

# AFTER DINNER TRICKS

♣ ♣ ILLUSTRATED ♣ ♣

By **WALTER B. GIBSON**

Author of: **Easy Magic, Miracles—Ancient and Modern,  
Practical Card Tricks.**

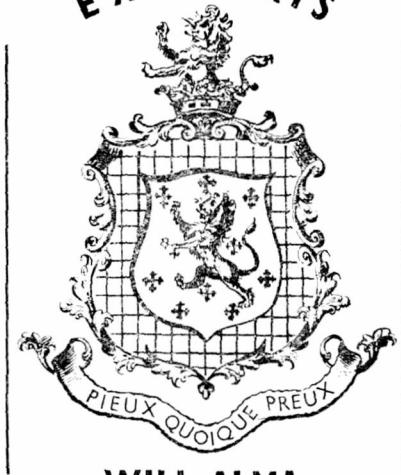


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*Tricks & Stunts*  
AFTER DINNER TRICKS

By WALTER B. GIBSON

Author of Easy Magic, Miracles—Ancient and Modern,  
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EDITED BY  
ALVIN RICHARD PLOUGH

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## INTRODUCTION



OF all the forms of impromptu entertainment, magic is the most popular, and is best suited to all occasions. Everyone is interested in tricks, and the amateur conjurer will always be called upon to entertain his friends.

It is not necessary to study sleight-of-hand to become a competent performer. On the contrary, many of the best tricks are quite easily acquired, with only a few minutes' practice.

It is the purpose of this volume to describe a large number of simple but effective tricks that will appeal to the average man who knows little or nothing about the art of prestidigitation. All the articles required for showing these tricks are easily obtainable, and cost practically nothing. The man who studies them will find himself well repaid for the time spent, both in personal enjoyment gained, and in the popularity he will rapidly attain.

In order that the book may be more readily used as a reference volume, the tricks have been divided into sections, according to the different articles employed in their performance.

A few words of advice regarding the presentation of the tricks will prove of value to the reader. It will be noticed that several different methods are explained for presenting single effects; for example, there are a number of different ways of vanishing a coin. This is done for two reasons: First, to allow the reader to choose the method he likes best; second, to allow him to repeat the trick if he wishes. The same trick should never be done twice in succession, for the element of surprise will be missing, and the audience will be likely to detect the secret. If, however, the same effect is repeated with a different method, the wily spectators will be completely mystified.

Similarly, the performer should never tell his audience what he is going to do, as this will also put them on guard.

It must not be thought that because the tricks included in this book are simple, they are not mystifying. The simplest tricks are usually the best in actual practice. The success of a trick depends upon the performer "putting it over" with an air of mystery. If he has a lot of difficult sleight-of-hand to bother with, it will distract him from his main purpose, namely, to puzzle his audience. The simplest trick in the hands of a clever man will prove most perplexing. On the other hand, a very clever trick may prove a failure in clumsy hands.

Never, under any circumstances, explain how a trick is done. Very often the beginner will be met by demands that he can hardly refuse. For this reason, a number of tricks have been included that are puzzles in nature; that is, tricks whose secret is purposely revealed in the performance. When the performer is asked to explain a trick, he should satisfy his questioners by showing them one or two of the puzzles, which will usually prove satisfactory to them.

Of course, the tricks herein described are not confined to dinner table presentation. Many of them are practical anywhere, at any time. The title has been chosen because the dinner table is the field where the amateur conjurer wins his first successes, and if he finds himself successful with "After Dinner Tricks," he may safely delve more deeply into the mysteries of the fascinating art of magic.

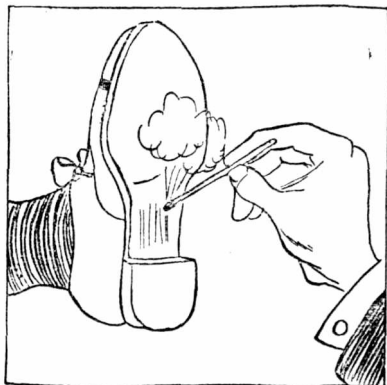
WALTER B. GIBSON.

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## Tricks With Matches

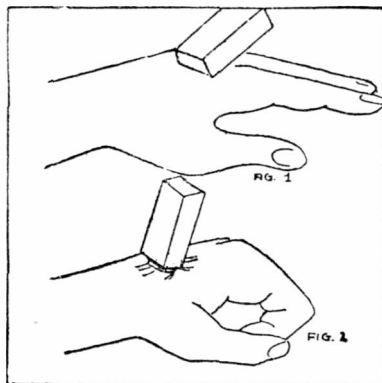


**Strike Safety Matches Without Box**

It is commonly supposed that a safety match can only be struck on the box. A neat little stunt is to strike one on the sole of the shoe, and then challenge any one to duplicate the feat, which they will be unable to do.

The secret is quite simple. The side of a match box was previously rubbed against the sole of the shoe, at the instep. Some of the substance is thus transferred from the box to the shoe, and the striking of the match becomes a simple matter. As the instep does not touch the ground the application will not wear off for some time.

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**Levitation of a Match Box**

A match box is placed upright on the back of the hand. It is pushed down, but immediately rises to its former position. After some repetition, the box is handed for examination, but nothing unusual is discovered.

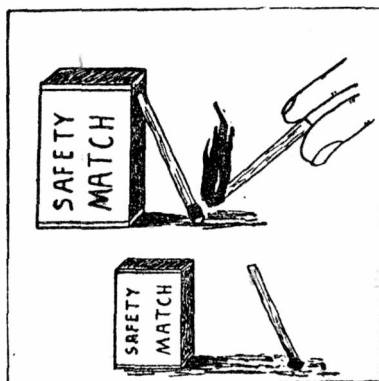
In setting the box on the back of the hand, the drawer is pushed out slightly, and, in pushing it back, a bit of flesh is pinched between the box and the edge of the drawer.

The box is then knocked down flat on the back of the hand, but by merely doubling the fingers it will rise as on a hinge.

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## After-Dinner Tricks

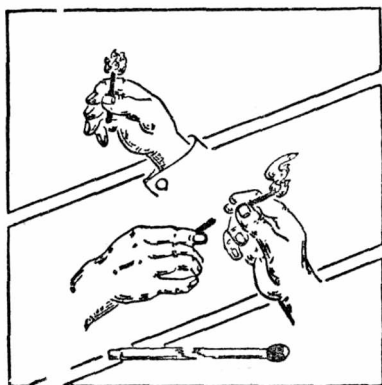


### The Leaning Match

Lean a match against the side of a match box with the head of the match standing on a piece of wood (not a mahogany table).

The problem is to remove the box without the match falling. To accomplish this, strike another match and light the head of the leaning match; then blow it out immediately. The tumbler may then be removed without the match falling.

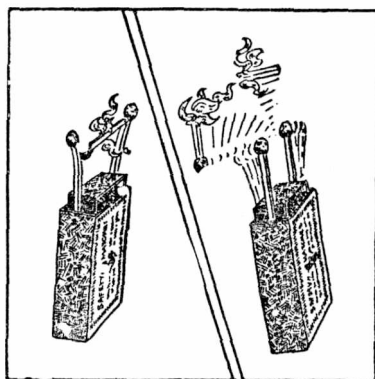
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### A Light That Failed

A friend asks for a light. You strike a match for him, but when he takes it he finds the light has gone, and is surprised to see you still holding it. The match was previously broken in half, and then held at the joint, in striking. Of course when you held it out, he took the unlighted end, and as a result only received half the match, while you kept the light.

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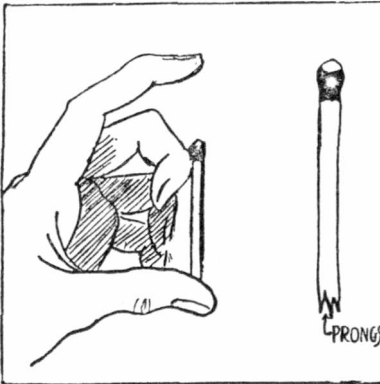
### Which End Burns First?

Two matches are wedged between the sides of the drawer and the inner sides of a match box. A third match is placed between them. The third match is lighted in the middle, and anyone is asked to guess which end will burn first.

Before either end is reached, pressure will be relieved by the center of the match being consumed, and the pieces of the match will leap into the air.

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## Tricks With Matches

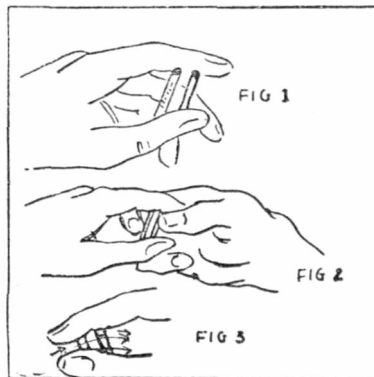


**Balancing a Match**

A match is balanced on the ball of the forefinger.

To accomplish this feat secretly break off the tip of the match at the base. This leaves a number of tiny prongs or slivers of wood. When the match is set on the finger it is pressed against the flesh and the tiny slivers are imbedded very slightly. The match will then stand as long as desired. No one else can do the trick, as they invariably fail to press the match into the finger.

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**The Mystic Matches**

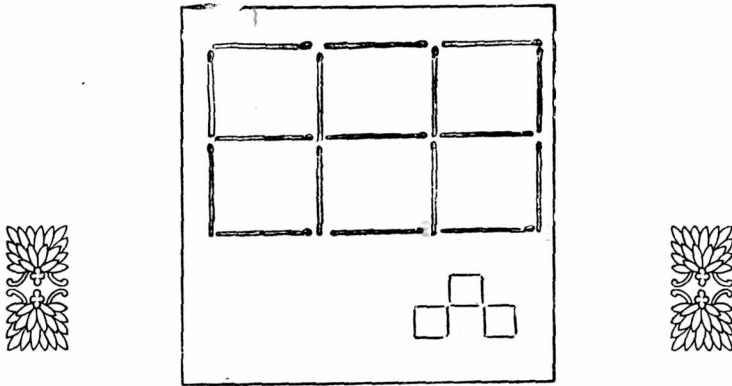
A pair of paper matches are shown to have printing on one side, but to be blank on the other. They are held by the ends between the left thumb and forefinger. The right thumb and forefinger take the matches at the center and turn them over, but the printing is still uppermost, no matter how often they are turned.

The secret is a half twist made by drawing back the thumb a trifle. Thus every time the matches are turned over they make a complete twist, which leaves the same side on top. The twist is indetectible, as the turning of the matches makes it unnoticeable.

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## After-Dinner Tricks

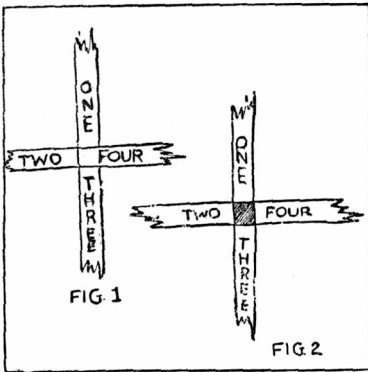


### A Puzzle With Matches

A neat little puzzle is to lay seventeen matches as shown above. The problem is to take away five matches and leave three perfect squares.

The solution is shown in the second illustration.

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### A Square by Moving One Match

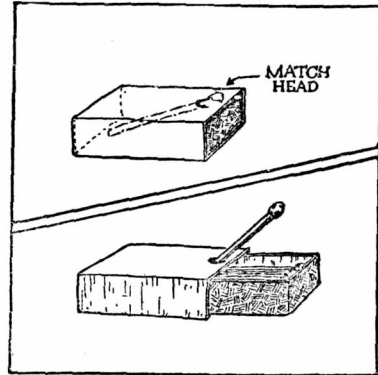
Here is a clever little puzzle which is practically unknown and which will tax the brains and ingenuity of every one.

Arrange four matches as shown in Fig. 1, forming a cross.

The problem is to move one match and make the matches form the sides of a perfect square.

The solution is shown in Fig. 2. The square is quite perfect, even though its size is smaller than expected. Move match four.

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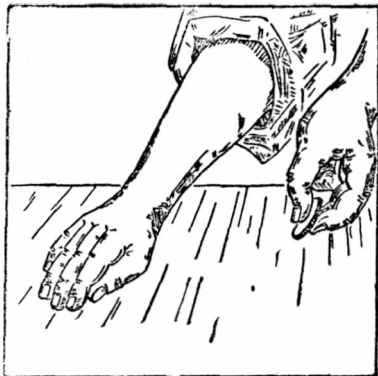
### Self-Serving Match Box

Some one asks for a match. When the box is pushed open they are startled to see the match raise itself right out of the box.

A little hole is made in the top of the box near the end, and a match is pushed through into the drawer of the box, all except the head, which sticks out a trifle, but will not be noticed. When the drawer is pushed open, the match is forced up through the hole, and comes out in a very mysterious manner.

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## Tricks With Coins



### Mysterious Sounding Money

A good little trick to work on a wooden or stone table. Hold a coin in the left hand, but reach forward with the right, as though it held the coin. As the right hand sets its imaginary coin on the table, the left hand lets the real coin down with a sharp click. Every one will suppose that the sound came from the right hand and will be astonished when it is lifted, showing nothing there.

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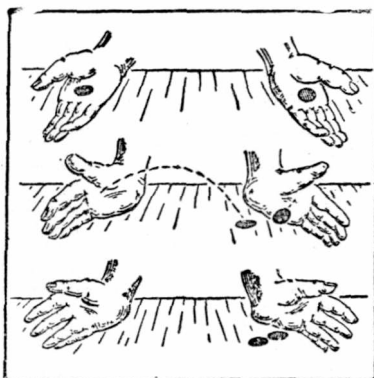


### Chosen Coin Picked Out

A penny is marked and tossed into a hat with a number of others. Although blindfolded, it is a simple matter to reach in and draw out the marked coin.

The secret is this: While the coin is being marked and passed among the spectators, it becomes warm, due to the handling, and can be easily picked out from the others, which are all cold.

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### The Changed Coins in Hand

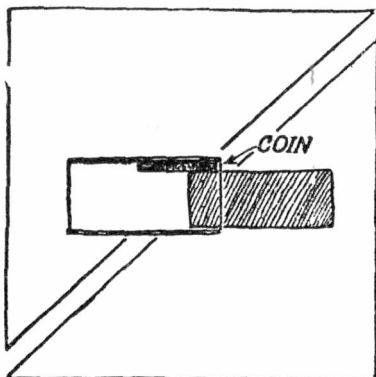
A coin is held on the palm of each hand. The hands are slapped down on the table. When they are lifted, both coins are found under one hand. In turning the hands over one coin is thrown from one hand underneath the other. The hands are brought down so rapidly that the coin does not have time to roll away.

After a little practice, a nickel and a penny can be made to change places by throwing both coins.

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## After-Dinner Tricks

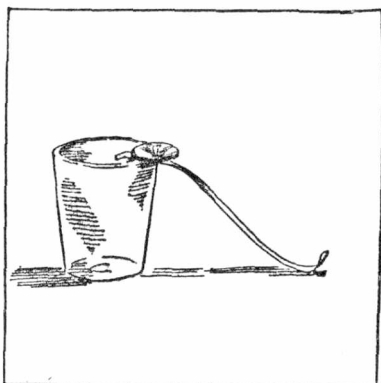


### Coin Appears in Empty Box

A matchbox is shown empty by sliding open the drawer. The drawer is closed, and when re-opened a half dollar is found inside.

Before performing the coin is wedged between the top of one end of the drawer and the inside of the box. Thus when the drawer is pushed open the box appears empty. By simply sliding the drawer back in the coin falls into the drawer, and thus makes its appearance when the box is again opened.

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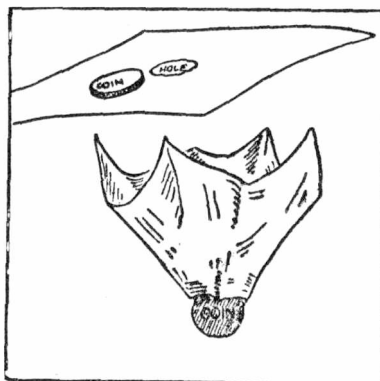


### Coin Balanced on Tumbler

A feat of apparent dexterity is to place the end of a strip of paper on the edge of a tumbler, and balance a coin on top. The trick is to remove the paper without disturbing the coin.

It is done by giving the paper strip a hard slap at the middle, which jerks it out from under the coin without the latter losing its balance.

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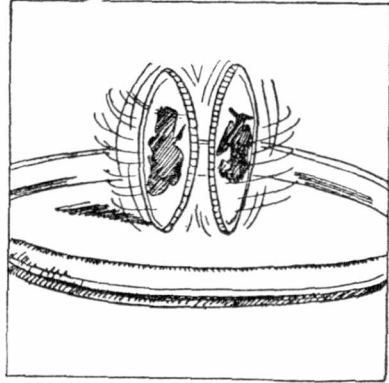
### A Puzzle With a Coin

A hole is torn in a sheet of paper. A coin is laid on the hole, which is too small for it to pass through. To make the coin go through without enlarging the hole is a task that will puzzle the most ingenious mind. To accomplish the seeming impossibility, simply bend in the end of the paper. The action will distend the opening and the coin will drop through.

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## Tricks With Coins

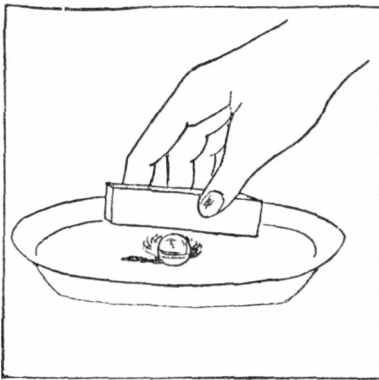


### To See Both Sides of a Coin at Once

How can you actually see both sides of a coin at once, that is, without using a mirror?

Simply spin the coin on a plate, and if you watch it carefully, both sides can be seen at the same time, when the coin begins to slow down.

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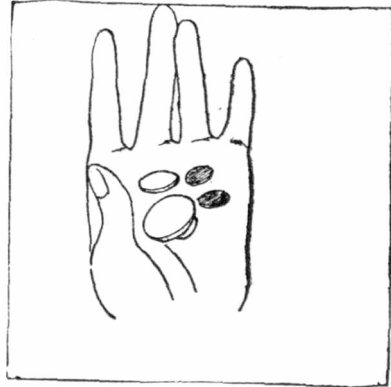


### Disappearing Coin in Box

A coin is spun on a plate and covered with a match box; the spectators are asked to guess whether the coin lies heads or tails. The action is repeated once or twice; finally the box is lifted and the coin has disappeared.

To accomplish the trick, an empty match box must be used; the coin should be a dime or a penny. While the coin is spinning rapidly, the box is brought down sharply on to the coin, which will be driven right through the wood into the box. The box should be slapped down top first, so that the coin has but one thickness of wood to penetrate.

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### Coin Dissolves Into Air

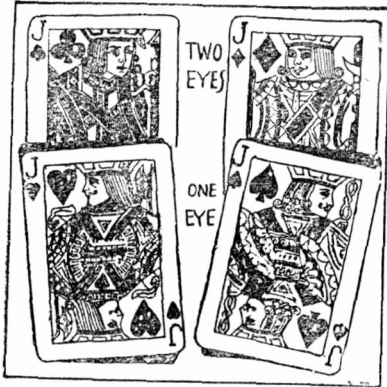
A handful of coins are shown in the left hand. The right hand removes a dime from the pile, rubs it gently and causes it to dissolve into thin air.

Among the coins in the left hand there is only one dime. This coin is apparently removed by the right hand, but in reality it is slipped under a larger coin, say a quarter or half-dollar. As the dime is no longer visible among the left-hand coins, every one takes it for granted that it is in the right. Thus the disappearance of the dime creates considerable surprise.

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## After-Dinner Tricks

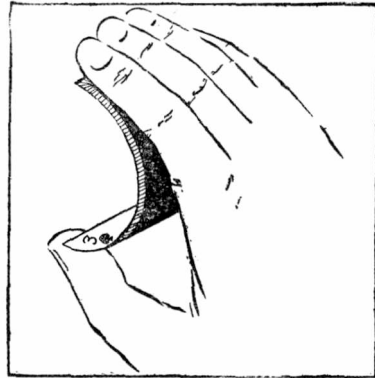


### The Rejected Soldiers

Take the four jacks from a pack of playing cards and lay them face up on the table. State that the jacks came before the draft board, but only two of them were accepted for service. Which two were rejected, and why?

The answer is the jack of hearts and the jack of spades, for the simple reason that each of those jacks has only one eye; whereas the others have no such deficiency. It should be noted which jacks in the deck you use have but one eye.

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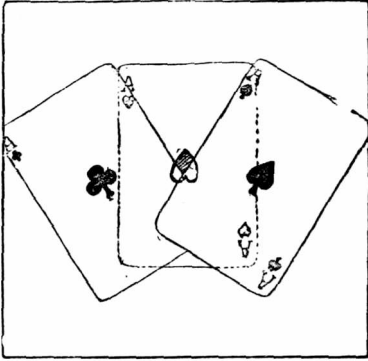
### Telling Cards from Backs

A number of cards are taken at random from a pack. Each card in turn is held between the thumb and fingers, with the face toward the audience. Gazing at the back of the card for a few seconds, its suit and number is revealed by the performer.

In holding the card, as shown in the diagram, the thumb and fingers bend it inward a trifle. In this way the index of the card is brought within the performer's sight, in the lower left-hand corner, and he notes the value of the card.



## Tricks With Cards

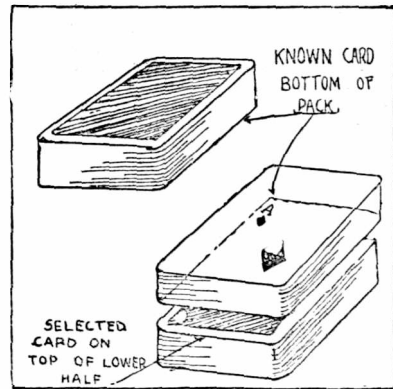


### The Three Aces

The aces of clubs, spades and diamonds are exhibited in a fan. One at a time each ace is pushed into the center of the pack. When this has been done, the top card is turned over, and proves to be the ace of diamonds, which, but a moment before was lost in the depths of the pack.

The "ace of diamonds" originally shown is actually the ace of hearts. By holding the cards as shown in the diagram, only the tip of the heart appears, and it is mistaken for a diamond. The real ace of diamonds is on the top of the pack all the time. The three fanned aces are turned faces down before they are pushed into the pack; hence the true identity of the camouflaged ace of hearts is not disclosed.

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### Finding a Selected Card

Tell some one to take a card from a pack, look at it, replace it on top of the pack, and then cut the cards. Looking through the pack, you immediately find the card selected.

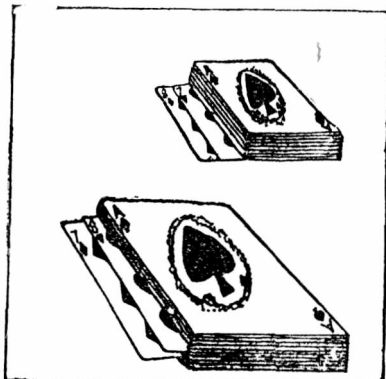
Previously note the card on the bottom of the pack. Ace, for example. Thus when the chooser puts his card, perhaps a king, on top, and cuts the pack, his card comes directly beneath the one (ace) you already know. You have merely to run through the pack, and the card after yours will be the chosen one!

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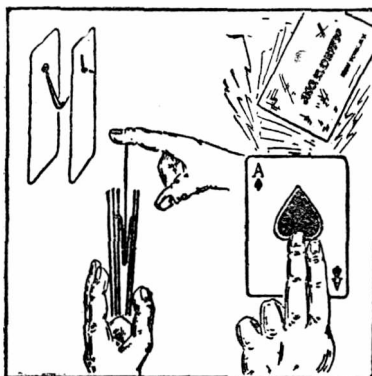
## After-Dinner Tricks



### Separated Cards—Joined

Secretly place the seven of hearts and the eight of diamonds at the bottom of a pack of cards. Openly remove the seven of diamonds and the eight of hearts, show them, and push them into the pack. Give the pack a few flips, and show the two cards on the bottom. Everyone will think they are the same cards you just pushed into the pack. This is a very puzzling little mystery, and not one person in a hundred will note that the two cards at the bottom are opposite in suits to those first shown.

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### The Leaping Calling Card

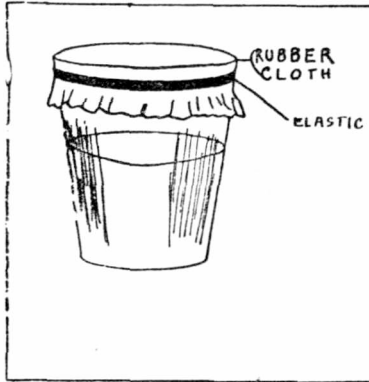
A calling card is borrowed and pushed into the center of a stack of a dozen others. At command the borrowed card leaps from the pack.

A rubber band is previously pushed through the centers of two calling cards, and a knot is tied in each end of the elastic. These two cards are in the center of the stack, and the borrowed card is pushed between them, stretching the elastic. The lower end of the stack is held firmly between the thumb and forefinger. As soon as they release pressure, the rubber band will propel the borrowed card out of the stack.

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## Tricks With Tumblers



### Tumbler From Pocket

To carry a tumbler filled with water in the pocket and remove it without spilling a drop seems an impossibility, but it is quite easily accomplished. Procure a piece of thin rubber and stretch it across the mouth of the tumbler. Secure the rubber with an elastic band. The tumbler may then be carried in the pocket as long as you desire. In removing it from the pocket first slide off the rubber and bring out the glass alone.

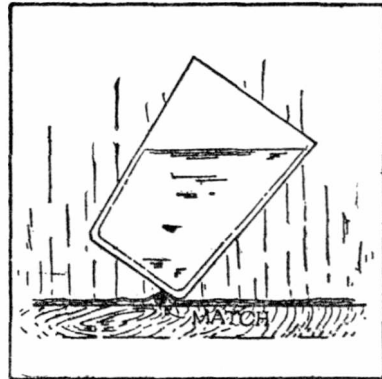
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### Magnetizing a Tumbler

A tumbler can be made to adhere to the palm as though magnetized by simply dampening the hand, then pressing the palm against the bottom of the glass and giving a sharp, heavy twist. A vacuum will be formed in the hollow at the bottom of the glass and will cause it to stick to the hand. Of course the trick cannot be done with a flat-bottomed tumbler.

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### Balanced Glass of Water

To balance a glass of water on edge requires a keen eye and a steady hand—unless one knows the trick. The secret is a bit of a match stick which is previously slipped beneath the table cloth, and which materially assists in accomplishing the balance, the glass being leaned against it. Even then, a little experiment is necessary, in order to make the balance look realistic.

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## After-Dinner Tricks



### The Tuneful Tumbler

The prongs of a fork are snapped with the fingers and then the fingers held over a glass of water. As the fingers are drawn away from the glass a low, humming sound issues from the water, as though drawn by the fingers.

The trick lies in the other hand, which holds the fork. As attention is directed toward the glass the base of the fork is pressed against a plate, or the wooden table. This causes the ringing sound to come from the fork; but it sounds as though it came from the glass.

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### Spiritualistic Glass of Water

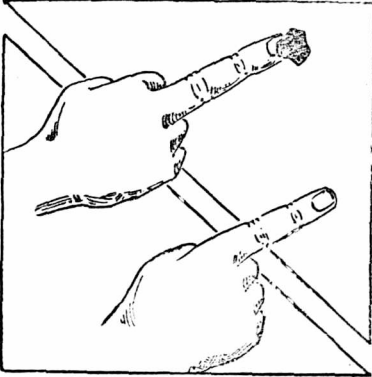
A good trick for a dark room is to paste several strips of paper over the mouth of a glass of water. The performer's hands are held, but when the lights are turned on the water is partly gone. This wonder may be attributed to spirits, even though the glass does not contain spirits.

All you need is a long straw in the inside pocket. This is reached with the mouth, which withdraws the straw, inserts it in the glass, drinks part of the water and replaces the straw. Of course a little practice is necessary, but the same is true with every trick that is worth while.

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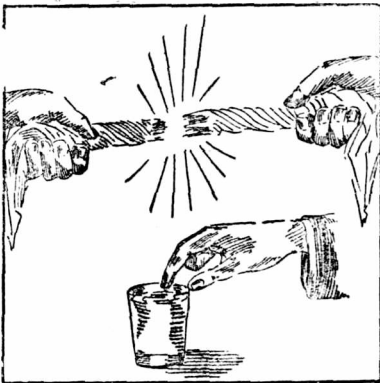
## Tricks with Paper and Pencil



### Disappearing Bit of Paper

A bit of paper is moistened and fixed to a finger nail. With a wave of the hand the paper disappears. Another wave brings it back. The paper was attached to the tip of the second finger. In waving the hand that finger was bent in and the first finger extended. Of course the paper was gone. During the second wave the fingers were again changed, which brought the paper back.

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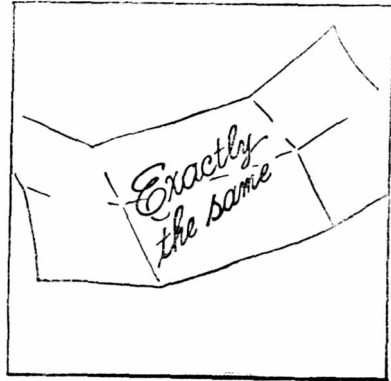


### A Feat of Strength

A paper napkin is twisted like a rope and given to some one to break. It will be found impossible, without enormous effort, but the performer breaks the twisted napkin with ease.

While some one is trying to tear the napkin, secretly dip your fingers in a glass of water. In taking the napkin, rub it a bit at the center, as though twisting it tighter. By thus dampening the paper, it is weakened, and is easily torn with but very slight effort.

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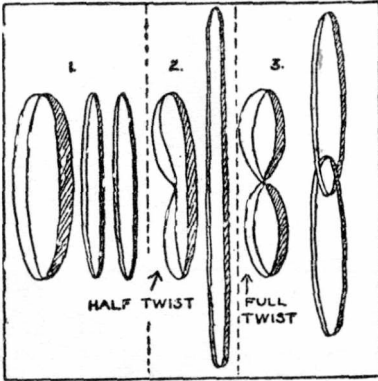
### A Divination

As a demonstration of mental telepathy ask some one to write secretly a few words on a slip of paper. Looking into the writer's eyes you write a few words on another slip, then ask him if he remembers what he wrote. When he says "yes," you confidently remark that you have written exactly the same. Of course, every one wants to compare the two slips, and when they are shown, much to their amusement they find written on your slip the three words, "exactly the same."

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## After-Dinner Tricks



### The Magic Paper Bands

Three long strips of newspaper are pinned or glued so that they form three bands, or paper hoops.

The first is cut along the center, and quite naturally falls apart into two hoops of equal size.

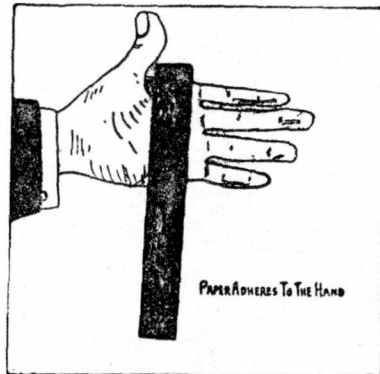
But when the second band is cut it comes out in one large band, twice the size of the others.

The third, when cut, falls apart in two, but these two are linked together.

In forming the bands the first was pinned to form a circle. The second was given a half twist before pinning while the third was given a complete twist. That accounts for the curious results.

If desired, a fourth band may be used, with a twist and a half. It comes out a single band, tied in a knot.

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### Magnetized Paper

A large piece of thin paper is placed on the palm of the hand. The hand is turned over and the paper adheres to the palm.

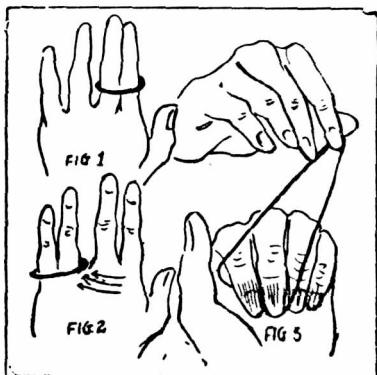
The trick is accomplished by laying the paper flat on the table and rubbing it with the palm a number of times. The friction generates electricity and causes the paper to adhere to the hand. If the paper starts to fall a downward motion of the hand will keep it in place.

Another way of doing the trick is to moisten the palm very slightly at the base of the forefinger. This will make the paper stick and will not be noticeable after the sheet is taken from the hand.

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*D. T. MacDougal*

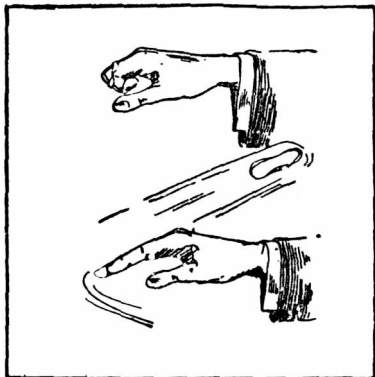
**Tricks with String and Elastic**



**Jumping Rubber Band**

To make a rubber band jump from the first two fingers to the last two may be done as follows: Stretch the band inward with the other hand and bend all four fingers into the band. Show the back of the hand with the band still on the first two fingers, and then extend all four fingers. The elastic will jump to the last two fingers.

The process may be reversed to bring the band back to its original position. Copyright, 1921, by Public Ledger Company



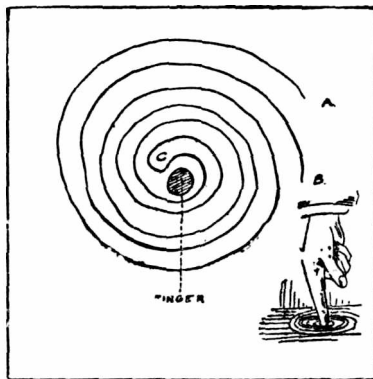
**Disappearing Elastic**

Bend in the fingers of the right hand and slip a rubber band over the knuckles. The fingers are extended and the elastic immediately disappears.

The extension of the fingers produces the effect. It causes the band to snap off the fingers so rapidly that the eye cannot detect the flight. The elastic will fly behind the performer and fall to the floor unnoticed.

Hold the other hand over the fingers during the above operation. This will conceal the flight of the elastic.

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**Finger and String**

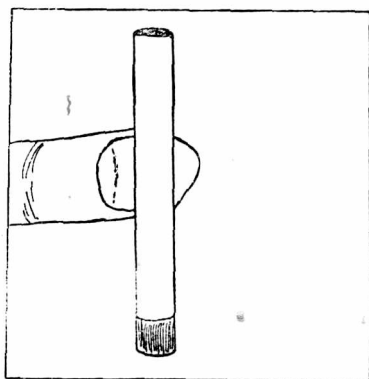
Some one places the tip of his finger on the table and a string is looped over it. Then the string is wound about, as shown in the diagram. Apparently the finger is a "captive"; but when the string is unwound it comes entirely free.

The secret is quite simple, but very clever. In unwinding the string, the outer end A, which is slightly shorter than B, is unwound one turn by itself. Then when the two ends are unwound together, the finger will come free, as the center of the loop has been transferred from the finger to point C.

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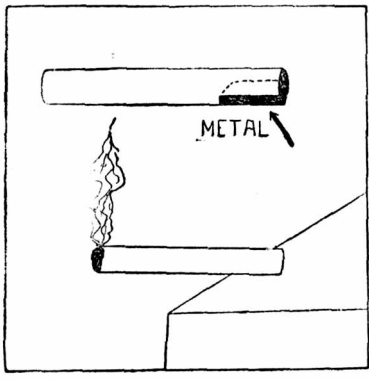


**After-Dinner Tricks**



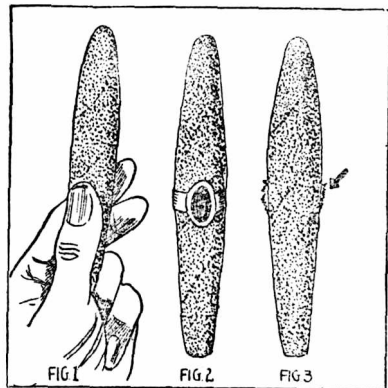
**Adhering Cigarette**

A cigarette or cigar mysteriously adheres to the tip of the forefinger.  
 A tiny bit of chewing gum or beeswax is all that is necessary. It is previously affixed to the nail of the forefinger and the cigarette is pressed against it, near the end. The cigarette is removed later and the end to which the gum sticks is placed in the mouth and the cigarette is lighted.  
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**Anti-Gravity Cigarette**

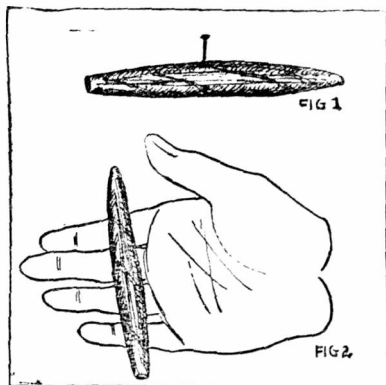
An astonishing feat is to lay the tip of a cigarette on the edge of the table with the remainder hanging over the edge and leave it balanced there.  
 The cigarette must previously be prepared. Remove some of the tobacco and insert a short piece of metal at the tip. Then replace enough tobacco to make the cigarette appear ordinary. Naturally, the weight of the cigarette is now all at one end, and it can easily be balanced as described above.  
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**The Magic Cigar Band**

A cigar is shown, and waved in the air. Suddenly the band disappears from the cigar. Another wave, and it reappears.  
 The band only goes half way around the cigar. It is glued to the perfecto to keep it from falling off. In waving the cigar, it is given a half turn, which brings the blank side to the front. A reversal of the movement brings the band back.  
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## Tricks with Cigars and Cigarettes

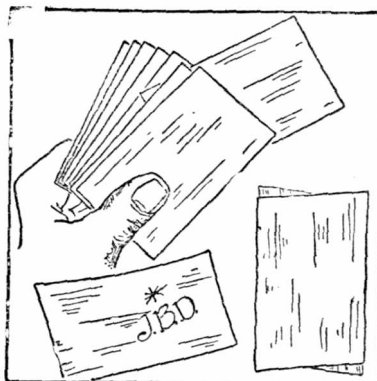


### The Magnetized Cigar or Cigarette

The performer borrows a cigar and places it against the fingers of his right hand, where it mysteriously adheres, held by some unseen force. It finally drops from the fingers and is returned to the owner, while the hand may be examined.

The secret is a short pin, which the performer unobservedly pushes in to the side of the cigar. The head of the pin is clipped between the two middle fingers which are held together. When the cigar is removed by the left hand, the pin is left behind, and is quietly dropped beneath the table, while the cigar is returned. The hand may then be inspected.

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### Find a Marked Cigarette Paper

A cigarette paper is taken from a packet of papers and is marked. It is then mixed in with the rest, and the performer, placing the papers beneath the table, immediately draws out the marked one.

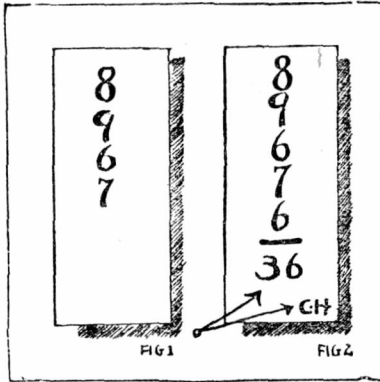
Most cigarette papers are cut on the bias, that is, instead of the corners being square, they are at an angle. While one paper is being marked, the packet is secretly turned around, so when the paper is replaced two of its corners will protrude slightly. When he places the packet beneath the table, the performer feels for the protruding corners and draws out the marked paper.

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## Tricks With Numbers

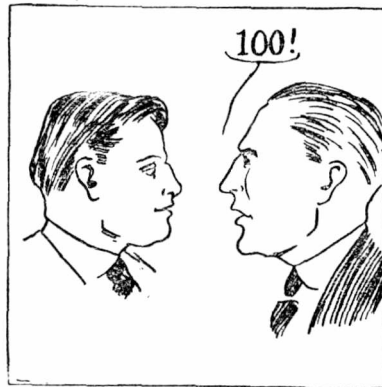


### To Find a Total of Secret Figures

A number is written on a slip of paper which is folded and given to some one to hold. Various persons then set down numbers between one and ten on another sheet of paper. Any one's initials are written on this sheet for identification. The figures are added up and found to equal the unknown number written on the folded slip.

Suppose the number the performer wrote on the slip was 36. He watches the figures that the spectators are writing and when their total reaches 27 or more (which is within 9 of 36), he takes the slip and asks for some one's initials. As he writes the initials on the paper he secretly adds the missing number at the bottom of the column, and thus brings the total to 36.

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### Rapid Addition to Make 100

The performer offers to race any one counting to 100, the conditions being that first one will name a number not over ten; then the other will add a similar number, etc., thus: 3, 11, 17, 27, 28, and so on. The one who manages to name 100 wins the race. The performer wins every time.

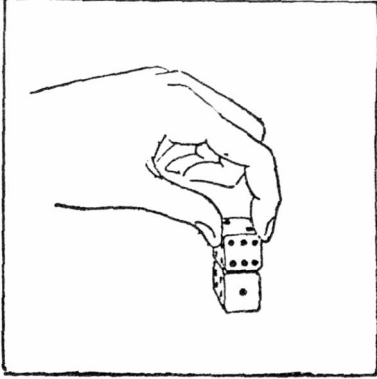
The secret lies in certain "key" numbers. They are 1, 12, 23, 34, 45, 56, 67, 78, 89. After several numbers have been given, the performer strikes for one of those numbers, and from then on he cannot be beaten. Thus the man who starts the race can always win—if he knows the secret—for he has merely to begin by naming 1.

A variation is for the performer to make his opponent win. The "key" numbers for this are 11, 22, 33, 44, 55, 66, 77, 88, 99.

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## Tricks with Dice and Dominoes

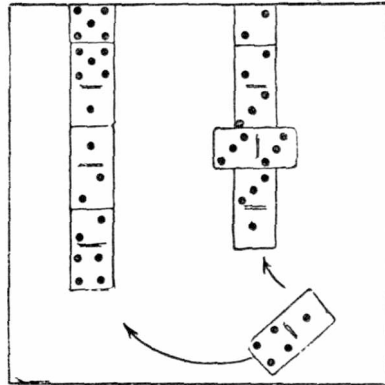


### The Magnetized Dice

A pair of dice are taken and the five side of one placed against the five side of the other. This causes the dice to become magnetized, so that they adhere to each other. It will not work when any other sides are used and the spectators are unable to do it at all.

The trick is accomplished by secretly moistening the five side of one dice. When the dice are placed together they will adhere. When they are drawn apart the thumb quickly wipes off the moisture. Of course, it will work with any sides of the dice, but by laying the "magnetic power" to "peculiar properties" of the five side, suspicion is drawn from the real secret.

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### To Foretell the End Numbers in a Game of Dominoes

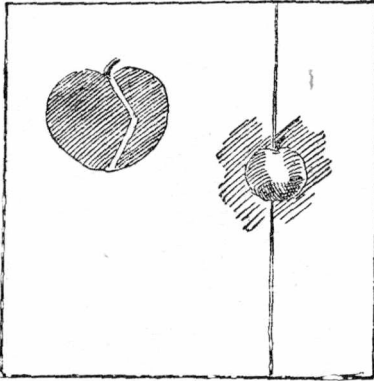
A set of dominoes is laid on the table, and the spectators are asked to line them up, just as though playing a game of dominoes. The performer writes two numbers on a slip of paper, and when the game is completed, those numbers prove to be the end numbers of the line of dominoes.

The trick is accomplished by secretly removing one domino (not a double number) from the set before the "game" is begun. The numbers on this domino will be the end numbers when the game is completed. So the performer has merely to write those numbers on the slip of paper and quietly replace the extra domino with the others after the line has been broken up.

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## After-Dinner Tricks



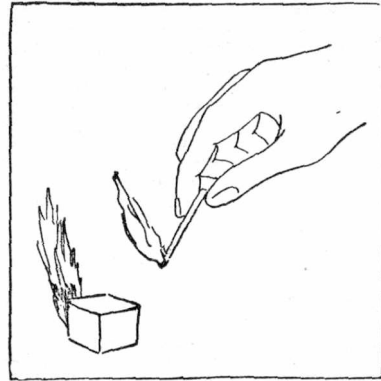
### Hypnotizing an Apple

An apple, strung on a cord, slides freely down the string held vertically. When commanded, the apple will stop suddenly at any point on the string.

The secret lies in the method of piercing the apple, which is previously prepared. The hole does not go straight through, but at an angle, as shown in the diagram. By rolling two small bits of cardboard into tubes and inserting them in the passages, the cord will be kept more securely in its course.

The string is held with a hand at each end. To stop the apple at any point, simply pull the ends of the cord taut, and the tightened string will do the trick. By relaxing pressure, the apple will resume its slide.

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### Illuminating Lump Sugar

Now that sugar has come down in price, the following trick will prove a most perplexing problem.

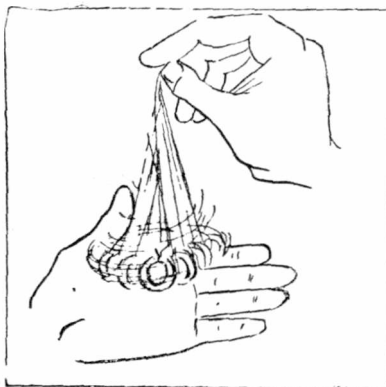
A match is set to a lump of sugar, which ignites and burns with a slow blue flame. When the spectators attempt to duplicate the feat, their efforts are unsuccessful—the sugar will not light.

To present this little mystery, one corner of the lump is secretly dipped into the ashes of a cigar or cigarette. It will then ignite when set to the lighted match; but those unacquainted with the secret will find the trick impossible.

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## Miscellaneous Tricks

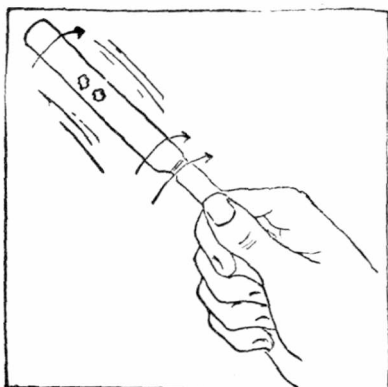


**Here's a Magical Sex Indicator**

The performer introduces a finger ring with a string attached to it. He holds the end of the string with the ring dangling beneath. Without any motion on the part of the performer the ring begins to swing in a circle. At the request of a spectator the ring stops and hangs motionless. If a lady places her hand beneath the ring it will swing back and forth; if a gentleman does so it will swing sideways. As soon as their hands are removed the ring will again swing in a circle.

There is really no deception to this interesting little experiment; it depends entirely upon nerve control, or unconscious muscular movement. When the performer relaxes his muscles the invisible vibration causes the ring to describe a circle; by tightening his muscles and setting his mind upon it, he can cause it to stop or swing like a pendulum in whichever direction he desires.

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### Mysterious Spots on a Knife

Two bits of paper are moistened and one stuck to each side of a table knife. With a wave of the knife, both papers disappear, only to reappear at another wave.

In attaching the papers to the knife the piece supposedly stuck to the bottom side of the knife is not placed there at all, but is retained by the forefinger, which wipes the paper off on the coat.

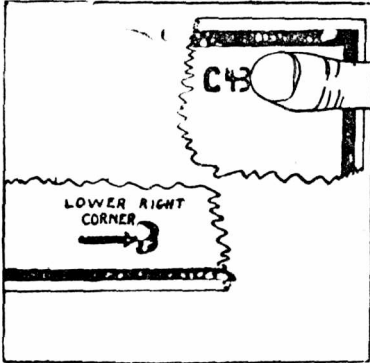
Both sides of the knife are apparently shown, but in turning it over, the fingers give the knife a half twist; so the same side is shown twice. When the knife is waved it is again given a half twist, bringing the blank side uppermost. Both sides are then shown to be blank by again employing the half twist.

Thus the paper pellets vanish and reappear ad lib.

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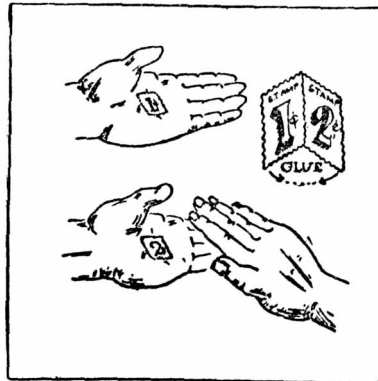
## After-Dinner Tricks



### To Tell if Number on Dollar Bill Is Odd or Even

Let some one take a dollar bill and lay it on the table. Put your thumb over the entire serial number and letter that appears on the bill. To tell if the hidden number is odd or even, note the single Old English letter which appears on the upper left-hand corner, about an inch from the eagle's wing, or the small block printing letter at the lower right-hand corner of the bill. If the letter is A or C the hidden number is odd; if B or D, the number is even.

[Illustrations of the bill cannot be made, as the law does not allow the reproduction of pictures of moneys.]  
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### The Changing Postage Stamp

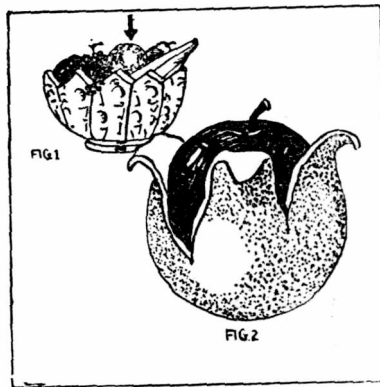
A one-cent postage stamp is laid on the open palm of the left hand. By merely passing the right fingers over it the stamp is transformed into a two-cent.

The trick is accomplished by gumming a one-cent and a two-cent stamp back to back. The stamp is exhibited as an ordinary one-cent stamp. With very little practice the stamp can be secretly turned over by the right fingers, so that it apparently is raised in denomination.

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## Miscellaneous Tricks



### Changing an Orange to an Apple

Cut an orange into quarters and carefully peel the skin off each part. Plaster the orange peels on to an apple of about the same size, and the finished product will closely resemble a genuine orange. Place the imitation orange in a dish of fruit.

Every one will be surprised when you take an orange, peel off the skin and find an apple inside.

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