving hands.

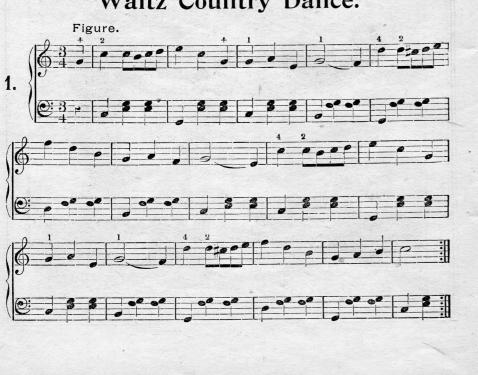
Repeat setting, this time to your partner, for the next two bars (5 and 6) and pass again, changing places while the 7th and 8th bars are being played.

The setting and passing is continued for bars 9–16, when you should each be at the place you started from (instead of pas de basque for setting you may do a balance forward and back).

All four now join hands in a ring (as in the photograph) and balance forward, raising the arms slightly, and lowering them when balancing back during bars 17-18. Bars 19-20 each man turns the woman on his left over to his right side, as in the photograph on the other page.

Repeat the balancing and turning three times during bars 21-32. Then, when all are back in places, the opussette is done as in Circassian Circle, but to waltz time for bars 33-40.

The dance is then repeated with a new couple.



Waltz Country Dance.

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John Peel.

(An alternative tune to Flowers of Edinburgh on page 16.)



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