

'But the length of the shadow changes.'
'Yes'm; but twice a day the shadows are just as long as things themselves. I've been trying it all summer. I drove a stick into the ground, and when the shadows were just as long as the stick I knew that the shadow of the tree would be just as long as the tree, and that's thirty-three feet.'

'Did I whistle?' asked Tom. 'I didn't hear myself at it. I guess I was so busy watching the shadow and measuring that I didn't know what else I was doing at that particular time.'

WONDERFUL FEATS

A number of actors were dining when they fell to comparing notes as to the marvellous feats they had observed and experienced. One spoke of a wonderful trick dog he had seen, while another described a pin he had once examined, on the head of which a prayer had been engraved.

'That's nothing,' spoke up one Thespian. 'Last summer I went on a long cruise with some friends of mine, and each night we had to draw lots to see who would stand watch. One night, when all alone, I went to sleep on my watch. I think that is quite as remarkable as engraving a prayer on a pin-head.'

A GOOD LOSER

A Commonwealth politician who was a prominent candidate in the late election came home one day much provoked at some misdemeanor which his son, aged ten, had committed.

'Frank,' he said sternly, 'do you know, sir, that you are a candidate for a whipping?'

'I hope I'll be defeated, father,' was young Frank's reply, as he looked up playfully at his father.

AND EVERYBODY LAUGHED

A Swede was being examined in a case in court. The defendant was accused of breaking a plate-glass window with a stone. The Swede was pressed to tell how big the stone was, but he could not explain.

'Was it as big as my fist?' asked the nervous magistrate, who had taken over the examination for the lawyers in the hope of getting some results.

'It was bigger,' the Swede replied.

'Was it as big as my two fists?'

'It was bigger.'

'Was it as big as my head?'

'It was about as long, but not so thick!' replied the Swede, amid the laughter of the court.

A NEW USE OF THE WORD

When Willie came home the other night he was more convinced of the uselessness of schools than he ever was before. Asked the nature of his latest trouble, he explained that 'postpone' had been one of the words in the spelling lesson of the day. The teacher had directed the pupils to write a sentence in which the special word should appear. Along with others, Willie announced that he didn't know the meaning of the word, and so could not use it in a sentence. The teacher explained that it meant to 'put off,' and encouraged the youngsters to try. Willie's thoughts were on pleasanter things than school, and his made-to-order sentence was: 'Boys postpone their clothes when they go in swimming.'

GAVE HIMSELF AWAY

A little girl was weeping bitterly in the street and a benevolent old gentleman, patting her on the shoulder, inquired what was the matter.

'I've lost a penny, sir,' the child sobbed.

The old gentleman promptly handed her a penny.

She looked at him askance for a few seconds and then said in a tone more of sorrow than anger, 'Oh, you wicked old man! So you had it all the time!'

FAMILY FUN

TRICKS AND ILLUSIONS.

(Special to the N.Z. Tablet by MAHATMA.)

A Very Mysterious Ring Illusion.—The performer comes forward with a brass ring about five inches in diameter, and a length of cord. The ring is examined by members of the audience and found to be quite solid. The performer's hands are now tied about a foot apart with the cord. He turns his back, or retires behind a screen for an instant and when he reappears the ring is seen to be spinning upon the cord by which the hands were connected. The secret of the illusion is as follows: A second ring, exactly similar to the one given for examination, is before commencing placed over the hand, in the same way as a bracelet is put on, and carried up the arm until it is quite hidden by the coat sleeve. When the wrists are connected by the cord, and the examined ring placed in the performer's hand, all he has to do is to quickly push this under his coat or into an inside breast pocket, and work the hidden ring down over the hand and on to the string. No better effect for a drawing-room entertainment could be wished for, and further it can be performed by the veriest amateur without any more trouble than a single rehearsal before a mirror, a practice which, in one of my earlier papers I strongly advised the amateur to carry out.

An Effective Card Trick.—This card trick is rather more mysterious than most card tricks. The performer takes a full pack of cards and informs the company that he is about to perform a wonderful feat of will-power. He throws the pack face downwards upon the table, and asks a member of the audience to hand him a card, say the ace of diamonds. The performer takes the card handed to him, which of course the chooser must not catch sight of, and announces that the ace of diamonds has been chosen. He next asks a second person to choose another card, this time say the six of hearts; this upon being handed to the conjuror is also declared by him to be the card called for. The two cards which have been called for are now laid by themselves upon the table at a little distance from the pack. The performer now names a third card, say the ten of hearts, and picks it out himself. Again he announces that it is the ten of hearts which he has picked out. The three cards, upon being shown to the audience are now found to be the three cards which were chosen. The explanation is very simple. The performer, before throwing the pack upon the table, catches a glimpse of the bottom card. This card he keeps in sight all through the trick. Let us suppose that in this case it is the ace of diamonds. He then asks the person who is doing the trick with him to hand him the ace of diamonds. The card handed to the performer will not, of course, be the ace of diamonds. Let us suppose that it is the six of hearts. He now asks that the six of hearts be handed to him. Suppose now that he has handed to him the ten of hearts. He then announces that he will himself pick out the ten of hearts. In reality he picks up the card which he has kept in sight all the time—namely, the ace of diamonds. The effect on the audience is that two spectators have handed the performer two cards which he told them to pick out, and the performer himself has picked out a card nominated by himself.

Thought-Reading.—As a test of your thought-reading powers you offer to do a little experiment with a coin, or rather, two coins. Ask a member of the company to step forward and take the two coins, one in each hand. He is to notice the dates of the coins and may mark them if he so wishes. He must then think hard of one of the coins, at the same time holding the hand with this coin in close to his head. In order that you shall not see what he is doing, you turn your back to him. After a few seconds you face the assistant and immediately tell him which coin he thought of. All you have to do, to discover this, is to look at the assistant's hands; the whiter of the two will be the one held to the forehead.

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