

HOME MAGIC!



There are many boys and girls who, during the long winter evenings or when parties are being held, wish they could "do something." The following simple tricks are both effective and easy to perform.

No. 1.—The Magic Case

HERE is a simple yet amusing trick which you can perform at your next party. Get a gas mantle case and take off the cap from one end. Place the case upright on a piece of card, and mark round the card with a pencil as shown at A. When you have done this



No. 1

cut out the circle of card you have marked. Now black this disc on both sides and also black the inside of the mantle case. Then fix the circular piece of card inside the centre of the case as indicated at B.

Finally, replace the caps one on each end of the case.

To perform the trick take off one of the caps and show the case empty. Then borrow a small handkerchief and place it in the case, replacing the cap. Now while you talk to your audience, quietly turn the case round in your hands so that they do not notice the action. Take off the opposite cap and show the case empty. Of course, the handkerchief is still in the case, but it is behind the black disc, and therefore cannot be seen.

No. 2.—The Magic Walking-Stick

This topping little trick always puzzles people, and now I am giving the secret of it away to my reader chums for the first time.

First of all obtain a piece of thread about sixteen inches long, and sew it through the edge of the left coat-sleeve in the form of a small loop—see A. Take care, however, that the coat you use is either black or a dark blue shade of cloth. Next get the walking-stick which should be dark brown in colour, or, at least, have a dark-tinted handle. In case you cannot get one of dark enough shade, colour the handle of any stick with Indian ink, which can be washed off afterwards.

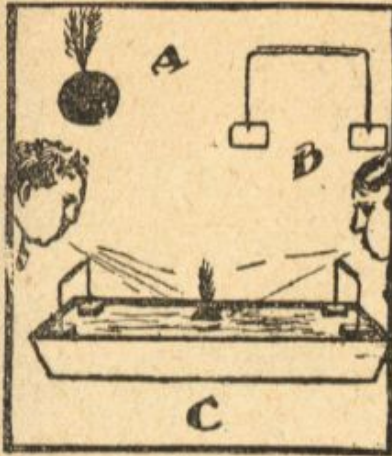


No. 2

Now, to perform the trick, hold the stick in the manner shown at A. Tell your audience you are going to put the "fluence" on the stick, and while making passes over it, quietly slip the ferrule end of the walking-stick through the loop in the thread in the way also indicated by *diagram* A. Then hold the stick upright with the right hand, while you get the thread taut—see B. Now let go with the right hand, and waggle the fingers of the left hand above the stick as though you are supporting it in the air by means of some strange "fluence." The black thread will not be noticed against the dark background of your coat.

Of course, you don't want to perform this trick before friends until you have tried it by yourself a few times!

No. 3.—Table Water Polo



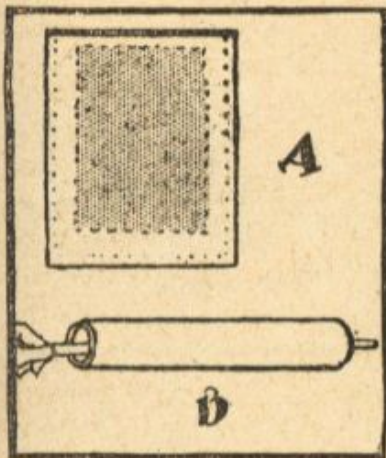
No. 3

pieces of wood to form goal-posts in the manner shown at B.

The two goals thus formed must be placed in a tin of water as shown by *diagram C*. The "ball" is placed in the centre of the tin or dish of water to start with, and the players must try to blow it into their opponents' goal.

No. 4.—A Handkerchief Trick

Obtain two sheets of ordinary white paper—or newspaper—will do—and paste them together round three sides (see the outer dotted line in *diagram A*.)



No. 4

end down with the fingers and thumbs. Next roll the papers into the form of a hollow tube, and put a stick through this tube to show that you have not inserted anything in it (see B). Finally, wave the stick over the tube, and pull out the handkerchief from between the papers.

The game can be made quite easily in the following manner: Get a round piece of cork and stick a feather in it (see *diagram A*). Next get four hairpins and four square pieces of wood. Now fix the bent hairpins in the

goal-posts in the

No. 5.—The Disappearing Egg

Save the half shell of a breakfast egg and through one side of it push a bent pin. Fix the pin in position by dropping over the head of it a little sealing-wax. The sealing-wax should be put

inside the shell so that the pin is fixed firmly in position (see A). The shaded portion in this diagram represents the sealing-wax, though, of course, in reality you would not be able to see it through the eggshell.



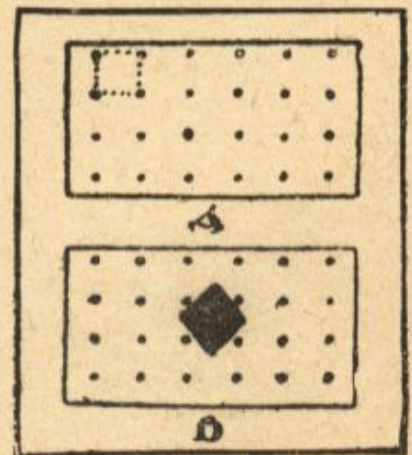
No. 5

Now place the shell in an egg-cup with the pin-point away from your audience (see B). Put a handkerchief over the egg-shell and tell your chums that you will make the "egg" disappear. When pulling the handkerchief away, catch the pin-point in it as shown at C, and your audience will find the egg-cup empty.

No. 6.—The Carpenter's Problem

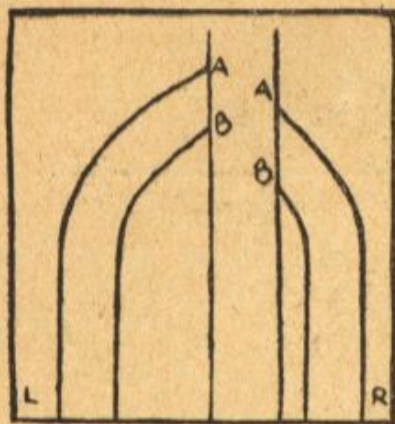
A carpenter once wanted a square piece of wood with which to finish a certain job. But all he had left was a piece of board with holes in it. Unfortunately he found that if he were to cut out a square between the holes—as indicated by the dotted lines in *diagram A*—the piece thus cut would be too small for his purpose. The problem is: How did he manage it?

The way that the carpenter obtained a larger square which suited his requirements will be seen in *diagram B*.



No. 6

No. 7.—An Optical Illusion

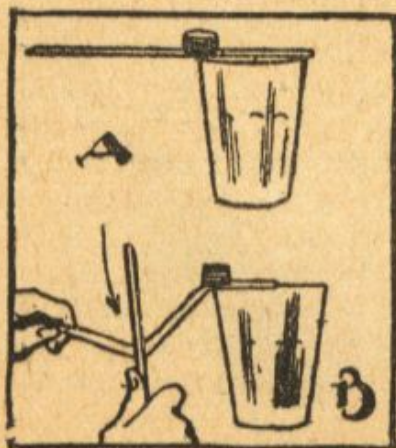


No. 7

As you may know, the eye can be very easily deceived. Here is a case in point. The two curved lines on the right side of the sketch appear to be drawn at a different slope from those on the left side. You would not dream, from just looking at them, that the lines *A* and *B* on the right side would meet the tops of lines *A* and *B* in the centre of the sketch, would you? Yet if you continue the lines on the right you will see that they will meet the others, thus forming an arch with both sides exactly equal.

No. 8.—Balancing the Coins

Obtain a strip of paper three-quarters of an inch wide. Place one end across the top of a glass tumbler, and on the paper at the edge of the glass balance three or four pennies or half-crowns—the latter coins are better because they are heavier. Note the position of the coins and the paper in *diagram A*. The trick is to get the paper away from under the coins without upsetting them. If your friends cannot perform the feat, show them how to do the trick in the following way: Hold the loose end of the strip of paper in the fingers of the left hand, and, with a stick held

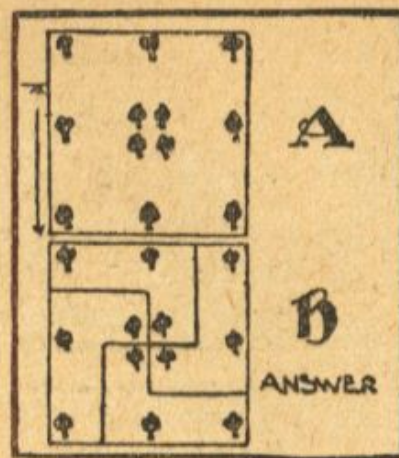


No. 8

in the right hand, strike a sharp blow downwards on the paper in the manner indicated at *B*. The effect of the blow will be to bring the paper away, leaving the coins balanced on the edge of the tumbler.

No. 9.—A Land Problem

Four men once bought a square piece of land which contained twelve trees. A plan of this piece of land is shown at *A*. They decided to divide the land into four, but each man wanted a frontage of three-quarters of



No. 9

the length of the ground and also three of the trees in his portion. The arrows to the left of the plan at *A* show the length of the frontage each required. The problem is: How did they divide the land so that each of the four men obtained what he wanted? The way they solved the difficulty may be seen at *B*.

Cut out the top diagram or else re-draw it on a piece of paper, and try the problem on your chums. Tell them to indicate with a pencil the way the land could be divided to fulfil the requirements of the owners.

No. 10.—Another Balancing Trick

For this trick take a walking-stick and tie a piece of string round the bottom, about three inches from the ferrule. Make a long loop in the string, as shown at *A*. Now slip the stem of a pipe through the loop, and balance the other end on a pin.

Without holding the stick with the left hand or allowing it to touch the floor, you will find you can quite easily do this balancing trick, as shown by *diagram B*, notwithstanding the weight of the walking-stick.



No. 10