

the toy-shops, so that by holding the figure by the head in one hand, and pulling a string with the other, the figure will throw up its legs and arms in a very ludicrous manner.

Make the connections of the arms and legs with black string, and let the pulling string be also black. Tack the skeleton by the head to the black board. The figure having been cut out, is, of course, painted black like the board.

Now to perform. Produce the board. Show only the side upon which there is nothing.

Request that the lights may be reduced about half, and take position a little distance from the company. With a piece of chalk make one or two attempts to draw a figure; rub out your work as being unsatisfactory; turn the slate; the black figure will not be perceived; rapidly touch the edges of the card-board figure with chalk, filling up ribs, etc., at pleasure, and taking care that nothing moves while the drawing is progressing. Then manipulate with the fingers before the drawing, and request it to become animated. By pulling the string below the figure it will, of course, kick up the legs and throw about the arms, to the astonishment of everybody.

A little music from the piano will greatly assist the illusion.

THE RING AND STICK.

This trick is very puzzling, and requires but little preparation or practice.

Get two brass curtain rings; keep one of them in the coat-sleeve, offer the other to the company for examination; procure a light walking-stick, and secretly slip the ring from the sleeve upon the stick, covering it well with the left hand. Hold the stick in the centre with the ring concealed, and invite two persons to hold the ends of the stick. While engaging the attention by some apparent necessity for having the stick either higher or lower—a little higher at one end, a little lower at the other, etc., etc.—give the stick a smart tap with the examined ring in your right hand, and withdraw the left hand rapidly, making the ring on the stick spin violently.

It will appear that the ring in the right hand has passed miraculously upon the stick; how, no one can tell, the ring being solid, and the stick guarded at both ends. The right-hand ring must be secreted in the sleeve or pocket after the effect is produced; but no great haste is required, as every one will be too intent upon examining the ring on the stick to watch the operator.

AN IMPOSSIBILITY.

Request any one to stand with his back against the wall—the heels being close to the wall; drop a handkerchief at his feet, and defy him to pick it up without moving his feet.

A ROPE TRICK.

Procure a rope the size of a clothes' line, and about 12 or 15 feet long.

Ask some one to tie your wrists together with a handkerchief; then get him to draw the rope through the arms, and hold the two ends tightly. Bid him stand as far away as the double rope will permit. The performer is now to drop the rope from his arms, without untying the handkerchief.

To accomplish it, he must pull tightly against the person holding the ends of the rope.

This enables him to draw the rope well in between the wrists, until, on slacking the rope, the fingers can easily reach it and draw it through the handkerchief, until sufficient is through to permit one hand to slip through the noose of rope which is formed by this last movement. A slight pull from the assistant causes the rope to fall free of the hands and arms.

THE RESTORED HANDKERCHIEF.

A hat, a newspaper, a handkerchief, a pair of scissors, and a plate are required to carry out this illusion. Place a hat on a table at the back of the room, that is, away from the audience, but in sight of them. Borrow a handkerchief, and dextrously substitute another in its place. This is easy enough to do. Proceed as follows:

Secrete a common handkerchief between the lower edge of the coat and waistcoat, the lower button of the coat being fastened, that the handkerchief may not fall. Having obtained a lady's handkerchief, holding it in the left hand, turn sharply round, and, in the act of turning, draw the concealed handkerchief from the coat, and pass the borrowed handkerchief from the left to the right hand, so that the two handkerchiefs are brought together. Pretend to look for some mark in the borrowed handkerchief, but really be crushing the borrowed handkerchief into small compass, and spreading out the false one.

Then lay it on the edge of the hat, exposing well the false article, and dropping the real one into the hat, at the same time bidding the company observe that the handkerchief never leaves their sight. Then fetch a pair of scissors or borrow a penknife. Take the false handkerchief and cut out the middle. Ask some one to hold the