

# Have You Danced The Pericon?

It's a New Terpsichorean Concoction From Chili.



Opens cross over step before lady dances around the gentleman in the "Pericon."  
Photo by Dobkiss.



Open position when lady dances around gentleman.



Forward position in waltz steps before turn is taken.  
Photo by Dobkiss.

As our tango came from South America, so enters the Pericon from south of Chili. As in the modern day when things move rapidly, just so with the dance—the enthusiastic dancer of today is seeking and demanding knowledge of this new dance—the Pericon—which is said to be the "dance of tomorrow" in the dancing world.

There are hundreds of expert dancers who enjoy dancing for the sake of the dance and are ever seeking the newest tempos. The most important thing in dancing now is not so much how many steps one takes as the style and tempo that it is done in. The most popular tempo in dancing has always been the three-quarter, or that commonly known as the waltz time. We have had the hesitation in the waltz tempo time, the lame duck, the new present canter, and here again is a new form of the dance used to three-quarter time, known as "the Pericon," which is really a more exemplified form of the tango style.

Every dance has its own particular style. The new popular staccato expressed and effected in this new Pericon again repeats the simple three-quarter tempo, but accents on the primary beat of each measure. There is a walk in the Pericon which marks the beginning of all our modern dances, bringing the accent according to the dance on the correct foot.

**Proper Position.**  
At the present moment the position of the dancers is almost continually standardized. And what is standard position?

Why, it is the correct position—the lady stands in front of her partner about two inches, or slightly to the left, facing him, her right hand held in the gentleman's left, her fingers in his palm, the man's fingers overlapping the back of her hand. The hands should come about 20 inches from the head; his other hand resting under the left shoulder blade of his partner and her left hand is lightly placed on the man's shoulder. A good dancer never holds his partner closer than four to six inches. It will be found, if his position be taken correctly, that when the gentleman steps forward with his right foot and the lady back with her left he is stepping slightly to the left of her foot, whether the step be taken with either foot, and prevents the misfortune of stepping on the lady's toes.

Mrs. Rollie Downes, who is introducing the Pericon in the East, offers a few suggestions about this latest terpsichorean effect.

"The Pericon is commenced with a walk," said Mrs. Downes, "and the walk is introduced whenever desired, as in the use of the walk in the tango, only more decided, or even longer steps, in a catlike manner with straight limbs and narrow action. This is the secret of grace in the modern dances.

"The Pericon is now being danced by professionals and is being simplified for general ballroom use. There are always about four steps in every modern dance, but the possibilities are unlimited. A new tempo always excites

the interest of the dancing public, and interest will be centered in the dance. Since the Pericon has a new tempo in the fox trot and tango, in a fundamental style.

"One thing a dancer should always hold fast to—dance in time. There are many who invariably dance ahead of the music and spoil the spirit of the

dance for themselves and their partners.

"The Pericon is danced both in the Argentine Republic and in the southern part of Chili. It is danced only by the 'Gouchos'—cowboys. In Chili it is called the 'queque' or 'zama queque.' The name Pericon means in English the 'knife of clubs' in the game of 'quinalos'; it also means 'large fan,' but this has no relation to the dance.

"The dance, like the tango and all dances as originally danced, could not be danced by the people of Europe or ourselves, but it has wonderful possibilities, and when modified and danced to the beautiful music written for it, with objectionable features omitted, it is a wonderfully attractive and graceful dance.

"As we have all noticed, the dances when first introduced usually use every beat for a step, but as the dance progresses and is smoothed out the twist of the foot or step known as the 'center' is introduced, so that we frequently find this used in the one-step as well, and effects a pretty turn.

"In the Pericon one of the most prominent steps is the stamp step, consisting of six stamps.

"The true and original Pericon is started by the girl with her back toward the cowboy, and as in all these peasant dances the stamp of the foot and general swing done in slow, rhythmic motions."

**Moral—Keep a Pencil Handy.**  
Christian Herald.

Thoughts come to us as strangers for the first time, or as friends who have been present before. If we do not entertain the stranger or the friend they will not remain. Neither will the thoughts if we do not entertain them. The man without many friends is poor, but the man without many thoughts is doubly poor.



## For the Young People



**NED, THE HUMAN TORPEDO**

NED was reading war news. The terrible loss of life and destruction in sea fighting made him very sorry for the European children whose fathers were taken from them so cruelly. But that did not keep him from enjoying the stories of exciting battles on sea and land. He was particularly interested in sea fighting.

"My!" he exclaimed one evening. "I'd like to be captain of one of those submarines—I mean submarines. Ned knew the difference between a submarine and a battleship as well as between a cruiser and a battleship. In fact, you might have thought he had spent many years as the admiral

wish I had got a job as captain of a battleship instead of a submarine."

It was not strange that when Ned went to sleep that night he dreamed about battleships and submarines. He found himself on a submarine, but not as captain. The captain was an old man who stood at the periscope (the mirror through which he saw the ships on the surface), and gave orders in a very gruff voice.

"Here, you Ned," he shouted. "Make ready this torpedo and send it from the port forward tube when I give the word. Double quick there!"

This was a rare treat to Ned, and he felt slightly important as he started the mechanism to going and awaited the captain's order. The whirr of the deadly missile as it slid through the tube filled him with much pleasure.

"I don't care if I am not captain," he said to himself. "I'd rather fire torpedoes than look through a periscope."

Then he heard the captain exclaim. "There, Ned! you missed it. You must have failed to start the right propeller. That ship's going to ram us if we're not careful. Get another ready for the rear port tube."

Soon Ned was sending torpedo after torpedo at the enemy, but none seemed to take effect. Maybe the ship was protected by a wire netting, but the captain didn't seem to think of that.

And then Ned discovered that not another torpedo was left! He hastened to tell the captain.

"What!" thundered his superior. "Wasted them all and not even touched the enemy?"

"Yes, sir," replied Ned, timidly.

"Put him in irons," shouted the captain.

Three men stepped forward and Ned found himself a prisoner.

"Now, men," said the captain to the crew, "what had we better do with this fellow? Ned has always been an expert gunner, but he has proved himself a traitor and has wasted all the torpedoes. When we get ashore we will have Ned shot."

Ned felt very miserable.

"Haven't we any more ammunition at all, men?" the captain asked.

"We have a 16-inch shell here, sir," reported one of the crew, "but of course we can't use it."

The captain scowled at Ned.

"Yes, we can use it," he snapped. "Take the prisoner to the forward port tube."

Ned wondered what on earth—or under the sea—the captain could mean. He soon found out.

"Tie the prisoner's hands above his head and lash the shell to them."

"When this was done the captain said:

"Now, young man, you're a human torpedo. I am going to run this submarine close to the enemy and fire you at its hull. Even yet you may serve our king and country. Farewell, Ned."

The boy and the shell were placed

**FLOWERS OF MOULD**

HAVE you ever seen anyone who would lovingly tend little "flowers" of mould? The other day we were invited into the laboratory of a certain renowned botanist. He was a "micrologist," which means that he makes researches in the dark and mysterious ways of various kinds of fungi. He has watched the mushroom in every stage of growth and his observations are quoted in learned books. He is working on a history of fungi, but some of his leisure time is taken up with making delicate little hair line drawings of mushroom spores, his "patterns" looking like new designs in some humble "imagined" that comes on vegetables, for instance, carefully studied. We saw one horrible looking object in a jar, brown, with long "fingers." With disgust in our tones we cried: "What's that?" And he laughed as he answered: "Just some bread pods in water, half covered with mould—nothing to be afraid of."

A glass box filled with river mud held something fairy-like in its depths—the thread-like, filmy waving Algae and all kinds of feathery water plants. Any boy could have one of these delightful "surprise boxes" for his very own, to watch and study and would find it a pastime of great interest.

Some one asked the professor: "Is it true that nothing poisonous grows in the Far North?" "What about the fungus, known as the Fly-Agaric (amanita muscaria)?" he questioned in his turn, and he showed us a picture of a very beautiful scarlet-orange mushroom mottled with white, like big flakes of snow. These grow on the ground in or near the woods and some of the species are very poisonous. A tribe in Kamtschatka dries the mushrooms and then the men chew four or five apiece, intoxicating themselves with the poison. They are beautiful objects in the Northern woods in Autumn, with their bright caps dotted with white. Others are being white or of varying shades of yellow or green.

Some fungi—moulds and yeast—appear to be distributed all over the earth. Many parts of the world, however, remain to be explored as far as fungi are concerned. New species are constantly being discovered in the United States and Northern Europe. The north temperate regions, so far, seem richest in species. Every time wood, plants, wheat, fruit, etc., is sent from one country to another it means the transmission of fungi. Birds, too, carry these minute organisms and so do currents of air and water.

What is really in them—what are they made of? In the cells under the microscope botanists have discovered oil drops, often colored, crystals of calcium oxalate and resin; but the mi-

October 12, 1492—Landing of Columbus at San Salvador.  
October 14, 1644—Birth of William Penn.  
October 17, 1777—Burgoyne's surrender.  
October 18, 1821—Birth of Helen Hunt Jackson.  
October 19, 1751—Surrender of Cornwallis.  
October 26, 1863—Red Cross Society organized.  
October 27, 1858—Birth of Theodore Roosevelt.  
October 28, 1886—Statue of Liberty unveiled in New York harbor.  
October 30, 1825—Birth of Adelaide Proctor.  
October 30, 1735—Birth of John Adams.

**SHE WANTED SOME WHITE FOLKS.**  
"I have had a number of strange requests made of me," said the trained nurse, "but I think the most pathetic one came from a small colored child. I was taking my training in one of the biggest hospitals in the country and was for my sins in the colored ward. I take that 'for my sins' back here and now for it is unjust. As a matter of fact I never saw any one more grateful than the colored patients in a hospital are, for any attention, and moreover, if any one in the ward starts a song, or more especially a hymn, all of them except those so ill that they cannot raise their heads, join in the singing, their rich voices ringing out with much vigor."

"However the little colored girl I am telling you about was only 5 years old, and was convalescent. She trotted after me around the ward most of the day and seemed to be very fond of me. Finally one day she sidled up to me and took my hand. 'Missy,' said she, 'won't you be my white folks?' Now if that wasn't pathetic, what was it?"



**NAMING THE NEW BABY**

When children come, no matter where, They're born with eyes and teeth and hair;

With hands and legs you'd suppose And even with a tiny nose; But why on earth, and who's to blame For boring us without a name?

There's not a thing in any book As sweet as our new baby's look. I've read the great big dictionary—Maud! Louise! Kate! and Mary! Genevieve! and Isabelle!—But nothing seems to fit her well.

She's more like blossoms in the Spring Than any other living thing. And so I got a book with flowers And studied it for many hours—Clover, Fanny, Hollyhock, Buttercup and Four o'Clock!

And then I said, "Oh Mother dear, I know you'll think it very queer, I've read and read and read and read To get a name into my head, And yet of all the ones there may be The only one that suits is 'Baby!'"

### Our Puzzle Corner

**BEHEADINGS.**  
Behad what falls in Winter and leave the present time.  
Behad a boy's toy and leave everything.  
Behad that which is rowed and leave a cereal.  
Behad the entire and leave a tear.  
Behad a testament and leave not well.  
Behad a part of a window and leave a Scotch maiden.  
Behad a piece of furniture and leave an exclamation of pain.  
Behad a low seat and leave a carpenter's necessity.  
Behad a hurt and leave a part of the human body.

**JUMBLED QUOTATION.**  
Owh onwka ehwhret hte osdg lhw dwd motowr of het sereptn ohur.  
—Girivi.

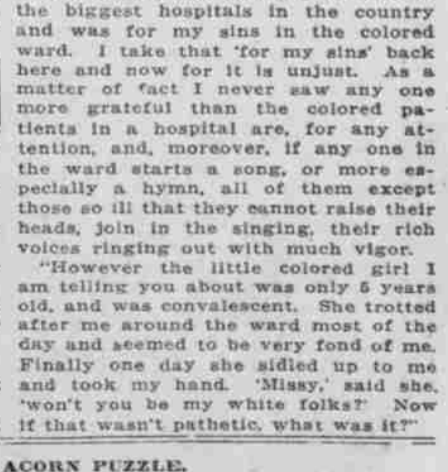
**ANSWERS.**  
Behadings: S-snow, B-all, B-oat, W-whole, W-ill, G-lass, C-ouch, S-tool, H-earm.  
Jumbled Quotation: Who knows whether the gods will add tomorrow to the present hour.  
—Virgil.

**Father's Baby, Willie's Lady.**  
Judge.  
"But my daughter's too young to marry, young man. She's just barely a miss."  
"She may seem that way to you, sir, but she's a bit with me."

### October in History

October 1, 1799 — Birth of Rufus Choate.  
October 2, 1780—Birth of Major Andre.  
October 4, 1777—Battle of Germantown.  
October 5, 1830—Birth of Chester Arthur.  
October 6, 1821—Birth of Jenny Lind.  
October 7, 1765—First Colonial Congress at New York.  
October 8, 1871—Chicago fire.  
October 8, 1869—Death of President Pierce.  
October 8, 1839—Birth of John Hay.

### LEAF AND ACORN PUZZLE.



This little girl has been out gathering Fall leaves. See if you can find an oak leaf and an acorn by cutting out the black spots and fitting them together.



Solution to Leaf and Acorn Puzzle.