

'M-my b-brother's got a holiday, and—I haven't,' he roared.

'What a shame!' said the woman. 'Then you don't go to the same school?'

'No,' came from the little boy, in a fresh burst of sorrow, 'I—I don't go to school an-anywhere yet!'

HAROLD'S FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

Master Harold had returned after his first day at a kindergarten school.

'Well, Harold,' said a friend of his mother's, who was calling, 'how do you like school? I suppose you are the youngest there?'

'Oh, no!' said Harold, indignantly, drawing himself to his full height, and throwing out his chest. 'Oh, no!' some of our chaps come in perambulators.'

THE REASON

Social Agitator: 'Isn't it a shame the way these Chinamen work in this shop? Fifteen hours a day, and wages almost nothing!'

Companion: 'Why do you trade here?'

Social Agitator: Oh, they sell things so much cheaper.

NOTICEABLE IN WET WEATHER

Village Orator (seconding a proposition for the repair of the reading-room roof): 'I think you'll all agree that the roof does leak very bad. Especially is this noticeable in wet weather.'

HAMLET'S MENTAL CONDITION

Beerbohm Tree adds a new light on the old question of the sanity of Hamlet.

'One morning, whilst staying at a little country place,' he said, 'I met a young friend of mine, and asked him what he had been doing with himself the night before.

'I went,' my young friend replied, 'to hear "Readings from Hamlet."'

'Ah,' said I, 'did you? Now, tell me, what are your views? Do you think Hamlet was really mad?'

'Mad? of course he was. Why, there wasn't more than thirty shillings in the house!'

POWER OF SUGGESTION

The man was hale and hearty at 10 a.m.

At 10.15 someone handed him a patent-medicine almanac.

The man glanced at it, and became interested. He read it through from cover to cover.

At 10.35 he was suffering from Bright's disease, malaria, dyspepsia, insomnia, lumbago, blood-poisoning, sciatica, and rheumatism.

TRADE SECRETS

'What is the secret of success?' asked the magazine.

'Do write,' said the pen.

'Be progressive,' said the euchre pack.

'Be exact and on time,' said the clock.

'Be careful not to break your word,' said the typewriter.

'Don't be afraid to strike when you find your match,' said the lamp.

'Push and pull,' said the door.

'Stand firm and unyielding,' said the flagstaff.

'Don't change with every wind that blows,' said the weather vane.

'Never become dull and rusty,' said the hoe.

'Climb steadily up,' said the hill.

'Keep bright and don't mind the clouds,' said the sun.

'Cultivate a calm exterior, but be ready for emergencies,' said the innocent flower; 'even I always carry a pistil.'

FAMILY FUN

TRICKS AND ILLUSIONS.

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

An Easy Match Trick.—Break a match in the middle—a wooden one is best for this experiment. Do not quite sever the two halves. Place the match over the mouth of a moderate sized bottle, and upon the match place a half-penny. The trick is to drop the half-penny into the bottle without touching either the half-penny, the coin, or the bottle. Nobody who does not know the trick can do it, yet it is very simple. When everyone has given up allow two or three drops of water to fall on the match at the point where it was broken. The wood at once begins to swell, the two ends of the match to spread apart, and in a short time the coin will fall.

To Boil Water in a Paper Cup.—This is quite easy to do if the following instructions are carried out: Cut a disc about 6 inches in diameter, out of a sheet of strong paper. Next take a piece of wire, and make at one end thereof a ring about 3 inches in diameter, wrapping the other end spirally round a candle, and keeping it in place by sticking a pin into the candle just below the lower end. By pressing the disc of paper into the hollow of the hand it is given a bowl shape. In placing this bowl in the wire ring, care must be taken to let its rim project about an inch above the support, as this makes it possible to pour into the paper bowl so much water that the latter is slightly above the wire, this being absolutely necessary to the success of the experiment. It is also necessary that the flame of the candle almost reaches, or even slightly touches the bottom of the bowl. In a few seconds after lighting the candle the water will begin to boil, the paper remaining intact because the water absorbs the entire heat of the flame.

Thought Reading Made Easy.—The performer has a reel of thin florists' wire, one end of which he holds in his left hand against his forehead, while his assistant asks a member of the company to write a short question, requiring an answer, on a piece of paper, and afterwards to make the other end of the wire into a loop, and pass it over his head across his ears. The performer then takes another piece of paper, and, after much apparent thought, writes a suitable answer to the question, even to giving the result of a calculation in figures. The wire, although apparently transmitting the thoughts, in reality has nothing to do with the trick. It is merely used to heighten the effect. The solution lies in the fact that the paper, handed to the gentleman to write on, is on a small piece of glass which has previously been rubbed over lightly with soap. This is done on one side only. This, when written on will leave a faint impression on the glass which would not be noticed without being actually looked for. When the assistant returns the glass the question may be plainly read, especially if the sheet be held on the slant.

The Restored Tape.—This is a simple trick to perform, but it has a very fine effect. The performer shows a piece of black tape above six feet in length. A member of the company cuts this into three equal pieces. These two-foot lengths are then knotted together, and the ends of the tape thus knotted are tied to two chairs. A handkerchief is now placed over each knot. Upon removing these, the knots are found to have disappeared. The trick is worked this way: The conjuror has under the front part of his waistcoat, or in a pocket a duplicate piece of tape, six feet in length. This has two knots made from small pieces of tape pinned on to it at equal distances. When, in carrying out the trick, the performer has obtained possession of the original tape with the genuine knots tied in it, he dexterously exchanges it for the piece with the false knots. It is this piece of tape which he ties to the chairs. As he places the handkerchiefs over the knots he quickly releases the knots by pulling out the dolls' pins. When the handkerchiefs are lifted the small pieces are removed under their cover. The knots have thus to all appearances disappeared. No better trick could be wished for.

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