



Our Artist's Impression of Florence Mills Dancing Under the Big Watermelon at the Plantation

# The Fashions and Pleasures of New York

By JOHN McMULLIN

NIGHT life in New York is a very extraordinary and interesting phase of American life. Our after-midnight entertainments are more characteristic of America than the amusements presented to us before that hour, and in America, unlike other countries of the world, night life is not a fungus growth imported to amuse the stranger within our gates. It is enjoyed by all of us and it is for ourselves that it has been manufactured. In Paris, Cairo, and Berlin, they boast that it is only the foreigner who goes to the cabarets and that it is for them a most unusual experience to go once or twice in a lifetime to such places.

This is not the case in New York—we all go to the smartest and newest cabarets. Who does not know now that the Plantation is the latest on the list and that if by chance you have not seen Florence Mills and her coloured troupe do their fantastic dances and serenades you are not "in it". All the

modernists and musicians, you know, are mad about this new phase of the development of coloured talent.

In addition to the Plantation the smartest round of cabarets includes, first of all, the Rendezvous, with the famous Miss Gilda Gray who does the most remarkable and most authentic Hawaiian dance there is anywhere. Then there is the Beaux Arts cabaret with Veronica who does a South Sea Island stunt, Ted Lewis's place with his jazz band is a riot of sound and he is a show in himself. At the Russian Inn, on 37th Street, the ex-captain of a Russian submarine sings his Russian songs to delight and charm the supper guests. And the food is extremely good.

The French speak of luxury and extravagance as *elegance* and though we have no word in English that quite expresses this phase of life, we have the phase itself. In fact, New York is one of the most luxuriant and extravagant

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