

FAMOUS ILLUSIONS.

SOME SECRETS OF PROFESSIONAL CONJURERS REVEALED.

How the Mysteries are Destroyed and the Tricks Shown of Their Charm by a Peep at the Mechanism Behind the Scenes.

A behind the scenes view of the famous illusions with which conjurers have mystified and delighted generation after generation has peculiar fascinations. There are few of us who value our own childish illusions so highly that we will not part with them for the fun of seeing how we have been fooled.

Here are examples of some of the best known tricks:

The box trick is as clever as well known and as old as any. A heavy, brass bound chest is exhibited. An assistant is placed in a large canvas bag, the mouth of which is securely fastened, and the bag is placed in the chest, which is locked and roped.

The box is concealed for a few seconds, and when it is revealed the occupant is sitting upon it, the closed and sealed bag beside him. The cords and seals on the box are intact.

This astonishing feat is accomplished thus: The occupant of the bag has inserted a wooden plug in the mouth while the tying is being done. When the chest is locked, he pulls it out, slips out his hand, pulls off the cords, gets out and replaces the cords over the top of the sack.

By the time the chest is roped he is free. The chest has a secret opening, usually at the end, and while it is hidden he crawls out. A slim man is usually employed to do the trick.

The vanity fair trick is one of the most baffling in the repertoire of the black art. A woman stands before a large mirror about ten feet high and placed in a heavy frame. About three feet from the floor is a small shelf placed against the mirror, the bottom of which is about eighteen inches from the floor. The glass having been duly inspected, the young woman mounts the shelf. She then turns to arrange her hair by the mirror. She is asked to face the audience, but again and again turns her back, hence the name of the trick.

Finally, losing patience, the performer thrusts a small screen in front of her, fires a pistol at the spot where she was standing, snatches away the screen, and she has vanished.

The top, bottom and sides of the mirror have been in view all the time and only the center has been hidden for a few seconds.

The secret lies in the fact that the lower part of the mirror is made double, the bottom of the upper part being concealed by a second sheet of silvered glass placed in front of it.

The shelf fits against the line of junction, and enables the mirror to be examined by the audience. As soon as the screen is placed the mirror slides up about a foot into the top of the frame. The bottom of this mirror is cut away in the middle, leaving a hole about eighteen inches square, which was previously concealed from view by the double glass at the base.

Through this hole the lady instantly slips, and escapes by a board which has been pushed forward from behind the scenes while the vanity fair by-play was going on. The glass then slides down again, the screen is removed, and the mirror appears just as solid as it was before.

Another of the most astounding feats of modern magic is that of making a person or object apparently float in the air. A couple of ordinary chairs are placed on the stage—well toward the back, which is draped with black cloth—and upon these is laid a broad, thick plank. A young lady is then introduced and is assisted to place herself in a recumbent position on the plank.

He then draws aside the chairs, and the plank, with the lady on it, remains apparently suspended in the air. To prove that the plank is not supported, the exhibitor takes a large hoop and passes it backward and forward over and around the plank.

Yet there is an attachment. As soon as the lady is placed in position on the board a carriage, placed behind the black curtain and supporting a strong iron bar twice bent upon itself, is pushed forward by an assistant so that the iron bar, which is covered with black cloth, comes out through a slit in the curtain while the exhibitor is pretending to mesmerize the lady. The bar has at its end a very strong clip, and the performer, while making his hypnotic passes, guides this on to the board. The chairs are then removed, and the board remains suspended by the invisible iron bar.

The hoop is passed along from one end until it reaches the bend where the bar passes through the curtain. The performer passes it round the end of the board and himself walks behind, passing the ring along in the opposite direction. Next it is brought back again, and the effect is such that the average spectator is convinced that the hoop has really been passed over the lady and the board from end to end.

Another very effective illusion, arranged upon the same principle, shows the head and bust of a lady supported on a three legged stool resting on a small table. One can apparently see not only between the legs of the table as the back of the stage, but through the space between the stool and the table.

In this case the three legged stool is arranged with mirrors precisely as in the tripod illusion, but the table, which has four legs, is managed differently. A large mirror is placed diagonally under the table, joining to opposite legs. Thus the spectators really only see three of the legs, the fourth being simply the reflection of the first.—New York World.

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Genuine Carter's Little Liver Pills.

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See Pen-Simile Wrapper Below.

Very small and easy to take as sugar.

CARTER'S LIVER PILLS.

FOR HEADACHE.

FOR DIZZINESS.

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FOR TORPID LIVER.

FOR CONSTIPATION.

FOR RALLOW SKIN.

FOR THE COMPLEXION.

PURELY VEGETABLE.

CURE FOR HEADACHE.

At the Seasons.

A learned judge, grave and gowned, a deputy sheriff, grave also, a clerk as grave as the judge and gowned in silk of as fine a texture as his Honor's, a court crier of solemn mien who has called "Oyez, oyez," and in due and proper form opened the court, six constables on whom rests the dignity of that one word, "Order," a crown attorney to look after the King's interests and the interests of his subjects, a learned lawyer for the defence of the culprit, a jury of twelve good men and true, who have laid up the harvest, put up the horses, and come to town, witnesses galore, and jurymen by the dozen, waiting to be summoned, and what's it all about?

A woman is charged with fraud, and the whole amount is not more than \$2.

Business is business! Well, justice is justice also.—Toronto Star.

Good Advice.

The Farmer's Guide says: "We are asked how much debt a man with a quarter section farm should carry. That depends. Assuming his farm to be worth \$12,000 and the man a hustler, turning his attention wholly to the production of meat products on his farm, and not running a steam thrasher, he might swing a debt of \$7,000 at 5 per cent. Still, this will make him sweat and grunt before he gets it paid. We believe it is a mighty good time to shorten sail in the matter of indebtedness during these days of agricultural prosperity and not load up to the limit, as so many are doing. The money lenders will have their innings again some day."

A Bubble Frothed.

Deacon De Good—"Here, waiter, I'm afraid to drink city water: I'll have to take beer."

Waiter—"That isn't city water, sir. It's pure spring water, bottled in the mountains specially for the establishment. Several distinguished chemists and physicians have pronounced it the finest water ever served."

Deacon De Good—"Um—bring some beer anyhow."

Headache.

Pain across the forehead or at back of head is dangerous. It slowly but surely weakens the intellectual powers, impairs the vitality and will. Headache is sometimes from the eyes but more frequently is caused by a disordered condition of the stomach and digestive organs.

Do not suffer. The pain can be cured by the harmless remedy

Abbey's Effervescent Salt

It never loses its effect. Cures by driving out the poison, and does not simply deaden the pain as do so many preparations containing narcotics.

Abbey's in the morning will make you well and keep you well.

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SEA FLOWERS AS PETS.

The Queer Little Creatures Known as Anemones.

The queerest pets in the world are kept in a beautiful row of clear, flashing, round glass tanks on an upper floor of a large aquarium. As you approach the tanks you behold glowing little groups of color and artistic blending and mingling of fantastic weeds and shining stones. Then when you peer into the tanks you see what at first seem to you just like particularly handsome and gorgeous flowers growing all over the little rockeries. Some of the flowers look like dainty pink and white and yellow and purple and crimson dahlias. Others look almost like daisies, with lacelike petals. Others look like little star flowers, all pure white and perfect. These flowers are of all sizes, from tiny ones barely large enough to see to great ones almost large enough to fill a saucer.

But if you will watch these "flowers" for a few minutes you will jump suddenly, for all at once you will see one move its petals. Then you will see another and another do it. Slowly the petals unfold or contract, with little jerking movements, sometimes twining in the water like snakes.

Tap smartly on the table on which the tanks stand, and like lightning all the petals will have disappeared. These sea flowers are really not flowers at all. They are living creatures, known as sea anemones.

For many years a scientist has tended and fed them, and the little animated flowers actually have come to know him. When he feeds them, he puts a little bit of fish on the end of a long pointed stick and puts it carefully down into the water until it is near the anemone. It did not take long for the beautiful things to understand it, and whereas at first they used to withdraw their petals and shut up tightly when the stick approached, now they twine gracefully and stretch their dainty arms out as far as they can go in order to reach it.—London Answers.

LONDON CAB SERVICE.

Why It Is the Best and the Cheapest in the World.

"Everyone knows, either from experience or hearsay, that the cab service in London is the best and cheapest in the world, but few of us know why. So when I was over there I made it a point to find out."

The woman who occupied the other seat in the hansom looked as if she would like to hear the result of his investigations. "It is mainly due," he continued, "to the fact that licenses to drive cabs and buses through the London streets are hard to get. An applicant must furnish the most satisfactory proofs of his honesty when he files his application at Scotland Yard, and his references are carefully verified. Then he undergoes such a rigid examination as to his knowledge of streets and localities that but little more than half the candidates manage to pull through it. Those who do are then tested as to their ability to drive through the crowded thoroughfares, the test being a practical one, with an inspector of police, who is himself an expert driver, seated by the side of the would be Jehu as he threads his way through the jam. Probably 20 per cent of the applicants come to grief during this test, as the slightest infraction of the rules of the road or the exercise of bad judgment in controlling or guiding his horse means absolute failure. If successful, the applicant is impressed with the importance of returning all articles left in his cab to headquarters without delay and told that an attempt to make excessive charges means the forfeiture of his license. The result is comparative safety to the passengers in cabs and a reasonable certainty that there will be no attempt upon the 'cabby's' part to overcharge his fare."

A Story of Cervantes.

Cervantes, a proof of his generosity was fully equal to his genius. In the early part of his life he was for some time a slave in Algiers, and there he devised a plan to free himself and thirteen of his fellow sufferers.

One of them traitorously revealed the design, and they were all brought before the dey of Algiers, who promised them their lives on condition that they revealed the contriver of the plot.

"I was that person," at once cried Cervantes. "Save my companions and let me perish alone."

The dey, struck by his intrepidity, spared his life, allowed him to be ransomed and permitted him to go home.

Clings to His Misery.

"Ah," he sighed, "I was happier when I was poor."

"Well," they answered coldly, "it is always possible for a man to become poor again."

But somehow the idea did not seem to impress him favorably.

The Viewpoint.

"That man is extremely suspicious, as he thinks every one he sees is a shady character, and naturally too."

"It's his nature, I suppose."

"Not at all. He wears smoked spectacles."

Didn't Seem Possible.

Mr. Staylate—Is that clock right?

Miss De Pink (wearily)—I think it must need cleaning. It's been two or three hours going that last hour.

You can't have a good time today unless you forget tomorrow, and if you forget tomorrow it will punish you when it is today.

Somewhere in the world there are 119,000,000 big copper pennies, but nobody appears to know where they are.

3 wine glasses

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It keeps the Young from becoming Old and makes the Old feel Young.

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—Don't know how to make any other. We're experts you know—It's our business. We guarantee to please you. Don't want your money if you're not thoroughly satisfied.

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A New Issue of the Subscribers' Directory

For the District of Western Ontario, including the Huron Exchange, will be issued early in September. Orders for new connections, changes of address, changes of names, duplicate entry of names, etc., should be placed at once to ensure their appearance.

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