

CAN YOU DO THESE THINGS

Modern psychology teaches that a man can do almost anything, provided he really thinks he can and keeps trying earnestly and persistently. Some of the most useful and valuable inventions and discoveries of all ages are enduring testimonials to the efficacy and power of the "I-can" doctrine for they were produced in the face of solemn declarations by supposed wise men that such things were impossible and in spite of the fact that physical laws were apparently against their success.

There are some things, however, that are actually impossible, as every person of intelligence knows, because they are clearly contrary to natural laws or are simply not do-able. Here are a few stunts which may seem easy but when tried the average person will find most of them quite impossible:

Clasp the fingers of your hands together and place an egg lengthwise between the palms. Now try to crush the egg by exerting all the pressure possible directly along its longitudinal axis. Unless you have exceptionally strong hands—a force of more than 100 pounds is necessary—you will fail.

Next try scratching your ear with your elbow. When tired of that pastime stand up two feet from a wall, fold your hands behind your back and then incline forward with your body straight until your head comes against the wall. With your feet in the original position, your hands clasped behind you and your body held straight, try to resume the upright position on your feet.

If you feel tired and a little discouraged after this try a few experiments on your friends. For example, blindfold one and tell him to stand perfectly still five minutes. The fact is, very few people could remain absolutely motionless that long even without their eyes covered; with the eyes blindfolded the thing is considerably more difficult.

Next have some-one stand with his heels close up against the wall and then bend over and try picking up something in front of him on the floor. He will be unable to do this because, standing in such a position, the center of gravity of his body when he bends over is thrown too far forward to be longer supported by the base on which he stands—his feet.

Sit down in a chair, well back in the seat, with your feet out in front of the chair, flat on the floor. Now try to get up without bending your body forward or drawing your feet back from their position in front of the chair.

If you think you have a strong hand place a match across the nail of the middle finger, then bring the forefinger and third finger down over its ends and try to break the match. Theoretically this is an easy thing to do but practically you will find an ordinary match too strong to break in this manner.

WANT CATS

Belgium has issued a call for American cats to help combat the countless hordes of mice that are appearing throughout the country. According to official statistics there are in the United States some 50,000,000 cats or nearly one to every two of human inhabitants. Therefore, it is concluded, America can well spare enough of the animals to render a material relief to Belgium without any very great inconvenience. Cats in America are considered more or less of a nuisance anyway; they are credited by the federal government with causing an annual loss of \$2,000,000,000 in the crops of the country through their destruction of the insect eating birds.

During the war many American cats were sent to the trenches to war on the monster rats which so added to the hardships of the troops at the front. The British military authorities sent a special envoy here to get as many as possible of the half-wild cats—noted for their size and ferocity—from the wharf and dock districts of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Galveston, New Orleans and other sea-port towns. More than 1,000 of these much-abused animals were gathered up and sent to the battle fronts in France and Flanders.

UNUSUAL FILMS

British authorities have come into possession of a remarkable series of motion picture films. These were made on a German U-boat while operating in the Mediterranean sea during the height of the submarine warfare. The pictures were intended for the entertainment of the German people and were made to exhibit life on the U-boat in its most picturesque and attractive aspect. The commander of the U-boat was the son of a French officer who, captured in the Franco-Prussian war, married a German woman and became naturalized in Germany. He is credited with having sunk 300 ships with a total tonnage of 510,000.

The methods of the sinkings are clearly shown in the films. The Germans would open fire on a merchant ship at a distance of 6000 yards; when the ship was abandoned they would approach and sink it, usually firing three shots into the hull—forward, aft and amidships. The series shows attacks on seven ships, every one of the vessels being sent to the bottom. A part of the pictures are devoted to life on the U-boat. Men are shown lounging on the deck and swimming in the sea. The commander is seen making an entry of a sinking in the logbook. The film is to be released for exhibition in England under the title "The exploits of a German Submarine."

It was a death-bed scene, but the director was not satisfied with the hero's acting. "Come on!" he cried. "Put more life into your dying!"