

## EXTRAORDINARY POWER OF A MEDIUM



LEVITATION OF SCISSORS BY MILE. STANISLAWA TOMCZYK

THE scientific world of Europe has been much interested in the experiments made by Doctor Ochorowicz of Paris, and Wisla of Silesia, with Mile. Stanislawa Tomczyk, a medium who has extraordinary magnetic qualities. When hypnotized, Mile. Tomczyk has the remarkable power of being able to levitate any objects she chooses. In one set of experiments a glove was put on the table in front of her, and at her bidding it rose, curved over from the middle, and went high up into the air, to drop gently into the lap of the person indicated. The same sort of thing she did with a magnet, as well as a pair of scissors, a match-box, and a note-book, the pages of which last turned over in accordance with her directions. Still more striking was one of the experiments with scales. She asked that the scales should be fastened to the bottom of the gas-bracket. This done, an egg-shaped marble paper-weight was placed in one of the pans, and a celluloid ball in the other. By merely placing her hands near the paper weight she caused that pan to rise until it was on a level with the one containing the light celluloid ball. It need hardly be said that elaborate steps were taken to prove that Mile. Tomczyk had no wires concealed on her person.

## TREASURE IS MYTH

### Stories of Hidden Gold of Aztecs Inventions of Historians.

Greatest Store of Precious Metal Was Found in Imperial Palace and Promptly Shipped to Spain by Cortez—Amount is Small.

San Antonio, Tex.—According to Jose Ramon Palafox, a Mexican journalist, who recently passed through this city on his way to Washington, there are no hidden Montezuma treasures.

"No doubt the stories circulated about the hidden treasures of the Aztec emperors have their origin in the sadly exaggerated accounts of old Spanish historians—men who swallowed the yarns of the conquerors of Mexico and whose judgment had been upset by the few shipments of gold and silver made to Spain shortly after the taking of the Aztec capital," said Senor Palafox.

"The amount of gold and silver in the possession of the Aztecs at any time was comparatively small and in the case of the people consisting of little more than a few personal ornaments. The greatest store of these precious metals was found by the Spaniards in the imperial palace and this was promptly shipped to Spain by Cortez. Compared with the wealth of today even this was a mere drop in the bucket. The statement made by historians that Hernando Cortez sent ship loads of gold and silver to his king should not be taken literally, for in all probability it means no more than that heavy shipments of these took place.

"The accounts of the Montezuma treasure is merely a counterpart of similar extravagances found on many pages of history. We read of the fabulous wealth of the people of the Euphrates valley, of the ancient Egyptians, of India and other parts and so far have never found a trace of it. In their day, no doubt, these people had a certain amount of gold and silver, but they never had enough to cause us moderns to call them rich. Dispersed among them in the form of currency, as is the case today, their wealth in precious metals would have made a very poor showing. Gold and silver, then, as in the case of the Aztecs, were not used at all as mediums of exchange or were used only in a very limited way. Rulers paid and received tributes in the form of gold and as a rule converted it into articles of practical value or objects of art. The old records show this down to a very late date. The tribute collected by the kings of Egypt, for example, were gold and silver vases, statuettes and the like. We see Rameses reward the services of his generals by hanging a golden chain around their necks and so on.

"Conditions in Mexico when the conquistadores got there were the same. Metals did not figure to any extent as money or its equivalent. In the palace of the emperor gold and silver

were found in the shape of cooking utensils, toilet articles and wall coverings. Perhaps a small store of gold and silver ingots was also discovered and so, no doubt, was a small quantity of precious stones.

"The so-called Aztec codices telling of the whereabouts of hidden treasure are all spurious and are sold to unsuspecting foreigners for fancy prices. It is an industry somewhat analogous to the making of antique furniture and jewels. Of course only the most credulous are taken in and usually one experience suffices to tell the purchaser of a codex that he has been humbugged. However, sometimes a great deal of harm is done by an unscrupulous man getting possession of a so-called codex. He is enterprising enough to turn his purchase to good account as far as he is concerned, but those who have been foolish enough to believe his plausible stories will find that the Montezuma treasure is no more than a fable—is, in fact, a swindle. Probably no one knows Mexico better than do its natives and nowhere are traditions and the like better preserved. In view of these facts it would be more than strange that the Mexican should sell information as to treasures when he could lift the hoard himself."

## ANIMALS AT SCHOOL

Not to Learn, But to Instruct Young Chicago Pupils.

Bugs, Frogs, Puppies, Kittens, Mice and Other Dumb Candidates Admitted to Inculcate Taste for Nature Study.

Chicago.—Kittens, puppies, pigeons, chickens, rabbits, squirrels, guinea pigs, Japanese mice, white rats, tadpoles, salamanders, turtles, toads, frogs, birds, bugs, ants and bees are some of the new pupils which a committee of principals and district superintendents appointed by Mrs. Ella Flagg Young has decided to admit to the Chicago public schools.

At the head of "Alice in Wonderland"—or was it "Alice in the Looking Glass?"—Lewis Carroll describes a court scene in which the jury box is just such a strange little menagerie as this. The idea was one which appealed powerfully to the imaginations of children.

Acting on the same principle, the school authorities have decided to give the youngsters in the kindergarten grades this strange conglomeration of school companions. They wish to inculcate in the children a taste for nature study and they believe this the best way to do it.

With nature's living handcraft before them, they feel, the youngsters' interest will be quickened. In time they will come to know their grotesque schoolmates as well as they do the little boys and girls who study with them, and from this will come not only knowledge that will be useful, but a humanity toward all living creatures which will make the lives of future generations of frogs, tadpoles, mice, turtles and even salamanders better worth the living.

The list of the dumb candidates for kindergarten work has just been made out and will be submitted to a mass meeting of the principals to be held with Mrs. Young. It is expected that all of them will be allowed to matriculate.

In a higher grade of the kindergarten work the children will take up the feeding of caterpillars and the study of the habits of crickets and spiders. The report in which the strange roster of kindergarten pupils is suggested says:

"The kindergarten should aim to develop the sense of delight in nature and of interesting plays with nature material, also the sense of affectionate kinship with all living things."

"Short excursions should be taken often, especially in the spring and fall. The purposes of these excursions should be to see trees, flowers, grass and to have motor and sense experience in connection with them, such as feeding the roughness of the bark, the coolness of the grass, and so on; to gather pods if possible, to play with shadows and sunshine, to watch the clouds, to feel the wind and play with it. There should be many plays with lights and colors, blowing soap bubbles, using reflected and refracted light and transparencies."

Trust Thyself.

Trust thyself, if your compass has been set to the pole star of sincerity.

## Dentistry Reforms Bad Boy

Delinquent Chicago Urchin Testifies to Good Done Him by Forwarding Gold Piece.

Chicago.—Ten dollars' worth of dentistry, supplied by the Children's Day association has reformed a delinquent Chicago urchin into an honest, industrious boy. A five-dollar gold piece received in Chicago the other day proves the transformation.

Joseph Bejlovec, sixteen years old, a Bohemian boy, is the hero of the story. Bejlovec was until a short time ago a delinquent youth, spent most of his time dodging the truant officer and the rest in mischief of more or less serious nature.

He was arrested and taken before the juvenile court. There he was examined by the physician attached to the court and his teeth found to be in bad condition. The physician spoke to the court nurse and the nurse told the agent of the Children's Day association. The association is devoted to relieving emergency cases that appear before the court, and the agent was interested immediately.

She gave \$10 to be used in fixing Bejlovec's teeth. As soon as this was done the judge told the boy he would not punish him, but would send him to a farm at Scherville, Ind., where he could work and if he were willing to do so could save enough money to pay back the \$10.

Bejlovec went to the farm. The other day a letter was received at the offices of the Children's Day association in the Woman's Temple. When

It was opened a five-dollar gold piece rolled from the envelope. It was from Bejlovec. He said he was working steadily; had saved the five dollars; wanted it to be accepted as half payment of his debt, and that he would have the other five dollars saved up within a short time and would send it on.

Matador Gets Much Money.

San Antonio, Tex.—According to Jose del Rivero, manager of the City of Mexico bull ring, who is now on his way to Spain, where he will book bull fights, the highest salary ever paid a matador will be given to Antonio Fuentes during his performances at the Mexican capital next September.

Fuentes will appear four times, and for this will receive the sum of \$40,000, or \$10,000 for each performance. This is a higher remuneration than is given to the greatest operatic stars.

Scalp Graft Haunts Man.

Altoona, Pa.—An aged man contributed three dollars to the conscience fund of the Blair county commissioners' office the other day. He said that 33 years ago he "faked" an old justice of the peace and got paid twice for a fox's scalp. He had made his peace with God and he could not rest until he had returned the ill-gotten money. He went away happy with the receipt.

Lack of Humor.

Lack of a sense of humor has ruined many a man.

## WASHINGTON GOSSIP

### Uncle Sam Probes Third Degree System



WASHINGTON.—One of the investigating committees set in motion at the late session of congress that is expected to yield some interesting results is the subcommittee of five senators, members of the judiciary committee, who have been directed to investigate and report on the workings of the "third degree," as exemplified by federal officers in criminal prosecutions.

The investigation will take a wide range. One member of the committee will be sent to Oklahoma to learn what basis there is for the charge made by Gov. Haskell and his friends, that the prosecutions started against him under the Roosevelt administration were inspired by personal malice, and that the methods resorted to by the special agents of the government in their efforts to convict Haskell, were discreditable.

Another branch of the investigation will relate to some of the western

prosecutions, especially those conducted by Robert Kay Devlin, as United States attorney for the Northern district of California. Devlin's nomination was hung up in the judiciary committee of the senate for a long time, on a complaint that he had persecuted Dr. Perrin, one of the defendants in certain land-fraud cases, who, after being indicted, was finally discharged for want of evidence.

A special agent of the department of justice sent out to investigate the charge made a written report that Dr. Perrin should never have been indicted; that improper methods were employed to bring about his indictment, and even after the government officers were aware that they could not make a case against Dr. Perrin, the indictment was allowed to hang over his head for many months, to his great personal detriment.

The methods of Francis J. Heney and Detective Burns may be inquired into, and it is not unlikely that some attention may be given to the charge made against the method of administering the criminal laws in Alaska, especially at Juneau, where the United States attorney and United States marshal were recently removed from office on the complaint of Gov. Walter E. Clark.

### "Corpse" Aroused by Noise, Runs Away



"THERE'S a dead man in that alley."

This exclamation by an excited colored man at Eleventh and E streets, in Washington, caused considerable consternation among pedestrians and loungers in that vicinity a few days ago. He pointed to a narrow alleyway on the north side of E street between Eleventh and Twelfth streets, between two buildings.

Pretty soon the mouth of the little alley was blocked by curious people. A business man in the neighborhood who peered over the heads of the morbid crowd and saw a man stretched out full length, and apparently very ill or dead, in the alleyway, telephoned to the Emergency hospital for an ambulance. Other men ran hither and thither in search of a policeman.

"He may be drunk," suggested an old man as he gazed at the prostrate form.

"No," another man declared, "I reckon it is a case of heat prostration."

"I think he's just dreamin' about Jack Johnson's victory," said a third.

In the meantime the Emergency hospital ambulance with clanging gong arrived on the scene, and a policeman with perspiration streaming down his face rushed up to the mouth of the alley and was forcing his way through the crowd to get at the supposed dead man.

The noise aroused the "corpse." The prostrate figure slowly arose, disclosing the stalwart form of a negro.

He gazed in astonishment at the crowd that blocked up the entrance to the alley and saw the policeman and white-coated Emergency surgeon elbowing their way toward him. With a yawn and a stretch of his arms, the negro darted into the side door of a printing office, slamming the door behind him.

Investigation disclosed the fact that the negro has been employed at the printing establishment a number of years. He said he was tired and went out into the quiet, cool alleyway to take a nap during the lunch hour. That was all.

### Sold MacVeagh Spoiled Vinegar; Fined



JAMES WILSON, secretary of agriculture, has been hot-footing it after a Chicago man who had the temerity to sell Franklin MacVeagh, secretary of the treasury, a barrel of bogus vinegar. MacVeagh bought the vinegar believing it was the real thing, the kind that father used to make on the farm, fit to put on lettuce and pickle pigs' feet with and all that sort of thing.

The looks and smell of the stuff made him suspicious, and so he lloored for the pure food inspectors

to come and examine. They reported the alleged vinegar was in reality adulterated and artificially colored and misbranded. A criminal information was filed against the luckless storekeeper and he was taken into the United States court, accused of deceiving and misleading MacVeagh. The man pleaded guilty and was fined \$25. He promised to be good.

A Buffalo milling concern has been fined for mixing ground corncocks with flour middlings. The same concern was also found guilty of putting ground corncocks in a "gluten" preparation. A lot of "raisins," shipped from California to Texas, was discovered to be in part a decomposed vegetable substance. A Chicago firm selling a "quick-rising" buckwheat flour has been fined for fraud in having sold in reality a mixture of wheat flour and buckwheat without any quick-rising properties.

### Government's O. K. on the Lowly Toad



A RECENT bulletin of the department of agriculture in Washington has taken up the case of the toad, dispelling the "host of vague and ludicrous fancies as to its venomous qualities. Its medicinal virtues, or most commonly, the hidden toadstone of priceless value."

Touching toads, says the bulletin, does not produce warts on the hands. The toad's breath does not cause convulsions in children, nor does a toad in a newly dug well insure a good and unfailing water supply, nor in a new made cellar will one bring prosperity to the household.

The Massachusetts experiment station has been investigating the habits, food and economic value of the

toad, and the result establishes its claim to consideration and appreciation. First of all, as to the longevity of the toad, the investigators express the opinion that many toads reach an age of at least ten or fifteen years. They also believe it possible for the toad to live for a limited time without food, but doubt stories about toads being found in rocks and trees.

"The toad," says the pamphlet, "is a nocturnal animal, and ventures out during the day only when tempted by an abundance of food or when the air and moving insects, centipeds, etc. At is full of moisture. It eats only living night, soon after sundown, or even before on cool evenings. It emerges from its shelter and slowly hops about in search of food. Almost a regular beat is covered. In the country this includes forays along roadsides, into gardens and cultivated fields and wherever insect food is abundant and grass or other thick herbage does not prevent locomotion. In cities and suburban villages the lawns, walks and particularly the spots beneath electric lamps are favorite hunting grounds."