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ORIGINAL LESSONS IN MAGIC.

By ELLIS STANYON,

Visible Passage of Real Ink Through Hat and Handkerchief into Glass Tumbler.—A glass jug is shown three parts full of genuine ink. A glass tumbler is then shown to be perfectly clean. A handkerchief is now thrown over the glass and the whole covered with a hat, on the top of which

is then stood the jug containing the ink.

The performer now, standing in any part of the room or stage, commands the ink to leave the jug and to pass through the hat and handkerchief into the glass beneath. All eyes are fixed upon the jug, which is not covered in any way, yet the ink is seen to gradually subside; then, when the performer thinks enough has passed through to fill the glass, he calls "stop." He then removes the jug, hat and handkerchief, and the glass is seen to be full of real ink, which is passed for examination.

The effect of the ink gradually leaving the jug is that of real undiluted Magic, and must be seen to be believed.

Explanation.—There is no peculiarity about the jug, save that there is fitted inside it a lining of stout celluloid, closed at the bottom and open at the top. Round the top of the lining is a "collar" which pinches tight into the mouth of the jug and about one-eighth of an inch below it. Between the lining and the side of the jug there is a space of about a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch all round; there is also a similar space at the bottom, a small disc of celluloid in centre of bottom of the lining resting on the bottom of the jug. When the lining is inserted in the jug, containing a measured quantity of ink, the ink is of course forced upwards between the lining and the jug, making the latter appear to be so nearly full. Hence the necessity for the lining to fit tight into the jug that it may not be forced out of same by the pressure of the ink.

In the bottom of the lining near the side, there is a small hole, fitted with a celluloid plug, to which is attached a black silk thread which, passing upward and out of the jug, is allowed to hang down on the outside near the handle, that it may be pulled by the thumb—a small black bead on the end facilitating the operation. To cause the subsidence of the ink in the jug then, it is only necessary to pull the thread, removing the plug. The moment this is done the ink commences to pass upwards, via the hole, into the lining, continuing to do so until it finds its own level therein. Thus, in conclusion, although the same quantity of ink remains in the jug, it appears to be considerably less. Smearing the plug with vaseline will prevent the possibility of its being prematurely forced out by the pressure of the ink.

The ink that appears in the glass is contained in a celluloid lining, which, at the outset, is suspended by means of a thin wire handle, on a headless French nail behind the table. Having shown the glass the performer places it near the rear edge of the table just in front of the concealed ink. Then, taking two corners of the handkerchief, one in each hand between the first and second fingers, he draws it over the glass, thus bringing that side of it nearest himself over the rear edge of the table, which enables him to hook up the ink, by passing the right thumb under the handle. He then, under the pretence of once more showing the glass, raises and replaces the handkerchief over the same, at the same time secretly lowering the ink into it, all under cover of the handkerchief. The trick then proceeds as described.

Visible Filtration of Real Ink (Second Method).—Calling attention to two glass tumblers, the performer inverts one over the other and covers both with a pasteboard tube open at both ends. On the top of the tube he then places a disc of glass, upon which, in turn, he places a glass jug three parts full of ink. At the command of the performer, who may be standing in any part of the room or stage, the ink commences to subside in the jug, the subsidence continuing until he calls "stop" as in the previous method, the inference being that ink has passed into the lowermost of the two tumblers beneath.

Explanation.—The working, in respect of the jug, is the same as explained in the First Method, though the construction is somewhat different. The sides of the jug are quite straight and the lining is of glass, fixed, i.e., made in

connection with the jug. In the bottom of the lining there is a hole about $\frac{1}{8}$ in in diameter, and another in the upper part of the jug on the left hand side of the handle.

To prepare for the trick, first fill the lining with ink, some of which, passing through the hole in the bottom, will find its own level between the lining and the jug; then stop the hole in the jug with wax and pour out the ink from the lining. The pressure of the air will now prevent the ink passing into the lining until such time as the wax be removed from the hole in the jug, which is done by the thumb of the right hand as the jug is placed on top of the pasteboard tube. The moment the wax is removed, the performer steps away and commands the ink to pass from the jug into the glass beneath.

The upper glass tumbler, which, for obvious reasons, must be somewhat smaller than the lower one, is completely filled with water acidulated with tartaric acid: the edge of this glass is ground perfectly flat that the water may be enclosed with a shouldered disc of glass held in position by air pressure. There is a small hole in the bottom of this glass, closed with wax, and another (open) in the centre of the glass disc, the inner side of which is made concave that the whole of the water may pass through the hole. The removal of the wax from the hole in the bottom of the glass, which is done in the act of placing the pasteboard tube over both, causes the water to flow from same into the one beneath, where, to all intents and purposes, it becomes ink by virtue of an ink tablet previously, and secretly dropped into it.

Brass Cannon Trick .- A small Cannon, beautifully made and finished in solid brass, is first handed for the most minute examination. The person making the examination is then requested to remove six little balls contained in the barrel, and to secretly replace any number of them-I to 6-and, having done so, to replace the screw in the nozzle. The performer then, without turning his back, immediately names the number of balls so replaced. In the event of no balls being replaced, he will state the fact.

Explanation.—The centre portion of the barrel is made to slide towards the nozzle. When all six balls are in and the nozzle screwed on tightly, this moveable portion is absolutely locked, indicating the fact. If five balls only be replaced, it comes out just far enough for that number to be read on the barrel-and so on for 4 to 0; it is secretly moved under cover of the hands, the performer appearing to gaze through the metal at the same time. The punch mark on the base of the cannon indicates the right way up.

C.L.S. Rising Cards.—Several persons, say three, are each given free choice of a card. Each person then returns his card to pack, placing same in any position. A couple of elastic bands are then placed round the pack in a manner to secure every card. The performer then holds the pack aloft in one hand, when the chosen cards rise from same one after the other in order and in the approved manner-if necessary from the very centre of the pack.

Explanation.-The rear half (top) of the pack, as the latter is held aloft, is punctured at the "lower" end with a hole measuring $1\frac{3}{8}$ by $i\frac{7}{8}n$., situated in the centre of the width and $\frac{3}{8}$ in. away from the "lower" end. The actual rear (top) card is whole for the purpose of covering the deception.

The chosen cards are removed from the lower half of the pack, spread fanwise for the purpose. They are then re-

turned to the upper half, fanned or ruffled for the purpose; thus they are placed amongst the prepared ones.

The two I.R. bands are slipped over the "upper" end of the pack. Before holding the pack aloft the performer secretly slips his forefinger under the lower end of the rear card, and so into the hole; thus the finger comes into contact with one of the chosen cards, and which is then caused to rise in the approved manner, followed by the others.

New Four Ace Trick on Corners of Handkerchief .- The four aces are dealt, one on each corner of a handkerchief spread flat on the table, in the order indicated below. Two of the aces are covered, each with a half sheet of notepaper, the one disappearing and being found under the opposite paper-and so on until all four are discovered under the one paper.

Explanation.—Three of the aces are without preparation, but the Ace of Diamonds (No. 3) is backed with a duplicate Ace of Clubs. The papers are held (long side) one in each hand, thumbs on top. They are first lowered (not released) over Nos. 1 & 2, then over 2 & 4. No. 4 still covered, the left hand paper is lowered over No. 1.

Spade	Club
No. 1	No. 2
Diamond	Heart
No. 3	No. 4

Nos. 2 & 3 are covered next (No. 2 with the right hand). the performer explaining, as an excuse for these movements, that the papers cover the cards in a satisfactory manner, that if two be covered, two will be visibly, &c. Now FOR THE CRUCIAL MOVE. Papers are again moved to cover Nos. 2 & 4; in doing this, the right hand secretly removes the card under the paper, the left hand paper being dropped (released) over the vacant space and in a manner to cover the movement. The right hand paper, with card beneath it, is then dropped on to No. 1, covering, of course, two of the cards (supposed one only).

Here the performer remarks, "The two black aces are now covered, but to equalise matters, I will place the Diamond under this paper (at No. 2) and remove the Club." He apparently does so. In reality, however, he merely reverses the card under the paper, bringing it out Club uppermost and replaces it at No. 3. This movement really satisfies the onlookers that all is fair and above board so far, while there are really two cards under the paper at

No. I.

. The performer now takes the visible ace of Clubs (trick card) in his right hand and, lifting the same corner of the handkerchief with left hand, thumb on top and fingers underneath, he puts the card under the handkerchief and seems to push it upwards through the same under the paper at No. I; anyway, the right hand is withdrawn empty. The fact is, the card (reversed again) is transferred to the fingers of left hand, still under the handkerchief. Righthand now raises the paper at No. I (exposing the two black cards-correct suits) and transfers it to left hand (which drops handkerchief) and thus over the now Ace of Diamonds. (The transfer of the paper from hand to hand is a natural movement, enabling the performer to spread the cards for inspection at No. 1.) He then drops the paper, with card concealed under it, over the other two cards and another stage of the trick is completed,

He next openly pushes the visible Ace of Hearts under

the paper at No. 2, then gives the paper a sharp blow with the back of the right hand, saying: "The Ace of Hearts will now force the Ace of Diamonds to leave this paper and join its companions under the other one." He then raises the paper, showing the Ace of Hearts only, which he picks up (in left hand) and turns about for inspection, taking the opportunity to bend its side upwards (looking at the face of the card). Replacing the card, he again covers it with the paper, at the same time gripping its raised side between the tips of the first and second fingers. Left hand paper is then raised (exposing the three aces) and forthwith passed into right hand, which drops its own paper, retaining the other one with card still beneath it. The paper and card are then thrown over the three aces, and the trick is done. To account for the transfer of the last ace, the performer hits the paper a sharp blow, then raises both papers, showing the four cards at No. 1.

N.B.—The four ordinary aces may be employed, but in this case they must be placed face downwards and so manipulated throughout the trick.

"MAGIC" Features in Volume XIII.

October, 1913.—Phantom Lemons—twenty passed from one hat to another from which they vanish—no apparatus; handkerchief appears in, vanishes from and returns to glass tumbler; red, white and blue handkerchiefs, in pile of glass tumblers, change places repeatedly; Dictionary of Magic, 23 startling methods of revealing

November, 1912.—The "Spelling B" Card Trick, the first and only explanation ever offered, enabling a performer to work the trick in an interesting and highly effective manner; magicians' whist, a highly dramatic card trick; Dictionary of Magic, 28 effective

card tricks of the non-sleight of hand order; &c.

December, 1912.—Alternate heads and tails coin trick; magicians' whist, continued; the four ace trick, 11th, 12th and 13th methods; Dictionary of Magic, 23 card tricks without sleight of hand, calculation card tricks, thread magic, &c.

January, 1913.—The Chinese rings, first explanation of the up-to-date professional method; Dictionary of Magic, 25 card

tricks by calculation, &c.

February, 1913.—The Chinese rings, continued, including 23 special effects with 15 illustrations; Dictionary of Magic, 6 highly

interesting card tricks by calculation, &c.

March, 1913.—Chinese rice bowls, original method, illustrated;

Dictionary of Magic, II special tricks with cards by calculation,

April, 1913.—Chinese Rice Bowls continued, improved method
with II additional effects for combination work; Dictionary of Magic; 20 special effects with cards by calculation, including the first and only mathematical explanation of the "Thirty-One" trick The man who thinks he can win by making 24, as ever written. explained by all other writers, is the man the sharper delights to meet.

May, 1913.—Rice Bowls, three latest methods; Dictionary of
Magic, card tricks—arrangement, 8 methods, the best false shuffle

and change and 20 tricks.

June, 1913.—Handcuffs, secrets of an "Escape King," 13 subtle methods now explained for the first time; Dictionary of Magic,

13 special tricks with an arranged pack of cards, majority original.

July, 1913.—Match broken and pieces multiply; Elongated
Match; Vanishing Matches; Suspended Matches; Dictionary of
Magic, 24 tricks with an arranged pack of cards.

August, 1913.—Vanished silk found tied round candle; Vanishing knot; Three silks mysteriously tied together; Handkerchief with seven corners; New stretched handkerchief; 15 card tricks.

September, 1913.—Chris Van Bern Colour change with " patter " Ink to Water and back to Ink; Ink and Water Change places with Amusing addition; Card Reading-15 tricks; Special Printed Cards

In tricks; List of Cheap Tricks, Books, Advts., etc.

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Editor, ELLIS STANYON.

Mr. Arthur P. Felsman, successor to A. Roterberg, Chicago, sends me a copy of his new No. 16 Catalogue of Magical Apparatus. This is a fine book, consisting of 160 pages 8½ in. by 6ins., and specifying some Seven Hundred items, each illustrated with an original drawing. This is more than a catalogue—it is a valuable

work of reference and should be in every collection of books.

I have also received from Mr. H. G. Thayer, of Los Angeles, his No. 4 Caralogue, just off the Press. This consists of 118 pages, 94 by 64ins., printed on fine quality paper and specifying some 400 items, the most diversified array of r al Magic ever contained between two covers—profusely illustrated throughout. Cover bears an illuminated magical design in several colours; the Appendix explains ten good tricks and combinations.

The B. L. Gilbert Magic Co., Chicago, send me their Best Pocket Catalogue of Magic Secrets, Easy to perform, but hard to detect. Twenty-four pages containing a novel assortment of tricks, many that have never appeared in print, and others that have been

simplified and improved to make them more effective.

"More Miscellaneous Magic" by Pe cy Naldrett, is now on sale. This consists of Fifty pages and is uniform with previous volumes by the same author. As usual the explanations are most original and interesting, as also is the Patter provided for some of them:

Other new books just received are "Original Mysteries" by Brunel White; "Some Card Effects and Magical Talks" by Geo. De Lawrence; and "Shaw's Book of Acts"-for Carnival, Side Show, Museum and Circus.

Any of the above may be obtained from "Office of Magic."

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BY ELLIS STANYON.

SECTION XLVI.

4

PRINCIPLES OF SLEIGHT OF HAND.

"THE PASS-DOUBLE-HANDED-ADDITIONAL METHODS.

20.—Pass to Deceive a Conjurer.—A little idea of my own which I use to tease those with some knowledge. The chosen card is returned to the pack spread fan-wise to receive it. One card is secretly run on to the chosen one, and little finger inserted at that point. Having called attention to the fact that the little finger is on the card (mis-direction) ready to make the "Pass," lift the upper portion and deal the supposed chosen card face downwards on the table, at the same time "cut" the lower portion with the actual card to the top, and remark, "But I don't do it that way." The supposed chosen card is now inserted anywhere and the pack ruffled, followed by the remark, "Did you see me make the "pass'?" The reply is, of course, in the negative. It then only remains to "flick" over the top card or finish with the revolution (Section 34, No. 1). This makes a really good trick to play on a conjurer and, with slight variation in the procedure, may be employed in connection with any trick.

21.—The "Bridge" Pass (First Method).—Bend the whole of the pack, as when preparing to make the "Bridge," ends downwards, top of pack convex. Have a card freely chosen, then square up the pack. "Cut" pack in half for the return of the card, then, having secretly bent the upper part of the pack in the opposite direction, deliberately throw it on top of the cards in the left hand. This indifferent action gives the impression that the "Pass" is now impossible, whereas, when squaring up the pack and pressing the cards together at the front end, a large opening appears at the opposite end into which the little finger falls, when the "Pass" is made at the first opportunity.

22.—The "Bridge" Pass (Second Method).—Proceed exactly as in No. 21, but spread the pack fanwise for the return of the card; the moment it is returned, press the left thumb upon it in the centre, bending its ends and the ends of all the cards under it, in an upward direction, then close and square up the pack. Since the upper portion is bent in the opposite direction a decided "bridge" is made, and which is emphasised by pressure on both ends of the pack. The pack is then pressed perfectly flat between the tips of fingers and thumb of left hand, when the card is to all intents and purposes hopelessly lost. Yet a slight pressure on the ends of the pack, with the thumb and fingers of the right hand, reveals the "bridge" into which the little finger falls; the "pass" is then made to bring the chosen card to the top.

23.—The "Bridge" Pass (Third Method);—Possibly the best of the three methods. Bend the ends of the pack downwards, then ask a person to open the front end of the pack at any point and take a quick glance at the bottom card of the upper portion. This, of course, bends the whole of the cards in the upper portion, in the opposite direction, forming a most perfect "bridge." The right hand then squares up the pack, tapping the front end, then pressing the cards tightly together at that point; this creates a decided opening in the rear end of pack into which the little finger falls preparatory to making the "pass." In this instance the card, being at the bottom of upper portion, which will be passed to the bottom of the pack, unless it be secretly sprung from the thumb at the rear end and the little finger inserted upon instead of under it.

N.B.—For the above three subtleties in connection with making "The Pass" I am indebted to Mr. Ted Lindsay, of 6, Wells Buildings, Hampstead, N.W. 3, whose execution of the same leaves nothing to be desired.

SECTION XL VII.

PALMING CARDS-VARIOUS METHODS.

Before proceeding to describe the various methods, with illustrations of their utility, a little general instruction may not be out of place.

I use the word "palming" for the sake of convenience only, being of the opinion that it ought never to have been written in a treatise on conjuring, in the absence of a note to this effect, and for the following reasons. In the first place, the word suggests something

extremely clever, hence difficult to acquire, with the result that many who would take up the study, are "frightened out of it" at the onset, or never attempt anything beyond a few simple tricks not necessitating Sleight of Hand. Frequently such people say to me, "Oh! I could never learn to 'palm' anything." No! the word simply frightens them, and they won't start.

simply frightens them, and they won't start.

A card is certainly never "palmed" in the sense of the word; it is rather "held in the hand," very often secretly of course, but never in a manner to make the use of the word "palming" necessary. "Secretly held in the hand" would convey all that is necessary without suggesting something difficult and which as a fact, does not exist.

gesting something difficult and which, as a fact, does not exist.
"Mis-direction" is of vastly more importance than "Palming." A card, held by its ends between the tips of the two middle fingers and thumb of the right hand, is, presumably, placed in the left hand ; in reality the card is momentarily laid across the fingers of the left hand which press it back and up into the right hand where it is secretly retained, its ends gripped between the first joints of the two middle fingers and the base of the hand, index and little fingers being slightly raised in an easy manner. At the same instant the two hands separate, the left being partially closed, turned back towards the audience and extended away from the side of the body. This has the effect of causing all eyes to follow the left hand (even a conjurer will have a job to resist the temptation), the attraction being intensified by the fact that the performer keeps his own eyes fixed on the left hand, the fingers of which are kept moving as if crumbling up the card. All this keeps the attention fixed on the left hand. until such time as it be turned about, opened and shown to be empty; then, and before the eyes can reach the right hand, that hand passes behind the leg, elbow, coat or elsewhere, and reproduces the card. It follows, therefore that even if a portion of the card had been exposed between the fingers or over the side of the hand, no one would have noticed it, for the reason that no one ever looks in that direction until the performer does, when it is too late for them to discover anything.

Sometimes, playfully I admit, when asked if I can palm this, that or the other, I reply, "Simple—in fact, it's quite an easy matter to palm a brick, only it takes the beginner so long to realise it." And, joking aside, there's something in it.

Having presumably, placed the card in the left hand, the right hand should be held in front of the body, as though it were empty, with the Index finger pointing in the direction of the left hand (what would naturally happen had the card been actually left in the left hand); it should never be dropped to the side, grasp lapel of coat or attempt to pick up something with the idee of concealing the "palm," as recommended by some writers; such actions, which are unnatural and absolutely unnecessary, only serve to call attention to it. The left hand is the main, in fact, the only source, of mis-direction in this case. It the perforn er can himself actually believe the card to be in the left hand, so much the better; of course, all experienced performers do this unconsciously.

The beginner should practice in front of a mirror, first actually placing the card in the left hand, then imitating the natural action as near as possible (and it is an easy matter to make it look just like it) while retaining the card in the right hand.

Since the above are established facts, I can less understand why some performers get the idea that their hands are so small that it becomes necessary for them to make use of the smaller sized playing cards, smaller by about one-eighth of an inch in the width. Some hands are smaller than others, of course, but not to the extent that the eighth makes any difference in view of the above facts. And the smaller sized cards are more detrimental than useful, since, having smaller pips, they are less discernible at a distance.

N.B.—The above instructions, particularly in respect to the evanishment of the card from the left hand (a beautiful deception—real Magic as we understand it and, doubtless, the movement that made us all converts to the Art) apply equally well to Coins, Balls, handkerchiefs and any objects that can be conveniently handled (bricks excepted, perhaps) after the manner described. Well! now that I have got all the above off my mind, we will proceed to the actual manipulation.

1.—Palming Top Card by Drawing it Towards the Person.—Having brought the card to the top of the pack by "The Pass" (or otherwise) it is often desirable that the pack be offered to be shuffled; before this can be done the top card must be "palmed." One of the most indetectible methods is as follows: Press the thick part of the hand, at the base of the fingers on the top of the inner end of card, and draw it off the inner end of pack, pressing the end downwards. This causes the opposite end to tilt up, when the card may be readily and secretly gripped between the first joints of the two middle fingers

and the base of the hand, as already described. The movement is completed by the right hand gripping the inner end of pack between the tips of the fingers and thumb and offering same to be shuffled. The position also enables the performer to take secret note of the card in the hand. Never mind bending the card-if slightly curved, it may be straightened by merely ruffling the pack.

-Returning Card (or Cards) to Top of Pack.-Presuming the card is palmed in the right hand, receive back the pack in the left hand (if not already there). In any case, see that a few of the top cards are disarranged, as this provides an excellent excuse for the approach of the right hand for the purpose of squaring them up, thus leaving the "palmed" cards on top. If the pack is to be picked up from the table, the matter becomes a natural action. "Ruffling" from the table, the matter becomes a natural action. the pack at the instant cards are replaced is an excellent ruse.

3.-Lateral Slide of Top Card to Right .- Having brought the card to the top and before removing the right hand, push it (the card), with the left thumb, over the side of the pack to the right. The right hand then closes over it, while the fingers of the left hand, immediately under it, push it up into the hand. The right thumb is simultaneously passed under the inner end of the pack, tilting it up and so offering it to be shuffled. Here again the position effected enables the performer to note the card in the hand.

4.—Pushing Card over Front End of Pack.—Under cover and with the aid of the right hand, the top card is pushed forward, about an inch beyond the front end of the pack. Pressure on the front end of the card will now be found to tilt it up into the hand, while the front end of the pack is seized between the fingers (on the bottom face card) and the thumb (on top card) and so handed to be shuffled.

5 .- Raising Rear End of Card with Thumb .- Secretly raise the rear end of top card (or cards) with thumb of right hand, then pass fingers of left hand under it and so press it up into right hand. Pack is now withdrawn slightly to left (the left hand squaring it up the while) to enable the right hand to grip it by the front and rear corners on the right hand side, and so hand it to be shuffled.

N.B.—In brief, this is Bertram's method, explained in detail with eleven photographs at pp. 40-44 of "The Modern Conjurer," q.v.

If the pack be returned to the table, the right hand, still holding the "palmed" cards, may "cut" it into two portions; the palmed cards are then secretly added to the lower portion in the act of replacing it on the top of the whole—a bold but very effective procedure.

If desired, the pack may be handed to be shuffled with the left hand; if this be done, it is important to note that the left hand must move away from the right hand, not the right hand away from the pack. The reason for this, which will be obvious, applies to all methods without exception. It is important to remember this, seeing that it is not always required, having palmed cards, to offer the pack to be shuffled.

If the right hand is not already on the pack, and must deliberately approach it for the purpose of palming cards, an excellent excuse for its so doing is to "ruffle" the pack. A still better excuse, and the one I frequently adopt, is to run a few cards from the top of the pack with the left thumb, over into the right hand, showing the faces of these as if to satisfy all that the pack is an ordinary one. Then, when squaring up the pack, it becomes a simple matter to palm off several (particularly useful in connection with the Four Ace Trick)

by the above method (No. 5).

6.—Palming Cards with Rearward Colour Change Sleight.—Holding pack by one end in right hand, fingers on front face card, transfer it to the left hand, the forefinger of which pushes down the rearmost (top) card, which is palmed in the right hand as the left hand removes

the balance of the pack—suitable for one or a number of cards.

Since the palmed card, faces the hand it must be replaced on the bottom of the pack. This, however, affords an excellent variation if immediately followed by an ordinary shuffle, leaving the card on

top of pack.
7.—Palm for One Card with Forward Colour-Change Sleight.—Hold the pack in left hand, thumb on the upper and fingers on the lower side, bottom face card facing audience. Tap front end of pack several times as if squaring it up. Then, with tip of index finger of left hand, push forward the rearmost card to come in contact with first joints of middle fingers of right hand. Left index finger then continues to press the card on to the right hand, while the thumb and remaining fingers of left hand draw back the pack until it clears the card. Pack is then squared up, both hands assisting (see Note, third par., foot of No. 5). As in No. 6, the card is replaced bottom of pack and shuffled to top.

· Bottom card may be palmed in like manner. See "Modern Conjurer," p. 45.

8.—Palming One when Springing Cards from Hand to Hand.—(My "Pet" Palm.) The cards are sprung from the right into the left hand, in the familiar manner; in this case, however, the hands are held only an inch or so apart. In springing the cards it will be found a simple matter to retain the top one in the right hand, between the first joints of the two middle fingers and the first joint (middle) of thumb, while the left hand offers the pack to be shuffled, affording plenty of opportunity to get the card retained into the "palm" proper. Under the circumstances it doesn't seem possible for the right hand to retain a card, hence it is not suspected.

9 .- Palming Bottom Card Across Left Hand .- Pack is held in the left hand in position for dealing with the exception that no portion of the front end projects over the hand. Inner end of bottom card is now sprung from the pack with the thumb of the right hand; at the same time the right hand pushes the pack forward and clear of the left hand. If the left hand be now held in the correct position, although a portion of the card projects over the little finger side, there is no fear of the card being discovered.

Eminent writers have minimised the value of this sleight, but I have found it quite practical and exceedingly useful at times—I have already shown, in the early part of this Section, that a portion of a card actually exposed, may still pass unobserved.

The top card may, of course, be palmed in like manner.

10 .- Palming Bottom Card, Ordinary Position, in Left Hand. Spring bottom card, from thumb at inner end of pack, into the left hand, position of ordinary "palm" and forthwith turn outer end of pack to the left so that it projects over the thumb side of the hand. Top card may be palmed in the right hand in like manner.

11 .- Palming a Card with the Fingers Open .- The card is first palmed in the right hand in the ordinary manner, by either of the methods explained. The two middle fingers of the hand then bend down the front end of the card into the "fork" at bottom of thumb, the thumb retaining it in this position, i.e., the front end of the card thus bent completely in half, is brought in contact with the rear end, With the card in this position, the fingers of the hand may be spread wide apart, proving, in conjurers' logic, that the hand is empty. The card may be reverted to the ordinary position at a convenient

The drawback to all this kind of work, however clever it may be, is that it fixes the attention upon the hand containing the card. See "Thurston's Card Tricks," page 26.

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To the best of my knowledge and belief the Story originated in "Moments of Mystery" by Mr. Percy Naldrett. The wording in Mr. Weaver's version, which is somewhat different, is arranged in Four Acts, instead of Three. Mr. Weaver also employs specially made cards of a large size, readily seen at a distance; he, further, relies upon the Monologue being sufficiently interesting as such, and therefore, makes no effort to create deception of any kind; this does away with shuffling cards, and the subsequent secret exchange of the shuffled batch for a similar lot in pre-arranged order.

The cards employed, thirty in number, are in pre-arranged order, which order will be indicated as we proceed. As the particular word is spoken a card is raised from the top of the pack, shown, and then placed face upwards on the table—by dealing all in this way, one on top of the other, the order is preserved for a subsequent

occasion.

"A little Story, in Four Acts, illustrated with a pack of Cards:—
ACT 1.—(Ace of Diamonds.) Some men stroke their wives the wrong way; leave their Queen (Queen of Hearts) at home and go off to the Club (Ace of Clubs). The waiter (Jack of Diamonds) appears with drinks on a tray (Three of Hearts) and before (Four of Clubs) you know where you are, the clock strikes Two (Two of Clubs) sometimes. Three (moving pin card changing from two Diamonds)-sometimes Three (moving pip card changing from two to three of diamonds).

to three of diamonds).

Act 2.—(Two of Clubs). In the meantime her friend, Jack (Jack of Clubs), calls. Notice he's a dark card. Gives her a ring with three diamonds (Three of Diamonds) and, of course, becomes her King (King of Hearts). Her love for you turns to hate (Eight of Clubs), and everything is at sixes (Six of Spades) and sevens (Seven of Spades). Then you come in and she is a caught card (Queen of Spades). You play the deuce (Two of Spades), and all is wrong for five minutes (Five of Clubs)."

five minutes (Five of Clubs)."

At this point, when using ordinary cards and deception, the lady who shuffled them may be blamed for turning the drama into a tragedy. Then, pretending to notice her look of despair, the performer undertakes to endocyour to put matters right.

former undertakes to endeavour to put matters right.

Act 3.—(Three of Clubs). Then you decide to give up the drink, which is the curse of Scotland (Nine of Diamonds), and all your knavish (Jack of Spades) tricks; commence a new life with a spade (Acc of Spades) and drop the Clube (Ten of Clube)

(Ace of Spades) and drop, the Clubs (Ten of Clubs).

ACT 4.—(Four of Spades). Once again you return to your Queen (Queen of Diamonds), give her a ring with four diamonds (Four of Diamonds) and, of course, become her King (King of Clubs). She tells you that you are her darling joker (The Joher). Two hearts (Two of Hearts) beat as one (Ace of Hearts), you live happy ever after, and the curtain (Blank Card) rings down."

N.B.—The large cards are not, of course, necessary in the drawingroom. If it be desired to introduce the usual element of deception, when using ordinary cards, the better plan in my opinion is to have the pre-arranged set in readiness on top of the pack, then to execute a false shuffle which leaves all undisturbed. But the ordinary pack, duly shuffled by anyone, may be readily exchanged behind some object on the table; a much better and less troublesome plan than fumbling about with Servantes behind bits of cardboard, or chair backs.

The lady who shuffles the cards may be told that she will be held responsible for the Nature and Success of the resulting drama.

Mr. Weaver opens at The Empire, Rochdale, December the Eighth, and will include the above Monologue and other Magical and Ventriloquial Novelties in his programme. In the meantime he may be addressed "Military Halls, Aldershot"—otherwise "Office of

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