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This Game is the Latest Form of  
Amusement.

Do you ping pong? It's the latest  
game. Ping pong is a game for those  
who like an indoor recreation to re-  
mind them of their favorite outdoor  
game, lawn tennis. Ping pong apes  
lawn tennis and seems to be trying to  
rival it in popularity.

What is ping pong? It has another  
name, and that is gossima, and gos-  
sima gives a clue to its identity. Trans-  
late the word into gossamer, and you  
have the net that is stretched across  
the table at a height varying from  
eight to six inches. Instead of tennis  
rackets you have battledores, and for  
balls small things made of white cellu-  
loid, wherefore it is well to learn  
speedily to aim straight over the net,  
and not at the fire. But the balls are  
quite a cheap item, and, indeed, the  
whole game can be purchased now at  
prices varying from 25 cents to \$5,  
though the cheapest "regulation" game  
on the market is about \$1.50. It is sur-  
mised that an epidemic of ping pong is  
imminent.

Ping pongers play in twos, one at  
one end of the table, the other at the  
other. The server is the man who first

delivers the ball, and the striker-out  
is the other. At the end of the first  
game the parties change, the striker-  
out becomes the server and the server  
the striker-out. The player who tots  
up six games to his credit first wins the  
set.

The game can be extended to take in  
several more players, just as bagatelle  
can, and battledores can be passed  
from one player to another. Then, to  
make it a more scientific form of  
amusement for the dining room table,  
which is usually converted into the  
lawn, there can be substituted a board  
surface, painted black, with a narrow  
white boundary line at the edge.

Ping pong clubs and ping pong  
matches are springing up all over the  
country, and ping pong tea parties are  
rivaling play tens among the fair sex.

**THE FACE OF YOUR WATCH.**

You Think You Know What It Looks  
Like, but Do You?

"I will wager," said a Broadway  
watchmaker to a customer the other  
day, "that you cannot correctly put  
down the numerals on the dial plate of  
your watch."

"Done," said the other. And he  
wrote down I, II, III, IV—  
"Wrong," interrupted the watch-  
maker.

"How wrong?"  
"Pull out your watch and look at the  
figure four."

"Sure enough the figure was IIII,  
not IV."

"Are all clocks and watches made  
that way?" asked the customer, as he  
put his watch back in its fob.

"All that have Roman figures on their  
dial."

"Why?"  
"Well, there is a tradition which  
accounts for the custom. The first clock  
that resembled the ones now in use  
was made by a famous French jeweler  
named Henry Vick in 1370. He made  
a present of it to King Charles V., sur-  
named the Wise. Now Charles was  
wise in many ways, but he did not  
know everything, though having a repu-  
tation to sustain he pretended to om-  
niscience. When Vick brought him the  
clock he examined the works very at-  
tentively, seeking a flaw somewhere.  
'Yes,' he said at last, 'the clock works  
well, but you have got the figures on  
the dial wrong.' 'Surely not, your  
majesty,' demurred the jeweler. 'Yes,  
the four should be four ones.' 'You  
are wrong, your majesty.' 'I am never  
wrong,' thundered the king. 'Take it  
away and correct the mistake.' Vick  
did as commanded. The fashion was  
followed by others. And so to this  
day we have IIII, instead of IV."

"But suppose my watch had Arabic  
and not Roman numerals?"  
"I took that chance, of course, be-  
cause the larger proportion of watches  
have the Roman numerals. But even  
then I'd have had you in all probability.  
For there is another peculiarity  
about the figures which is almost uni-  
versal in watches. But I will show  
you. Go on writing the rest of the  
figures."

So the customer continued and wrote  
down V, VI—  
"Wrong again," interrupted the  
watchmaker.

"But"—  
"Pull out your watch and see," calm-  
ly retorted the other.

Once more the watch dial was ex-  
posed to view. There was no six on it.

The space where it should have been  
was occupied by the second hand.

"The second hand," continued the  
jeweler, "is to be found in exactly that  
place in almost every watch that is  
made. Whether your dial was regis-  
tered in Arabic or Roman numerals  
there would be no six on it. It is only  
on a few of a very cheap sort of  
watches that the second hand is omit-  
ted and the 6 or VI stands revealed."

**HE DONE FORGOT TO ASK.**

That Was the Reason a Colored Swain  
Had to Use the Telephone.

One day a good-looking colored man,  
who had appeared rather prematurely  
in a loud spring suit, entered one of  
the downtown telephone stations and  
asked for Joliet. He was compelled to  
use a wire that was in the open office  
and as he apparently labored under  
the impression that the person whom  
he called up was rather deaf, every  
word he said was audible to all who  
were within ten feet of him.

After the necessary connections had  
been made, the young man smiled gen-  
tly and said:

"Dis Mrs. Williams, the mother of  
Miss Lucy?"

Apparently it was, for in a moment  
he added:



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