

BE A MEDIUM YOURSELF.

How Spiritualistic "Wonders" May be Performed for the Amusement of the Scoffer or the Mystification of the Credulous.

Everybody can be his own spiritualistic medium and entertain his friends by bearing in mind a few easily acquired rules and making only a slight expenditure for apparatus. Indeed, home made materials can be employed by one who is fairly ingenious.

It is well to construct a spirit cabinet, for a few sticks of wood and a few yards of black cloth are all that is necessary. For impromptu exhibitions the back parlor will do very well, after labels and papers and seals have been impressively placed on doors and windows and transoms to show that no human agency has been called upon to intervene in causing the ghosts to walk.

Between the front and back parlor or any other two rooms may be hung a black curtain. No light is allowed in the rear room, and in the front apartment one jet turned very low is required. It is better to have a dim light in a room adjoining the front apartment in which the spectators are assembled.

Then, enter the medium! It is well to practice the deceptions for at least a week in advance if one is only beginning his interesting career. Most mediums insist upon being tied by a committee. Only tyros and the feeblest kind of amateurs will tie themselves, for it does not look well and is a shock even to the most trusting.

Rope-Tying Tricks.

There are from fifty to sixty rope-tying tricks. The medium insists upon being bound by the committee, but he always handles one end of the rope himself, and all the knots which are made are fashioned into slip knots, for so other kind can be tied under mediumistic conditions.

Not only is the committee, by the manner of the holding of the cord, compelled to tie slip knots, but the medium is all the while stealing "slack."

No sooner does one man tie a knot about his wrist than he passes the cord about his wrist again for luck and thereby gains from four to six inches of slack which will be very useful to him at a later stage of the proceedings. The hands are always held as far apart as possible, although to the uninitiated they look as though they are pressed together as tightly as they can be welded. The relaxing of the muscles alone often gives the medium ample opportunity to get his hands out of the bindings.

Cords about the wrists of the mediums are so managed by him, no matter who ties them, that they can be loosened instantly by the operator reversing his hand and turning it deftly toward himself, instead of having it point outward.

Pinning the hands of the medium behind the back does not by any means circumvent him if he is skillful. This is usually done while he is sitting in a chair.

More Difficult.

Persons who are not lithe and who have not had a full course in rope tying will find it somewhat difficult to accomplish this feat. It is a bewildering one, perfected some years ago by W. S. Davis, who, in order to try how much malice observation there was in spiritualistic affairs, posed as a medium himself. It was the means of making several converts to spiritualism, so skillfully was it done.

One of the rope tying tricks which has been in use for many years by mediums consists of the "knee tie." The medium goes into the cabinet, and after announcing that the spirits will bind him securely with a cord, which he shows, he draws the curtain, he often produces from a pocket a cord more adapted to his special needs. About his upper legs he binds a cord which is in the form of a loop, and through the slack noose which he leaves he thrusts his hands, twisting the noose around and around until it becomes so tight that it cuts into his wrists. The knot and the twisted slack are concealed under his wrists.

Nobody can untie a knot like that because the knot, which is a spirit one, cannot be found. Sometimes to show how tightly the cord is tied, the medium requests that an ice pick or a screw driver be employed to pry away his lashings. Meanwhile he gives the appearance, by keeping his hands as far apart as possible, and concentrating muscular strain upon the rope, that he is so thoroughly entangled that his pain is great. In vain does the committee tug and struggle and try to get those hands out. The medium, with a smile of resigned agony on his face, permits them to try to assist him, saying freely, "Don't hurt me any more than you can help."

The Demonstration.

Having thus completed the tying, the next processes are largely theatrical. Directions have been given to those without to join hands in a circle and sing something of a slow and solemn melody. If there are believers present a hymn is preferable. Anything said, however, will answer the same purpose. The joining of the hands is a guarantee that there will be no interference with the manifestations.

Holding of hands may be especially interesting to some of the spectators, and may attract their attention to each other and keep them from too closely following the details of the scene.

Suppose, then, that the medium has his hands bound on his knees. He first gives some simple manifestation, such as writing on a pad of paper. The scratching of the pencil may be heard by the circle without, and presently a message flutters over the top of the curtain. He has simply taken his hands out of the loosened noose, written his message and wound them up again. The light is turned on and there he is in a trance with his wrists reddening under the straining cords.

Anything will do for the message. Two or three words may be written in the dark which are fairly legible, and the balance is made up of weird scribbles. The medium informs himself of any little circumstances in the lives of those present which he may have at hand, and after that references to death, advice not to do that of which you were thinking, or counsel from "Uncle John," for who has not an Uncle John somewhere perched in his family tree, will be all that is necessary to complete this interesting part of the illusion.

Next the medium, still bound, invites a man and a woman into the cabinet. He directs them to join hands by intertwining their fingers. One pair of assorted hands is placed upon his head as he sits in the chair, while the other pair is held at arm's length before his face. The four hands of the persons who make the test are thus occupied. Immediately the medium begins to groan and wriggle and calls upon the two to press their

hands the more tightly upon his head. The moving and swaying of his body under the influence of the spirits is done for the purpose of preventing any one discovering that he is very rapidly manipulating one of his hands. Presently the subjects find that someone is nipping and tugging at shirt and coat, patting their hands or stroking their faces. The effect is uncanny in the extreme.

Waves Stick of Phosphorus.

This effect may be heightened by the medium waving a bit of phosphorus on the end of an extension rod which he can quickly lengthen. He restores his hand to the noose, and when the light is turned up he is seen in a comatose condition tightly bound.

This trick can be circumvented if both persons place their knees upon the bound hands of the medium, a knee on each hand. It is difficult for one person to cover the bound hands so that there will not be a chance for the medium to release and restore one of his hands to its proper place under the cover of great travail of soul.

It will be noted that in all really successful demonstrations of this kind the medium insists upon a man and a woman being in the cabinet and places them at such an angle that only one of them would be likely to intercept his hands if both felt disposed to do so. Very little practice will enable a person of agility to perform the coat-pulling tricks with agility.

It never occurs to the believers in spiritualism that spirits would not be likely to indulge in child's play of this kind if they came back to earth. They explain such manifestations on the ground that those who have passed beyond are trying to do the best they can with the limited facilities at their command. No manifestations can be obtained from mediums of the class mentioned if some conjurer or moderately expert person ties their hands with tape over the cords.

Use of Gauze Masks.

Materializations may be accomplished by the operator from behind the curtain with a few bits of apparatus, which can easily be purchased or improvised. Two or three false faces on gauze, covered with phosphorescent paint, will be found to be of great service. Robes and mantles of thin gauze coated in the same manner can also be employed to advantage.

Extension rods, a bottle of sweet oil, in which phosphorus has been dissolved, and the like are also valuable. The masks and gauze are hung up in strong sunlight during the afternoon before the seance so that they absorb rays which they dispense at night.

Every medium is supposed to be searched before he begins his demonstrations, but he is usually taken on faith or submitted to a perfunctory examination. The properties for the materializing exhibition may be carried in the lining of the coat and the unraveling of a hasting thread may make it readily available for use. The mask is held in one hand usually, about which the gauze or sheet is draped. The apparition appears from behind the curtain and speaks.

Spirits of little children or Indians are preferred by mediums, as it gives them an opportunity for picturesque patter which diverts, amuses or holds the attention of the spectators. The piping voice of little "brighties," or infant spirits named from flowers, such as Rosie, Pansy, Bluebell and the like, are always in demand.

Even an ordinary sheet in the hands of a skilled medium may be made to do wonders without any other aid. The fabric is thrown over the left arm, placed at a level with the head of the operator, while the right arm makes the apparition fat or thin by merely drawing the right arm in or out.

Spirits of All Sizes.

Spirits of all sizes are easily produced by raising or lowering the indistinct mass made by the sheet, and they can be made to disappear by slowly dropping it to the floor and then kicking it under the curtain or the cabinet. Various mechanical appliances are used, but they are too expensive for ordinary practice. Electricity, radium and other forces which are being perfected by science are constantly coming into play among mediums who are able to get large prices for their sittings.

In all form manifestations where there is a company present it is necessary always to maintain the "battery" by the joining of hands.

Private seances which are given in the dark afford the expert medium many more opportunities to receive the matter. For instance, he may be sitting clasping the hands of the patron across the table when there suddenly appears a white spirit hand from above the edge of the table. The extra member is fastened to the toe of the medium's shoe.

One of the clever impostures perpetrated on the rapid circle is the descending of a heavy booted spook from the regions above. Under cover of the darkness the medium merely removes his shoes and puts them on his hands.

Phantom hands which flit hither and thither about the room in the dark form a bewildering illusion. The mysterious member which seems to have only part of a glowing white arm is that of an accomplice or of the medium himself. The man is dressed in dark tights, and his body and limbs are covered, with the exception of the arm, which has been coated with a phosphorescent paint.

Manufacture of "Spooks."

There are establishments scattered through the United States where spooks for spiritualistic seances are made on a large scale. A really mysterious spirit cabinet can be obtained for \$75, while the spirit cord, all prepared, costs \$2. A good talking head costs \$50. A spirit toe may be had for \$1.50, and it has a knot studded with nails. Appliances for materializing a dozen spirit forms at once on the floor to full sized spirits are offered at the best spook factories for \$35. Tables capable of being moved by unseen powers cost only \$25.

But, after all, these are not necessary to an ordinary seance as long as the medium has moderate skill, glibness of speech and audacity.

A SAD TRAGEDY.

It often happens. Your sore corn is stepped on. Why not use "Putnam's" Corn Extractor? No pain and certain cure—that's "Putnam's." Use no other.

In drinking liquor some men complain that it goes to the head and others that it goes to the feet; which would seem to indicate that it goes where there is the most room for it.

It is just as well to be born lucky as rich, but the great majority of us are born neither.



Paul Naumoff, the Russian co-conspirator with the Countess Kamorowski. From a photo taken at the time of his arrest.

DEALERS IN LOGS.

Trainer of Certain Kinds Supplied for Special Uses—Log Buyer's Work.

In a down town building there appears on the door of one office, under the name of the concern occupying it, this word: "Logs." The business of the concern is to supply logs of certain native woods for the use of veneer manufacturers, and logs of certain other woods for export.

White oak, yellow poplar and ash are the woods that this concern collects for veneering purposes, and it buys these

wherever it can find them. For some years the principal sources of supply for white oak have been Virginia and West Virginia.

Two or three times a year a member of the firm who is also its buyer traverses these States in search of suitable white oak trees, and he may find yellow poplar and ash in the same regions. The white oak has been pretty well cut away along the lines of the railroads, and so now he goes back in the country and spends weeks there looking for suitable trees.

A log is the clear trunk of the tree ex-

tending from the ground to where the tree branches. To be available for veneer a white oak log must be at least ten feet in length and not less than thirty inches in diameter, for the oak must be quartered before it is saved or sliced into veneers. They get oak logs that will cut ten, twelve, fourteen and sixteen feet, and occasionally they find a white oak tree with a trunk that will measure thirty-six feet, cutting three twelve foot logs, the biggest of these having a diameter of perhaps 45 inches.

The log buyer may get back as far as twenty-five miles from the railroad, which is about as far as it will pay to haul a log, and of course the further back he gets the less he pays for the trees, for there is to be added to the price paid for them the cost of hauling them to a shipping point. He will buy one tree or three or four or any number.

When the trees have been cut down the buyer has to get them to the railroad, and for this work he hires teams in the neighborhood; and it takes good teams and hard work to get the logs out over the rough mountain roads. One big white oak tree that was bought at a point twenty miles back, and that cut into two lengths, it took two six horse



Count Kamorowski, for whose death the Countess and her associates are on trial in Venice.

teams, each hauling a single cut, two days to haul out.

It may be that the buyer will hit a bunch of trees enough for a car load of logs in one place; but if he doesn't find so many in one spot he gets the one tree or three or four or half a dozen that he may find here or there to the railroad and brands them, and then goes on collecting until he has got together enough to make a carload or more. This concern brings veneer logs to New York and it ships also to Boston.

The black walnut logs collected are mostly shipped to Germany and Spain, those sent to Spain being shipped in the bark, while those sent to Germany are hewed eight-sided before shipment. The black walnut logs are brought mainly from the south. The biggest black walnut tree that this concern ever found was found in New Jersey, and when cut measured seven feet in diameter at the butt.

HERD OF 20,000 SHEEP.

Moved to Winter Range in Utah Under Heavily Armed Escort.

Under the escort of a small sized army of heavily armed men combined herds of 20,000 sheep are being driven from the summer ranges in Montrose County, Col., to the winter ranges in Utah.

In order to reach the latter section it was necessary to pass through that portion of the western slope heretofore used exclusively by cattlemen. Because of the alleged damage done by sheep to grazing lands, cattlemen strenuously object to their presence in any numbers whatsoever and frequently in the past attempts to drive across a cattle range have resulted in assaults on the herds, murders and the wholesale slaughter of sheep as a warning that the offences must not be repeated.

This year the flock masters who summered their sheep in Montrose County combined for protection and are driving their animals in one big bunch in charge of thirty herders with ninety armed men as guards. This typical western caravan has so far met with no determined opposition.

The 20,000 woolies make an impressive sight, stretching in a solid mass almost as far as the eye can reach—Denver Post.

Snow is sold in the north of Sicily, where it fetches about a half-penny a pound. It is a Government monopoly, and the Prince of Palermo derives the greater part of his income from it. The snow, which is gathered on the mountain in leaf-covered baskets, is widely bought in the cities for refrigerating purposes.

This is the Quartermaster at the Western post. Rather a classy young fellow, too, only eccentric. I suspect that what ails him is that he's a bit of a genius. Grave defect in a young officer of the American army, genius, under the present regime.

About two years ago this young officer had a bad fit of sickness after his return from the Philippines, and it affected his head. In fact, he had to take sick leave for six months and go to an institution where people are treated for nervous prostration. At the end of his six months he was examined by a board of army surgeons, pronounced quite sane again—they gave him a certificate to that effect—and he was restored to duty in the Quartermaster's Department. He was assigned to duty at this Western post.

"He isn't much of a bookkeeper, and his accounts got all pickled up a while ago, and so after a lot of futile correspondence the Quartermaster's Department fired him off to straighten the cub's accounts out."

"When finished the job of straightening his accounts, I proceeded as per orders to read a little piece or two from the riot act to him."

"You've got to take a brace, son," I said to him, "or they'll be coming down on you like a thousand of brick. They won't stand for another bunch of messed up accounts from you. You've got to get right down to it and keep those things straight if you lose a leg at the job."

"Well, he's a decent boy, and all that, but when he proceeded to give me an argument about this gentle little lecture I couldn't help but call him. His idea of it was that the Quartermaster's De-

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REPORT THAT COULDN'T BE MET.

Officer Meets His Match in a Cub Quartermaster at a Western Post.

"In an interchange of repartee, friendly or for blood, one can rarely always find some sort of answer in rebuttal," said an army officer of the Quartermaster's Department, "but I got the finest flooring at a Western post the other day you ever heard of."

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"Well, he's a decent boy, and all that, but when he proceeded to give me an argument about this gentle little lecture I couldn't help but call him. His idea of it was that the Quartermaster's De-

partment's established method of having past accounts kept was all wrong, too laborious, involved, complicated, and so on, and he said he'd like to have the job of revising the department's old-fashioned methods, as he called them. This particularly riled me.

"You're dreaming, youngster," I said to him. "Dreaming or delirium?"

"Then, utterly forgetting that the young fellow had been out of his head in a sanitarium for quite a spell—of course I never would have made the remark if I'd remembered that—I added: 'Fact is, you're as crazy as a loon.'"

"The whole knew that I wouldn't have said that had I remembered about his experience, and so he gazed at me without a bit of resentment in his expression."

"Is that so?" he said to me. "All the same, I'm the only man on this reservation who has got a certificate that he is absolutely sane."

"I suppose that wasn't a hot one! It took me right off my pins. There wasn't a word to be said in reply to that, and the only thing I could do was to slouch away and make for some quiet spot where I could think it over."

Safety Against Drowning.

A Norwegian inventor has patented a suit of clothes which is said to protect its wearer against drowning. The garments are lined with a non-absorbent material made of specially prepared vegetable fibre which, without being too heavy, will effectively hold up the weight of a man in the water. The weight of the new material will, it is claimed, save a person from sinking. The invention has been tested with favorable results at Christiania. Successful trials were also made with rugs made of the same material, capable of supporting two persons in the water.

Rising and Disappearing Islands.

The number of islands in the world is not at all constant. During the past century, says the "Certificate Examiner," volcanic action caused the rise of fifty-two islands from the sea, and the disappearance of sixteen others.