

no signs of improvement, he asked for a white doctor.

Soon after arriving Dr. — felt the old man's pulse, and then examined his tongue.

'Did your other doctor take your temperature?' he asked.

'I don't know, boss,' replied the sick negro. 'I hain't missed nothing but my watch as yit.'

A SUCCESSFUL RUSE

The Kaiser's recent thunderings against Alsace-Lorraine recall to the London *Chronicle* a story illustrating the state of feeling between the French and Germans in Alsace. An Alsatian fell into the Rhine. He was unable to swim, but he managed to lay hold of a log and screamed out in his native French for help. A German policeman standing on the bank regarded him with a cold eye, but took no further notice.

The drowning man, strangling his native pride, repeated his cry in German, but still the policeman stood coldly watching him. Then an inspiration came to the man in the water.

'Vive la France!' he cried. And the policeman immediately plunged into the river and arrested him.

AN OFFER DECLINED

A man was sued for a certain amount of money. The debtor repeatedly offered to work off the debt, but this offer did not seem at all to suit the taste of the creditor. At last the judge asked the plaintiff the reason for his unwillingness to accept the debtor's offer to 'work off the debt.' His reply was: 'Well, you see, your honor, the man's an undertaker!'

A SCHEME THAT FAILED

The young lawyer had opened his office that very day and sat expectant of clients. A step was heard outside, and the next moment a man's figure was silhouetted against the ground-glass of the door. Hastily the legal fledgling stepped to his brand-new telephone, and, taking down the receiver, gave every appearance of being deep in a business conversation.

'Yes, Mr. S.,' he was saying, as the man entered, 'I'll attend to that corporation matter for you. Mr. J. had me on the 'phone this morning and wanted me to settle a damaged suit, but I had to put him off, as I'm so rushed with cases just now. But I'll try to sandwich your matter in between my other cases somehow. Yes, yes. All right. Good-bye.'

Hanging up the receiver, he turned to his visitor, having, as he thought, duly impressed him.

'Excuse me, sir,' the man said, 'but I'm from the telephone company. I've come to connect up your instrument.'

YOUNG GRAMMARIAN

A teacher gave an examination on the comparison of adjectives and adverbs following a series of lessons upon that subject. One little boy was called upon to compare the word 'far.' With much shuffling of embarrassed feet, he replied:

'Positive, far; comparative, farther; superlative, grandfather.'

MORE DEFINITE INFORMATION

A witness in a particular case had been examined by the lawyer of the plaintiff and was turned over to the lawyer for the defence for cross-examination.

'Now then, Mr. Smith,' began the legal one, 'what did I understand you to say that your occupation is?'

'I am a piano finisher,' answered the witness.

'Yes, I see,' persisted the lawyer; 'but you must be more definite. Do you polish them or do you move them?'

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FAMILY FUN

TRICKS AND ILLUSIONS.

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

A Card Trick.—The performer undertakes to examine a person in respect to his (or her) knowledge of a pack of cards. Having obtained a voluntary assistant, he requests him to answer a few questions quickly—'How many cards in an ordinary pack?' 'Fifty-two.' 'Quite correct. I will write the name of one on this piece of paper.' Performer writes, say, 'king of diamonds.' He does not let the assistant see this name. 'How many suits in a pack?' 'Four.' 'Right again. What are the colors?' 'Two black and two red.' 'Correct. Which do you prefer, the black or the red?' 'Red.' 'I thought so—the color most cheerful people would select.' (If black had been chosen the performer would have said, 'Thank you, that leaves me with the red.') 'Now, there are two reu suits—hearts and diamonds. Will you select one?' 'Diamonds.' 'You are wise. Hearts are quite out of fashion; in fact, it is considered bad taste to have one—so likely to lead to complications.' (If hearts had been chosen the performer would have said 'Thank you, that leaves diamonds.') 'Now how many cards are there in the diamond suit?' 'Thirteen.' 'Quite right. And which will you have, the ordinary plain cards or the court cards? You prefer the court cards. Now, in the court there are four important people—the king, queen, knave, and ace. Which two out of the four do you prefer?' 'The king and ace.' 'And which one of these will you take?' If the king be chosen, continue, 'We will now examine the name on this sheet of paper. See, I have the name of the card written down.' If the ace had been finally chosen the performer would have said 'Thank you, that leaves the king. We will now examine the paper.' Thus, the performer has, by ambiguous questioning, made the assistant tell him the name which he (the performer) wrote on the paper. It will be seen that the assistant has really no choice at all. If the name of the card written down is the queen of diamonds, and the assistant chooses hearts all the performer has to do is to say—the more rapidly the better—'That leaves me with diamonds to go on with.' The effect is really mystifying.

The Three Colors.—That liquids are of different densities may be easily shown by taking a glass and pouring into it successively water colored blue, ordinary oil, and alcohol of a red hue. These three liquids will remain stationary in layers and present to the eye the colors of the national flag. Call attention to the fact that the density of water being 1, the densities of the olive oil and of the alcohol are .0915 and .0795 respectively, for the three liquids superpose themselves in the order of their diminishing density.

Magic Reading.—This is one of the finest drawing-room illusions that one could wish for. The method is as follows:—The performer asks several people to write each a sentence on a slip of paper and seal it in an envelope. One of the audience is a confederate of the performer and writes on his slip a sentence agreed upon before the commencement of the illusion. When the papers are collected the performer is careful to place the one written by his confederate at the bottom. He goes back to the platform and with as much ceremony as he is able to command takes up an envelope. He then calls out the sentence upon the paper enclosed. This, of course, is the sentence written by the confederate. He tears open the envelope which he holds, and pretends to repeat the sentence from the paper. This is declared to be correct by his aforesaid confederate. The paper, of course, belongs to another member of the audience, and he reads what is upon it and memorises it. He takes up a second envelope and calls out the sentence which he has just seen. He tears the second envelope open and again repeats the sentence, in reality again reading another person's paper. So the performer goes on till he comes to the end of the papers. The last one is, of course, the paper which his assistant wrote, but he reads out the message which he saw on the second to last paper.

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