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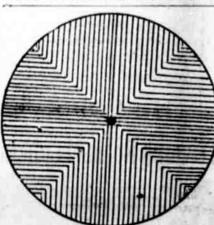
After all, what is more deceptive than human vision? Is not the optical illusion an important item in the stock and trade of every professional magician? Besides, how many pairs of eyes are perfect? Even granting perfection. how far short of photographic accuracy do they fall?

If we look at the stars at night they



MAKE A TOP OF THIS DISC, SPIN IT LEFT TO RIGHT, THEN IN THE OPPOSITE DI-

do not appear as points of light, but of quite appreciable size, and to short signted people immense. As a rule, in addition to the diffused brightness round the point, one may observe seven or more short rays pointing out from the center. You will probably see the same thing if you look at a street light. These rays are due to the lines which traverse the lens of our eye from the center to the circumference. They are usually from seven to ten in number. radiating from the center like the arms of a starfish. As these lines are formed of lens matter slightly denser and less



OBSERVE THAT ONE PAIR OF LINES LOOK THE RYE IS NEVER PERFECTLY SPHER-

transparent than the rest of the lens, they give rise to these rays of light.

The increased size of the stars is also partly due to the fact that the front of the eye is never a portion of a perfect sphere, but is slightly more curved in one direction than another, the direction and degree of the curves varying in different eyes. This is readily seen in the figure in which one pair of lines look gray and the other pair black. If the page be held sideways, the lines. which looked gray will now appear black, and the black lines have become



CUT OUT THIS DISC, NAKE A TOP OF IT, AND SPIN FROM LEFF TO RIGHT, AND YOU WILL BE SURPRISED.

A very curlous illusion is due to the fact that different wave lengths of light arrive at their maximum sensation at different times. Thus if a disc be cut out, and made into a top by mounting it on cardboard and pushing a wooden match through the center, it will be noticed that if spun from left to right the outer band will appear red and the innermost one blue. If the top be spun in the opposite direction, the colors will be reversed. This is known as Benham's color top. In the same way, if the other disc be made into a top and spun, the white band as it is spun from left to right will appear fringed with

Postage Stamps Have Water Marks. Did you ever hold a sheet of white paper to the light and notice white letters or a figure or some kind in it? That is called the water mark. Most postage stamps are water marked, some with letters, some with figures, while others have some simple little character. Very few stamps will reveal a water mark when held to the light, but a simple way to detect them is to procure an old "tintype" picture. Lay the stamp upon the back of it, face down, and drop upon the stamp a few drops of gasoline. The water mark, if the stamp contains one will be readily discernible.

Spiders as Weather Prophets. Mexican gypsies can foretell weather accurately. Of course they trade on the knowledge, but how do you suppose they often get it? Why, simply by | fall in love than in war.

watching spiders, which generally alter their webs every twenty-four hours. The boys and girls will find it interesting to watch the little arachnida. If you see them at work bright and early in the morning be sure of a clear day, and if they make the terminating filaments of their webs unusually long expect fine weather to continue for at least a week. If they are very busy between 6 and 7 o'clock in the evening look for a lovely night, or if they spin away while it is raining have no doubt but the sun will soon shine. If they destroy their webs and crawl away to hide, conclude that continued storms are certain.

Etephant and Whate. An Elephant came to the sea, meaning

to take a swim; He spied a bather near the shore and thus accosted him:

"Pray can you tell, my little friend-I am so big, you see-It there is any pool about that's deep enough for me?"

A mighty Whale raised from the deep a head so huge and tall. pompous Elephant sunk down; he

felt exceeding small.
"Yes," roared the Whale; "it's deep enough for me, and so I think You may find room-if not straid. Why linger on the brink?"

Nellie's Lamp Roost. Nellie was much interested in Aunt Mary's chandeller when she went to the city to stay with her, and when she went home she exclaimed:

"Oh, mother, I do wish we had a place for our lamps to roost on like Aunt Mary has!"

### ELECTRICITY TO SUBDUE FIRES. Ite Use May Eventually Put an End

to Great Conflagrations. Our great commercial growth requires improved and commensurate facilities for fire protection. Electricity has been the means to meet the increased demands of lighting and of disinfecting on a large scale, of supplying the demands for power for transportation purposes throughout a large metropolis; of curing diseases and prolonging life, and it will yet be the agent used in preventing conflagrations and subduing them when once under

full headway. The applications of this subtle agent have become so universal that we feel safe in even this prediction, for here, as probably in all other uses, it will find its greatest utility from the case in which its qualities may be brought into service from far distant points, as well as for its other wonderful quality of being spontaneous in the manifestation of its effects. These two inherent qualities above all others make it better adapted to modern uses, and, speaking in general terms, as being superior to our present comparatively slow and ineffective means of fighting great fires. The Hoboken conflagration presented the lamentable spectacle of a large amount of highly combustible material of great value, closely surrounded on nearly all sides with water, in fact an ocean to draw from, but scarcely an effective drop to be utilized in time, that is, when most needed, at the com-

mencement. The old idea of transporting heavy instruments over distances that take up precious time, to be used for fighting conflagrations, appears to us ridiculous, when by quickly turning an electric switch there was to be had enough electric power on tap in Hoboken to have almost washed instantly into the river the burning piers with their contents and superstructures, even if only utilized from the vantage ground of the

adjoining piers. That is why we say that electricity, instantaneous in its operation, capable of transmitting great power effectively over long distances, will eventually be universally used for fighting fires .-Electricity.

Facts About Red Hair. An eminent man of science has recently declared that red-baired people are far less ant to go bald than those with other colored hair. The average erop on the head of a red-haired person is only 29,200 hairs. Ordinary dark hair is far finer, and over three dark hairs take up the space of one red one; 105,000 are about the average. But fair-naired people are still better off: 140,000 to 160,000 are quite common number of hairs on the scalp of a fair-haired man or woman. This authority does not comment on the peculiarities of red-haired people, but it is well known that they are of a more passionate nature than others, and often of a fine and sensitive disposition akin to what is known as the artistic temperament.-Humanitarian.

What a Sigh Means.

Sighing is but another name for oxygen starvation. The cause of sighing is most frequently worry. An interval of several seconds often follows moments of mental disquietude, during which time the chest walls remain rigid until the imperious demand is made for oxygen, thus causing the deep inhalation. It is the expiration following the inspiration that is properly termed the sigh, and this sigh is simply an effort of the organism to obtain the necessary supply of oxygen. The remedy is to cease worrying. A little philosophy will banish worry at once, Worry will do no good; it will rob one of pleasures when blessings do come, as one will not be in a condition to enjoy them.-Ladies' Home Journal.

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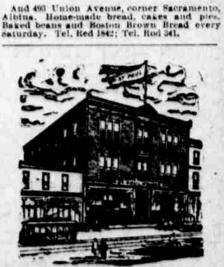
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