

14: 17

# CONJURING PATTER

BY

**"SELBIT."**

Author of "The Magician's Handbook," "The Magical Entertainer," "The Magic Art of Entertaining," etc., etc.



## VOLUME ONE.

Including Patter and Hints for Tricks  
with

Coins,	Oranges,
Eggs,	Ribbons,
Birds,	Bottles,
Handkerchiefs,	Glasses,
Bird Cages,	Water,
Tubes, etc., etc.	

Now published for  
the first time.

The reader will find in this volume, witty and appropriate patter, suitable for every trick introducing any of the above objects.



**Price 6d. Net.**



# CONJURING PATTERN

BY

"SELBIT"

*Author of The Magician's Handbook, The Magician's Entertainer,  
The Magic Art of Entertaining, etc., etc.*

*Sibbles, T. T.*

---

## VOLUME ONE.

Including pattern and hints for tricks with

COINS.	EGGS.	BIRDS.
HANDKERCHIEFS.	BIRD CAGES.	ORANGES.
RIBBONS.	BOTTLES.	GLASSES.
WATER.	TUBES.	Etc., Etc.

NOW PUBLISHED FOR THE FIRST TIME.

---

The reader will find in this volume witty and appropriate pattern suitable for almost any and every trick.

HAMLEY BROTHERS, LIMITED,  
LONDON.

The Norman Davy Printing Co., Ltd.,  
London and Leath.

Bequest of  
Harry Houdini  
April 1927



## OPENING REMARKS.

---

"Ladies and gentlemen, when you saw the curtain go up and these oddments on the stage, I dare say you imagined that this was to be one of those awful conjuring performances, and when you saw me glide on perhaps you accused me, in your own minds, of being either the conjurer or another piece of apparatus!"

"In order that we may quite understand each other, let me assure you that I do call this a magical entertainment—of course you can call it what you like later on—and that I am the conjurer, no matter what you may say to the contrary."

"I am here to demonstrate that the things you see in ordinary life have, in reality, no existence, while those things that you do not see may be made as visible as if you really could see them. This applies more particularly to any jokes I may venture to make, and it is all done by purely physical means—the same kind that a lady might employ on Saturday evening to combat the arguments of her husband when he endeavours to convince her that the wages she cannot see are really there."

"I notice that this remark appears to have hit one or two of the married gentlemen rather heavily, which shows you that you can even be struck with something that is quite invisible."

"As I see a few of the ladies blushing, perhaps we had better leave these homely affairs, and take a short excursion to the land of magic, where everything that is impossible is really quite easy."

## Patter for Aerial Treasury Act.

---

"Ladies and Gentlemen, like workhouse stones, nature's laws are hard to break. Nevertheless, nature provides for all beings on the face of the earth; sometimes it provides money and sometimes measles, but, being beings, it is no use being nasty about it. We all desire plenty and nature provides plenty; plenty of indigestion for the rich, and plenty of nothing for the poor. I propose to demonstrate that we have only to look for what we want and we find it. Making money the subject of our experi-mint, let me show you how to fill a bucket with real coins without coming within the 'pail' of the law."

"Everyone is at liberty to make money naturally, but if you do it artificially you are not at liberty for long. And it must be awfully monotonous for a man who has 'made' a fortune to be only spending 'time.' The whole thing is a 'cell' from beginning to end, unless it is recognised that time is money."

"To make money quickly the conditions must be favourable. Therefore, if there are any policemen in the audience might I ask them to beat a retreat, because I do not want my performance to be used as evidence against me."

"Not having brought a bucket with me, may I borrow some gentleman's hat? I prefer one without a head in it. Now watch, and let me draw on the bank of imagination."

*(Punctuate following remarks by producing coins where sentences are numbered).*

"Here they come (1) swarming through the air like elephants on a frosty morning. (2) This is only a slow way of making money. (3) In fact, it is only a poor rate. (4) It is much quicker to use a pick and shovel and dig it out. (5) The only objection I have to that method is that it is *infra dig*. (6) Now

they are coming more quickly, the bank rate is rising. (7) Last week the income tax collector wanted me to wear a taximeter. (8) Fancy doing this in your sleep! (9) Wouldn't it be awful to wake up! (10) It is an ill win that only blows half-crowns. (11) Fancy taking money for doing this! (12)''

*(If a coin holder is used for the production of the first twelve coins, dispose of it now and palm six more. This can be done by subtracting that number from the hat in showing the money already produced. Then proceed to discover more coins.)*

''This is all real money. The Government hall-mark on every link, especially on the missing links. You should never catch money on a damp morning, you might get hold of a cold instead. Here are some more coins forcing themselves on me. (13) The worst of doing this is that the habit grows on one. (14) I am shaved every morning and yield about £7 10s. (15) This is quite a ready-money business. (16) You may think it is an easy way of earning a living. (17) You ought to know what a bother it is to count the profits. (18)''

*(Tip out coins on to table and pass one or more coins from one hand to the other or from plate to plate. Patter does for either.)*

''Having thoroughly explained the origin of money, and how to obtain it, I shall now illustrate some of the uses to which it may be put. I will give my left hand a half-crown for its trouble. Kindly look on that hand as the Bank of England. The doors are closed upon it. Now you all know that it is impossible to get money out of the bank after the doors are shut. If anyone does know how it can be done I am quite willing to exchange a few secrets. My right hand is empty; we will call that the bank of bankruptcy. The problem is to transfer the coin from bank to bank without the secret gaining currency. Look! the thing is done. The explanation of that trick is very simple. You must remember that good English money will pass anywhere.''



*(For finale sweep all coins from table into a basin. Change same on servante for one containing a lead or painted shape like a big coin.)*

" Money was made to circulate, and I now intend to make you my circulation. In the first place will you kindly pass round the hat to that gentleman who belongs to it. All these coins are quite good, but this romantic receptacle is a ' basin.' I will sweep the money into it and scramble it amongst you. Who likes scrambled half-crowns? Why, what is this! I have heard of money running into millions, but this has run into a counter. See, it is a counter-feit! "

---

## Chosen Orange and Mystic Ribbon Trick.

---

*This capital impromptu effect may be introduced in any magical entertainment with advantage. The apparatus may be had from any conjuring store for a few pence.*

" After considerable research in (local fruit market) I have discovered a most remarkable growth. Here, ladies and gentlemen, you see the fruits of my search, a plate of oranges."

" These oranges are not of the common or hot-house kind; they were grown on what is known in the trade as virgin soil, that is soil upon which the hand of man has never set foot. The plate, which has nothing in common with the virgin soil, came from quite a different mould."

" These oranges are much too thick-skinned to get the pip at anything you might say as to their ' orangin,' but at the same time their family tree has nothing to bark about."

"In order that you may have free choice for nothing may I ask one of the ladies present to point to one of these oranges. You must please understand that once the lady has picked there can be no 'appel.'"

"That one, Madam? What a choice choice. Would you like to change your mind? I mean about the orange. No? Very well."

"I dare say you may have noticed that there is a good deal of reciprocity about the average orange; I mean plenty of give and take. You give it a squeeze and take a little stream in your eye, 'juicy' what I mean? I will give it a press and you shall see the result. Ah! instead of juice we have reciprocity ribbon. Notice the ripeness of the colours. The very latest in orange shades—almost bright enough to be a sun-shade."

---

### The Egg and Handkerchief Trick.

---

*The effect of this pretty problem is that an egg is placed in a tumbler and covered with a handkerchief. Another handkerchief is rolled between the hands, when it turns to the egg and, on raising the other handkerchief from the glass it is found that the egg supposed to have been there has given place to the missing silk. This trick is popular with most amateur conjurers under many different titles, and instructions for working it are to be found in almost all the standard hand-books.*

"Before proceeding with this trick I should like to point out that I have gone to some little expense—not much, it is true—to obtain this egg. I may tell you I never object to pay a penny for any egg that has a good character."

"In addition to the egg I use this glass. That foot is put on the tumbler to prevent it being charged with having no visible means of support. When that tumbler was built it had two feet, but the other one was put on another body. The first trick is to change the tumbler into an egg cup. I do that by dropping the egg inside it. You notice it fits as nicely as a ready-made suit."

"I will cover the egg with this handkerchief so that you may see it does not leave the glass, and perhaps I may be fortunate enough to get some gentleman to hold this for me. Thank you, Sir. Doesn't he look happy! Have you ever held a tumbler that way before, Sir? I want you just to shake the glass and see if you can hear the egg inside. Can you? What does it say? You might keep hold of the glass foot, Sir, and try and imagine it is Cinderella's slipper. Please do not pinch the ankle."

"May I now draw your attention to this handkerchief. The problem is to change this for that gentleman's egg. Would you like a change, Sir? Very well, hold tight to the glass. The tighter you are the easier it is."

"By waving the handkerchief, I cause it to become smaller and smaller until it fades away like a banking account. But it leaves a balance behind in the form of the egg. Is this your egg, Sir? Don't know? Well, it is a wise man that knows his own egg, but to convince you will you let me raise the cover from the glass. There, you see, the gentleman has emptied it of the egg, and here we find the missing handkerchief."

## Bagged Canaries and Cage Trick.

*This most effective illusion-on-a-small-scale is more suited to the stage than for drawing-room presentation. It is essentially an apparatus trick and may be purchased quite reasonably at the usual dealers. The patter that follows, however, may be readily adapted to almost any trick wherein canary birds are exploited.*

"Ladies and gentlemen, this little bag is as innocent of deception and as plain as I am myself. I had occasion to purchase a Gladstone bag and the shopkeeper wrapped it up in this paper one. You can see for yourselves it is as empty as a money-bag after your wife has presented herself with a 2s. 11d. hat and ten pounds' worth of trimming to hide it beneath."

"These two small canaries are also conspirators in the trick. Canaries, as you probably know, are birds of song. These (pointing to the bars of the cage) are a few of their bars. There is an old saying that two birds in a bag are worth one in a cage, and I shall, to be brief, bag these two."

"If you have never seen any Bird's Extract you may be interested in seeing some extracted birds. Please do not get distracted, we use no cruelty or other impurities in our extract."

"Each of these canaries is old enough to be the other's sister, and unless I take the elder first it gets so ruffled that it will fly at anything."

"I used to coax the birds through these wires until I found it was less trouble to assist them through the door."

"To prevent the birds flying into the wings at this stage of the trick I shall screw the neck of the bag; it is cheaper than screwing the necks of the birds."

"I know it is usual to shoot your birds before you bag them, but I am such an excellent shot that I find it quite easy to bag them first, and then shoot them. By stage-managing

your sport in this way you can kill two birds with one volley."

"I hope the sight of this pistol does not annoy you. No revolver is much use unless it has some sort of sight, but this one is near-sighted, and its report is equally weak."

"I now propose to send these birds back to their cage by wireless telegraphy. That is 'wire' cage is necessary. It looks impossible, but you must remember that birds of passage can always find their own avenue."

---

## Handkerchief Manipulation Act.

---

*There being no set series of manipulations with silks, we are somewhat at a loss in doing patter for such an act. The following gags, however, can be used in conjunction with almost any handkerchief sleights, and we have no doubt but that the reader will find a ready use for them. At the same time we have indicated the particular effects that the patter was intended for.*

*Start with a ball containing six silks. Show the hands empty and produce the handkerchiefs quickly one after the other.*

"Ladies and gentlemen, you will notice that my hands are apparently empty; yet this one (the right) holds an invisible opinion as to what is right, and on the other hand this one is sometimes left without a leg to stand upon."

"Every employer will tell you that hands should be got to work together. I reverse the old order of things, and by working the hands apart (1) I bring together quite a charming assortment of handkerchiefs (2)."

"A conjurer who uses handkerchiefs is hemmed in with difficulties and silk thread. (3) Even a wizard must 'sew' his handkerchiefs before he can reap them. (4) Everyone 'nose' that a handkerchief has its duty to face. (5) Sometimes the force of a blow will send a handkerchief across its own border. (6)"

*(Take a red, a white, and a blue handkerchief and change them into a flag).*

"I will take these three handkerchiefs—red, white and blue—the colours that never run if you give them time to dye in the ordinary way—and pass them through my fingers. Doctors say there is nothing like a little change in the pocket. This is a change in the hand. Of course all this is hanky-pankychief!"

*(Under cover of the first few handkerchiefs develop a bundle of silks and shower them over the stage.)*

"Some people develop a regular bump for handkerchief manipulation. In fact, sometimes the bump literally grows on them, generally in the middle of the face. This bump is known to phrenologists as the official organ of the handkerchief trade. Instead of a bump, I am now going to develop a bundle. They say, make hay while the sun shines, but I am gathering handkerchiefs in a shower! Have you noticed that after a shower you can generally see all the colours of the rainbow? Look at these water-colours, for instance! Notice the red one, it looks as though it had an attack of the blues!"

*(Have seven silks ready to hand and ask for any number between one and ten to be named. If seven is selected produce them straight away; if any other number, show the seven, and by false counting make them correspond with the number suggested.)*

"I want some lady or gentleman to call out any number between one and ten. I should like it done in a commanding tone, just as if it was the militia you were calling out. How many? Eight? Quite right, Sir; just the number I was thinking of. I shall now show you another trick with the same number. Here are eight handkerchiefs; exactly the number suggested by this thought-reader."

*(Conclude by producing a whole lot of silks from the supposed eight. Strew them on the stage to musical accompaniment and exit.)*

"Let me conclude by showing you how to multiply by magic. I merely stretch out my hand and catch nothing. By adding the nothing to eight we get eighty!"

## How to Construct Patter.

---

The easiest method of arranging patter for any particular performance is to start by writing out a series of terse comments explaining the actions of the experiment, and covering the necessary movements. Whenever it is possible to provide an excuse for any action that is at all out of the natural, do so. Remember, any excuse is better than none, and an obviously ridiculous excuse will often cover up a daring manoeuvre by its utter nonsense.

The first synopsis of comments will provide its own heads under which to complete the final patter, and the conjurer should compile a list of all jokes bearing on each object employed, and then make a careful selection of the most appropriate for introduction in his final text.

Let us take the well-known *Passe-passe* bottle and glass trick to illustrate our meaning.

The synopsis would take after the following form:—

“ Here we have a bottle containing water, and here a glass. I fill the glass and place this tube over it. This second tube we place over the bottle, and now the two have changed positions.”

The objects employed are a bottle, a glass, two tubes and some water. Now let us make a few gags that could be introduced under those heads.

### **Bits about Bottles.**

Some bottles are smaller than larger ones.

Some bottles have labels removed, others have pennies left on.

Some have good and others have bad “ pints.”

Some bottles become so excited they cannot contain themselves.

In doing tricks with a bottle you can always put some spirit into the thing.

Summer Bluebottles, summer (some are) not.

**Gags on Glasses.**

The size of glasses is a matter of taste—or rather, thirst. This one is made of glass that is transparent on both sides. Glasses are not made for near-sighted people only. What is home without a tumbler! Some people may already know the uses of a glass. A lady likes a pier glass, a man can put up with a pint.

**Tube Trifles.**

This is an empty aperture with nothing in it except its shape.

These tubes are not related, but they have a working agreement.

The only difference between the two is that this one is empty, and that one contains nothing at all.

Both the tubes were made in this form because if they had been any other shape they would not have done for the trick.

The worst part of a hole of this description is that you don't know where it begins or finishes.

Fancy a tube putting on side.

**Water Witticisms.**

Just like *ordinary water*, but wetter.

This water is warranted perfectly un milked.

If it were not so thick the transparency of it would be less opaque.

Water is commonly used for diluting whisky.

Washed water is so frightfully diluted.

Some people have actually fallen right in water without being injured.

Instead of the half-dozen remarks we have placed under each of the foregoing headings, it is easy to go on indefinitely, although the amateur patterist will, of course, understand we advise a lengthy list merely as stock from which a limited selection should be made. If the reader will take the trouble to string together the few suggestions we have given he will discover the ease of the process of patter writing, and then, maybe, the present scribe will have lost his market.



# HAMLEY BROTHERS, Limited

in which are merged

HAMLEY'S GRAND MAGICAL SALOONS,  
BLAND'S MAGICAL PALACE,  
HIAM'S OF NILE STREET, E.C.,

35, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C.

Also (City Branch) 29, LUDGATE HILL, E.C.

Established 1760.

---

THE LARGEST,

THE CHEAPEST,

THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED AND

THE BEST

## MAGICAL STORE

IN THE WORLD.

---

**CONJURING TRICKS** in enormous variety.

**VENTRILOQUIAL DOLLS & HEADS**, of all kinds and sizes.

**PUNCH & JUDY** Shows and Figures of every description.

**JUGGLING GOODS**, for the Professional and Amateur. ¶

**SHADOWGRAPHY** Outfits and Appurtenances to suit all requirements.

**PUZZLES** in endless variety and at all prices.

**PRACTICAL JOKES** and Funny ¶ **NOVELTIES** from everywhere; for everyone.

All the before-mentioned goods we actually keep in stock in immense assortment. We supply them

## WHOLESALE

as well as to the

### Professional and the Amateur.

Consequently we must run a large stock of each article. We make a point of **always** having the article you want **ready when you want it.** Our standing and regular stock is far greater than that of any other Magical Dealer and the quality is invariably better.

~~~~~  
*Let us convince you of this by a trial order.*  
~~~~~

We have Agents all over the world to keep us posted in

### "THE VERY LATEST"

which is always to be obtained **first** at our Magical Saloons.

Lessons given in Sleight-of-Hand, Ventriloquism, &c.

Special Programmes arranged to suit Client's ability or requirements.

Ideas for Illusions, &c., carefully worked out.

Any tricks or special apparatus made to order. Quotations given.

=====  
LISTS FREE ON RECEIPT OF ADDRESS.