

OLD FASHIONED RUG-CUTTING

F. P. A., '44

To my mind there is nothing quite so interesting or unusual in the the form of entertainment as a country dance. I mean a real country dance where there is none of the so-called modern dancing, but where the time is spent in dancing those old-fashioned sets and quadrilles.

The dance usually begins anywhere between eight and ten o'clock at night, depending on the season, and lasts, with unceasing vigour, until three or four in the morning. The orchestra nearly always consists of one violin, or perhaps, if it is a public affair, a violin, guitar and organ. The selections played are usually confined to five or six well-worn tunes. Etiquette of course is unheard of, and there is no such thing as formal dress. The ladies may appear in anything from hoop-skirts to beach pajamas, and the men in anything from homespuns to overalls or slacks.

It is not unusual to see a man dancing in his shirt-sleeves or waist-coat, with a cigarette dangling from his lips, and a hat or cap sitting askew on his head. In asking partners to dance many forms of procedure may be followed. Sometimes the gentleman will walk up to the lady with whom he desires to dance and politely ask for the privilege, but more often he merely beckons from the other side of the room, expecting no doubt that the lady is to have all the pleasure. If he has an inferiority complex, he may ask a friend to seek a partner for him. The main idea of the dance seems to be to acquire the greatest speed possible without losing one's feet, and of course keeping time with the music is unheard of because, as a matter of fact, only those who are very near the orchestra are able to hear it. Some of the young men may even find it necessary to sing and shout while dancing just to make sure that the music of the orchestra cannot be heard. When the music stops as a signal

for each set to end, the man, after leaving his partner stranded on the floor without so much as expressing his thanks, starts to the nearest exit to get cooled off.

Although much could be done apparently to improve those dances, those attending seem to enjoy them just as much as do those who attend balls and cock-tail parties in the cities and, therefore, it would seem that, contrary to the opinions of many, country dances do achieve their purpose, which is to amuse the country people.

THE ART OF SHAVING

E. Cameron, '45

The removal of twenty-four hours' growth of beard from the face with as much speed and accuracy and as little discomfort as possible is a problem which has very much vexed the minds of the male sex for the past twenty-five years and to a lesser degree for centuries before that. This has given rise to the fine art which is called shaving.

The process of shaving contains three main divisions. The first of these is the preparation by the person involved. He must prepare not only his beard but also his face for the operation. The second and most important division is the actual removal of the whiskers. The third stage is chiefly reparation. It consists mainly in applying one or more healing lotions to the skin. The preparation is for the purpose of softening the beard and toughening the face for the razor. This is mostly done by rinsing with soap and water.

A man shaving himself may decide to use the newer brushless shaving cream or he may prefer the older form of shaving soap which is applied by vigorous brushing. If he decides on the former, he has merely to apply it over his face with the tips of his fingers. If he decides on the latter,