

WOMEN

One Woman Crusade Against Slacks-Wearers Who Wear Them for No Particular Reason

By GERTRUDE McALLISTER

What snoods and bows have done to the millinery business, pants—yes, pants—are threatening to do to the dress business. Being a member of the anti-slacks clique—although we like knee-length slacks—we find it easy to fall in with the lobbyists for the dress trade. We might not be quite so willing to spread anti-slack propaganda except that we think when women take to wearing pants in preference to a beautiful gown in the evening that's going too far. We're for bare shoulders, giddy necklines and swirling hems about the ankles.

Against slacks and pants we present the following arguments of the dress manufacturers:

- A**—Men do not like them in peacetime.
- B**—Men certainly do not want their women in pants in wartime.
- C**—In England women in uniform are making a desperate effort to remain feminine. Mary Churchill is quoted as saying: "It's hard to stay feminine in uniforms. We are making a tremendous effort and getting into our dresses again is a positive joy." The don't relax in slacks.
- D**—Few women over 25 look well in slacks.
- E**—Hundreds of young girls whose figures are on the bunched side certainly don't look well in them.
- F**—Almost all co-ed campus rules have thumbs down on girls in pants.
- G**—Men who see legs in pants by the thousands on parade grounds, in trains, transports, in actual combat certainly don't want to come home to find all the girls' legs encased in pants.
- H**—Women will gain a second emancipation through this war. If they are to lose their femininity, womanly charm and gentleness and tenderness, then indeed it is wise to spend our

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time in planning a new world. Without the attributes of true womanhood, it will indeed be a sorry world.

That last reason is a bit high-sounding and we can't honestly imagine the course of the world being changed because women wear slacks. But we agree heartily with the idea that when a woman puts on slacks femininity takes a nose dive.

The hullabaloo for wearing slacks was stirred up as a direct result of increased activities for women in war time. Slacks, it was argued, allowed a woman more freedom, permitted her to do a man's job less conspicuously than if she were attired in form-fitting sweater and skirt, gave her added warmth and various other reasons. Certainly they proved to be appropriate for first aid classes and for jobs in defense factories.

The slack fever, however, has spread far beyond those new boundaries and we've even seen them trooping down 5th Ave., the world's fashion boulevard, when surely the women wearing them were neither trying to keep warm, hurrying to a defense job or to a first aid class.

At this point we must sound like Mrs. Midvictoria herself. Well, when it comes to a choice between a woman wearing slacks willy-nilly on all occasions and a woman looking like a woman in clothes that flatter her own physical attributes, we'll take the latter. Heaven knows our mothers carried on something terrible to be able to expose an ankle to the stare of the populace—now we want to cover them up.

