

**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 lightly 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 filtered glass placed in front of it.

The shelf fits against the line of action, 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 at a way 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 day 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



**Mrs. Laura S. Webb,**  
Vice-President Women's Democratic Club of Northern Ohio.  
"I dreaded the change of life which was fast approaching. I noticed Wine of Cardui, and decided to try a bottle. I experienced some relief the first month, so I kept on taking it for three months and now I menstruate with no pain and I shall take it off and on now until I have passed the climax."  
Female weakness, disordered menses, falling of the womb and ovarian troubles do not wear off. They follow a woman to the change of life. Do not wait but take Wine of Cardui now and avoid the trouble. Wine of Cardui never fails to benefit a suffering woman of any age. Wine of Cardui relieved Mrs. Webb when she was in danger. When you come to the change of life Mrs. Webb's letter will mean more to you than it does now. But you may now avoid the suffering she endured. Druggists sell \$1 bottles of Wine of Cardui.

**WINE OF CARDUI**

**An Ideal Woman's Medicine.**



So says Mrs. Josie Irwin, of 325 So. College St., Nashville, Tenn., of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Never in the history of medicine has the demand for one particular remedy for female diseases equalled that attained by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and never during the lifetime of this wonderful medicine has the demand for it been so great as it is today.

From the Atlantic to the Pacific, and throughout the length and breadth of this great continent come the glad tidings of woman's sufferings relieved by it, and thousands upon thousands of letters are pouring in from grateful women saying that it will and positively does cure the worst forms of female complaints.

Mrs. Pinkham invites all women who are puzzled about their health to write her at Lynn, Mass., for advice. Such correspondence is seen by women only, and no charge is made.

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 to 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

**A Light Sentence.**  
A gentleman now living in New York tells the following story of a negro in Tennessee whose son had been convicted of killing a fellow workman. A few days after the trial the father was asked what disposition had been made of the case.

"Oh," he answered, "dey done send Johnson to jail for a month."  
"That's a light sentence for killing a man, don't you think?"  
"Yes," answered the darky, "but at de end of de month dey done goin' to hang 'im."—New York Times.

**Diverse Appetites.**  
"I wonder why donkeys eat thistles?" asked the man who is always finding something peculiar in life.  
"Oh," answered the person who likes plain food, "there is no accounting for taste. If a donkey were to give the matter a thought, I suppose he would wonder why human beings eat olives."—Washington Star.

**An Envidable Position.**  
Biggs—I met a man yesterday who makes his living by buying millinery.  
Boggs—Well, what of it?  
Biggs—Oh, nothing; only I've been buying millinery ever since I was married, and I never made any money by it.—New York Herald.

**Not Dissuaded by Compliments.**  
Husband—Your hair is your crowning glory, my dear.  
Wife—That's all right, but I've got to have a new bonnet just the same.—Exchange.

**A New Suit in Prospect.**  
"All my best gowns were destroyed to that railway wreck."  
"And didn't the company give you any redress?"—New York Press.

**AERIAL POLO.**

A Quicker Kind of Amusement on a Pacific Ocean Island.

Writing on "Our Equatorial Islands" in the Century, James D. Hague says: It became an amusing diversion to overturn the large flat stones beneath which the rats were hiding in solid masses and watch them as they scampered in all directions, pursued and quickly snatched up by the men-of-war hawks. These crafty birds were apt to learn that the appearance of a man walking on the island, especially with a dog, meant rats for them, and any one thus going forth was usually followed by a hovering flock, ready and impatient for the sport they had learned to expect. A rat brought to hand by the dog was quickly tossed in air, where the birds were ready to snatch it, sometimes with a contest on the wing for the disputed possession. One form of this sport, a sort of aerial polo, which seemed to be as good fun for the birds as for the observers, consisted in tossing two rats into the air at the same moment, not singly and apart, but tied together with about six feet of strong twine.

Instantly the birds made a dash for the rats, and the successful winner of the first prize went sailing off with one rat in his bill and the other swinging in the air beneath until snatched by the second winner, when, after a quick, sharp struggle and a taut strain on the cord, the bird with the weaker hold was compelled to let go. This then went on as a continuous performance, with somewhat Joub-like but rapidly repeated disappearances and reappearances of the little rats, swallowed and reluctantly disgorged by the birds in quick succession until the flock, thoroughly exhausted by their impetuous flight and extraordinary exercise, alighted on the ground for a short truce, when the two temporary stakeholders would be found sitting face to face, keenly eyeing each other from opposite ends of the string still connecting them, each anxiously on the sharp lookout for sudden jerks and unpleasant surprises, while all the other pursuers gathered around in a ring, waiting for the two prize birds to fly.

The general aspect of all participants seemed to verify the familiar adage that the pleasure is not in the game, but in the chase.

Two companies meet on the road. The two leaders, the "master companions," stop at twenty paces from each other.  
"Halt!" says one.  
"Halt!" says the other.  
"What trade?"  
"Carpenter. And you?"  
"Stonecutter. Companion?"  
"Companion?"  
"Your society—country?"  
And according to the reply they drink from the same gourd or flag. The twelve becomes general. They fight, fist and stick, until the road is littered with those who are wounded, sometimes even to the death.—Harper's Magazine.

**SCIENCE SIFTINGS.**

While volcanic eruptions are usually restricted in area, earthquakes are not.

If all the mountains in the world were leveled, the average height of the land would rise nearly 250 feet.

The face of Jupiter presents a considerable number of markings, notably one great scarlet patch covering nearly 400,000 square miles.

The amount of heat produced by an average man in a day's work would be sufficient to raise sixty-three pounds of water from freezing to boiling point.

Cirrus clouds were once observed at a height of 43,800 feet. This is by far the greatest height at which cloud vapor has ever been noted above the surface of the earth.

Experiments made while in a balloon show that when a height of 15,000 feet has been reached the number of corpuscles in the human blood have increased by one-third.

The atmospheric pressure upon the surface of an ordinary man is 32,400 pounds, or over fourteen and a half tons. The ordinary rise and fall of the barometer increases or decreases this



**Perry's Seeds**  
Seeds that Lead to Leads  
Send for the kind that lead to leads. Perry's Seeds. D. M. Perry & Co., Detroit, Mich.

**Mounting a Horse.**  
A careful bicyclist learns to mount from either side of the wheel, since the emergency may arise at any moment, says the London Chronicle. One would think that the horseman would be equally careful to provide for possibilities and accustom himself to mounting indifferently from the off side and the near side. But if he were to venture to mount on the right side—which is the wrong side—in a hotel stable yard the hostler would probably demand the price of a gallon as the statutory fine, and the horse would collapse with surprise. What is the meaning of this convention? It appears in odd places. Not only does the trick horse in the circus canter from right to left, but the after dinner wine passes the same way. "The way of the sun" is the current explanation, which is absurd.

**He Had It.**  
"Yes; it's Fullerton's hobby that advice is cheap and within the reach of every person."  
"What does he mean, anyhow?"  
"What he says, I suppose. He's a confidential divorce lawyer."—Baltimore News.

**An Aesthetic Soul.**  
"Well, did she buy the book?"  
"No," replied the clerk. "She said she didn't like the cover design."—Detroit Free Press.

If we could raise our neighbor's children instead of our own, there would be a model generation.—New York News.

**APPRENTICE QUARRELS.**

Young French Workmen Travel Always Ready For a Fight.

Jalousies between the workmen's corporations in France result in "Houmerie" combats, bloody battles. It is one side of an institution that is otherwise so truly fraternal.

They start out in companies, rarely alone, to make their "tour of France." Before coming back to continue their work in their own villages the young apprentices go together from town to town to study on the ground the masterpieces of their trade and to see the best that the genius of their ancestors has produced. It is the knight errantry of the workman.

He earns his living en route, perfects himself in his profession, learns from one master and another, sees, compares, studies, admires. He gathers his humble harvest of souvenirs and impressions, enjoys the full vigor of his early years and passes his youth along the sunny highways.

Unfortunately there is disagreement among the "societies." In everything there is found a pretext for quarrels. The society of the Pere Soubise is jealous of that of Maitre Jacques, and the Enfants du Solognon take part in the quarrel whenever possible.

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**ORIGIN OF THE KISS.**

The Greek Story of the Way in Which It Came into Being.

Kissing is usually accepted as an agreeable fact, and its theory and history are ignored, but if kissing did not begin with Adam and Eve it began with the beautiful young Greek shepherd who found an opal on one of the hills of Greece and, wishing to give it to a youthful shepherd whose hands were busy with his flock, let him take it from her lips with his own.

Science Siftings. Thus the kiss was invented, and perhaps the popular superstition against the opal may be traced back to the same incident, for osculation has wrought great tragedies in the world's history.

Kissing was once an act of religion. The nearest friend of a dying person performed the right of receiving his soul by a kiss, supposing that it escaped through his lips at the moment of expiration. It is said that kissing was first introduced into England by royalty. The British monarch Vortigern gave a banquet in honor of his Scandinavian allies, at which Rowena, the beautiful daughter of Hengist, was present. During the proceedings, after pressing a brimming beaker to her lips, she saluted the astonished and delighted monarch with a kiss "after the manner of her people."

The most honorable royal kiss on record is that which Queen Margaret of France in the presence of the whole court one day imprinted on the lips of the ugliest man in the kingdom, Alain Chartier, whom she found asleep. To those around her she said, "I do not kiss the man, but the mouth that has uttered so many charming things."

**The Demon of Indigestion.**  
Cooks and housekeepers have a nobler mission than they as a class seem to be aware of. It is that of feeding the human being and keeping him in health and good working condition. A poorly fed man is likely to be miserable. Few if any of us are able to rise above condition.

Stories of Children.  
Teacher—What is velocity, Johnny?  
Johnny—Velocity is what a feller lets go of a bumblebee with.  
The Parson—My boy, I'm sorry to see you flying your kite on the Sabbath. Small Boy—Dat's all right, mister. Dis kite's made up a 'ligious paper. See?  
Small Ned, hearing a number of frogs in a pond making a hideous noise, exclaimed, "My goodness, but the froggies must sleep awful sound!"  
"Why do you think so?" asked his mother.  
"Cause they snore so loud," replied Ned.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

**Limited Choice.**  
Father—Johnny, I see your little brother likes the smaller apple. Did you give him his choice, as I suggested.  
Johnny—Yes, father; I told him he could have his choice—the little one or none—and he took the little one.—Chums.

**The Color of It.**  
"And you loaned him \$2? Did you ever see the color of his money?"  
"Well, yes. There was a good deal of dun to it before I got it."—New York Herald.

**And Yet He Has Plenty of Sand.**  
The average boy is like an hourglass. He won't work for more than sixty minutes unless somebody turns him up like a down.—Baltimore Journal.

**When the Power is Off What Happens?**

Every factory worker and mechanic knows what happens when the power is off. Everything stops. The machinery is idle. If a mechanic were taken into a factory and saw the machinery silent and motionless he'd know at once that the power was off. When you shut off the power from a plant you shut off its activity.

If every factory and mill-hand, every mechanic and workman, understood the



mechanism of his body as he understands the machinery of the mill, he would know that when a man is weak and run down, when his activities are slowed down if not altogether stopped, there is something wrong with the power plant of the body.

The power plant of the body includes the stomach and its associated organs of digestion and nutrition. All physical strength is derived from food digested and converted into nutrition. Nutrition is the power which runs the body. When nutrition fails the body fails. The chemical changes by which food is converted into nutrition take place in the stomach and digestive and nutritive tracts. When the stomach is diseased, the nutrition is reduced and the body's power is reduced in proportion.

**A DOCTOR'S DICTUM.**

An eminent physician in a lecture to medical students, said in substance, "When you are called on by a sick person the first examination must be directed to the stomach." Just as the mechanic knows the power's off when the machinery stops, so the physician knows the power is off, when he sees a man weak, tired, and helpless, knows the power is off. The food the man eats is not being converted into nutrition. When food is digested, assimilated and converted into nutrition it must strengthen the body. When the body is weak, deficient in vitality and vigor, it must be because it is insufficiently nourished, either from lack of food or because the food eaten is not digested and converted into nutrition. Popularly and generally this condition is described as "weak stomach," or "stomach trouble."

When you have related the weak physical condition to the "weak" stomach and the "run-down" condition to

the running down of the machinery in the physical power-house, the next thing to do is to consider how to turn on the power again, restore the vigor and renew the activity.

The best way to explain how to do this is to show how it has been done. "It is with heart-felt gratitude that I send this testimonial which I wish you to publish with my name and address," writes Mr. Willis Seaman, of Washingtonville, Orange County, N. Y. "I had stomach trouble from birth and suffered with it more or less as I grew up. At the age of 26 I was broken down with dyspepsia. My suffering was terrible. Could not eat without distress. Could only eat a few certain things and was not able to work half the time. Everything I tried only gave me temporary relief. My wife finally persuaded me to try Dr.

Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and 'Pleasant Pellets.' I took six bottles of 'Golden Medical Discovery' and two vials of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. I then felt so well that I stopped taking medicine. Several months have passed and I can do the hardest kind of work, can eat anything that is set before me and enjoy it. I am 27 years old and this is the first time I have ever been well."

**THE CAUSE FOR CONFIDENCE**

In the ability of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery to cure "weak" stomach and diseases in general of the stomach and other organs of digestion and nutrition is found in the fact that the worst and most obstinate forms of stomach trouble have yielded to the influence of this great remedy.

"Some time has elapsed since I have written you in regard to the treatment I have been taking under your instructions," says Mr. E. F. Cingmans, of Minneapolis, Minn. "When first I commenced taking your remedies I was under treatment of a well-known specialist in this city (and had been for four months) for catarrh, and especially stomach trouble, and I was rapidly getting worse. Got so bad that I could not eat anything that did not distress me terribly, and I was obliged to quit taking the doctor's treatment entirely. I was greatly reduced in flesh. As a last resort I wrote to you and stated my case, and after receiving your instructions I followed them closely. After taking five bottles of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and one vial of his 'Pleasant Pellets,' I commenced to improve, and decided to continue the medicines and observe your instructions regarding hygienic treatment. It is now nearly six months since I commenced your treatment and I can say that I am well and never felt better in my life. Am very grateful to you for what your medicine has done for me."

**THIS CAN BE RELIED ON.**

Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures diseases of the stomach and other organs of digestion and nutrition. It increases the supply of pure rich blood which is the final form of nutrition. It gives strength for weakness, heartiness for heaviness of heart, and puts the whole physical man on the plane of robust health. From a man only able to work half the time, and then in pain, to a man who can work all the time in comfort, is a transition great enough to warrant the oft-repeated statement, "I feel like a new man since using the 'Discovery.'"

**DO YOU KNOW?**

Do you know what to do in case of emergency, accident, or sudden illness? Do you know how to aid the sick while waiting for the doctor? You can learn how to do these and a thousand other things from Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser. The book contains more than a thousand large pages and is sent free on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing only. Send 31 one-cent stamps for the cloth-bound volume, or only twenty-one stamps for the book in paper-covers. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

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