

A Harlem Symphony

Dr. Anna C. Johnson Opens New Office

By MARVEL COOKE.

Dr. Anna Cooper Johnson is a woman of rare beauty, disarming candor and quiet charm. She is a woman every girl has dreamed of being. For in this world of mad competition, through her own efforts, bolstered by the great confidence her husband has in her, she has risen to the top in the dental profession—a profession in which only a few years ago a lady dared not poke her dainty nose.

Ten short years ago—and, by the way, ten years after her marriage—Dr. Johnson was graduated from the dental college at Columbia University. Today she owns one of the most modernly equipped dental offices in the community.

New Offices.

The dentist and her husband, Earle Johnson, a mechanical dentist, recently decided to try their wings. They have completely renovated the building at 745 St. Nicholas avenue, here, on the ground floor, the Johnsons have a gem of a three-room apartment and their dental suite, which includes a complete laboratory and Mr. Johnson, two modernly appointed operating rooms and a waiting room.

The other floors of the building have been transformed into two-and-a-half and three-and-a-half room apartments.

The Johnsons issued nearly a thousand invitations to their patients and friends for their "house warming" on Monday. Delicious cocktails, expertly mixed by Dr. Johnson herself, and hors d'oeuvres were served throughout the afternoon.

Interviewed on Monday morning, the dentist was in a flurry of preparation for the affair.

"Had you seen this place yesterday," she confided, "you never in the world would have believed that I could be through in time for this afternoon. I have just finished my exercises. How do you like them?"

Men Unafraid.

They are lovely bookcases lining the walls of the charming living room, set with well-thumbed volumes of books, their softly colored bindings blending intimately with their surroundings.

"Go ahead and talk to me," Dr. Johnson said. "This happens to be my day for me. Don't mind if I am on working."

She busied herself straightening up and that, but she was scrupulously attentive.

"How do men feel about having a man dentist?" she repeated.

"You know, I have never heard a man say one thing or another. All men are interested in is to have good work done. But several women have been rather doubtful about me. They don't believe that I am strong enough."

Although Dr. Johnson is slender, she gives no feeling of frailty, but rather you feel when you meet her at here is a woman of great endurance. Her silky dark hair, faintly waving at the temples, also gives her appearance of maturity.

"This is a splendid field for a woman if she doesn't mind hard work."

Work Well Together.

Unlike most women who have gone to the professions, Dr. Johnson had childhood dreams of being a surgeon-dentist. It was only after her marriage that she decided on a dental career. Her husband was already established in his profession.

"We had worked so well together," Dr. Johnson said, "that I thought dentistry would be a good career for me. You see, as it is now we are a complete unit. We do all the work right here."

The road wasn't easy all the way. Before she could enter a dental school she had to finish her high school work. She had married very early and had left high school in the third year. And so Anna Johnson went back to Wadleigh. From there there was a year at Cornell, and then back to Columbia.

"Interested in clothes? I haven't the time or inclination. Why this afternoon I am going to wear this old thing."

"This old thing" happened to be a clinging black crepe with bands of silver lame. For one who always looks as well groomed as Dr. Johnson, and as up to the minute, her disinterest in clothes was an interesting revelation. But, of course, she happens to be one of those lucky women who can twist a rag about her and step sveltely forth, looking like a million dollars.

As much as most folk hate to have dental work done, certainly it must be easier to sit in a dental chair amidst luxury than squalor. That psychology Dr. Johnson has adopted, and so her main operating room is a symbol of green and white, while the waiting room is soft yellow and white. The reception room is done in dubonnet.

Dental Work Done Amid Beauty In Dr. Anna C. Johnson's Office



PICTURED ABOVE, Dr. Anna C. Johnson working on a patient; and, below, Miss Anna Miles, assistant, and Earle F. Johnson at work in the latter's modern laboratory.