

by wealthy masters, of having a servant hold a candle when they wished to read after going to bed,—the small light-stand not having been invented.

HELPING MOTHER

Two young girls met in the post office on a summer evening. 'Where have you kept yourself so long, Frances?' said Mildred. 'We have missed you so much that we thought you must be ill or else that you had gone away on a visit.'

'I have been at home helping mother,' was the reply. 'We have a houseful of boarders from the city. There has been a great deal to do, and mother has needed me.'

The two girls separated, and a friend who overheard the conversation observed that she admired the girl who had cheerfully given up amusements that she might lift a part of the burden from her tired mother. 'The daughter at home is the daughter that I love best,' said this lady, 'and if ever the time comes that I can do a good turn for Frances, I will not neglect my opportunity.'

THINK OF THE GERMS

Tom, five years old, sat, looking at a plate of cold tongue.

'What's that?' he asked at last.

'Cold tongue,' was the answer.

'Are we going to eat it?'

'Certainly.'

'Well, have we ever had any before?'

'Yes.'

'Did I eat it?'

'Of course you did.'

'Well, what do you think of that? And, after it had been in a cow's mouth!'

IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE POINT OF VIEW

A lawyer was cross-examining an old German about the position of the doors, windows, and so forth, in a house in which a certain transaction occurred.

'And now, my good man,' said the lawyer, 'will you be good enough to tell the court how the stairs run in the house?'

The German looked dazed and unsettled for a moment. 'How do the stairs run?' he queried.

'Yes, how do the stairs run?'

'Vell,' continued the witness, after a moment's thought, 'ven I am oop-stairs dey run down, and ven I am down-stairs, dey run oop.'

DON'T JUMP AT CONCLUSIONS

Chang Yin Tang, Chinese Minister to the United States, was warning a group of would-be interviewers against the danger of jumping at conclusions.

'Now,' said Chang, 'a friend of mine who has just returned from a hunting expedition in central Africa, told me of a most remarkable occurrence. His party was trekking through a heavily-wooded region when the cries of a number of birds attracted him to a bit of overgrown jungle. Peering within, he beheld a trunkless body.'

'But,' Mr. Chang, interrupted one of his hearers, 'surely you mean a headless body.'

'My dear fellow,' retorted the smiling Chang, 'didn't I warn you not to jump at conclusions? The body was that of an elephant.'

LOST FAITH IN EDITORS

Old Lady: 'I don't believe this sure-cure tonic is a-goin' to do me any good.'

Friend: 'It's highly spoken of in the papers.'

Old Lady: 'Yes; but I've taken forty-seven bottles, and I don't feel a bit better. I tell you what it is, Sarah, I'm beginning to think these newspaper editors don't know everything.'

FAMILY FUN

TRICKS AND ILLUSIONS.

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

The Climbing Ring.—The materials required for this mystifying illusion are a stick and a borrowed ring. Having borrowed the latter the performer drops it over his stick, which is held in a perpendicular position. Then addressing the ring very solemnly he commands it to climb up the stick. When it gets half-way up he orders it to go back, and when it has descended a few inches to again continue its upward climb. Finally it jumps right off the end of the stick, and is caught in the performer's hand. The method of working the illusion is as follows:—To one end of the stick is attached a black silk thread about twice the length of the stick. It is secured by means of a stout knot. The performer holds the stick in the left hand and the end of the thread in the right. After it has been passed over the end of the stick, the ring can, by an almost imperceptible motion of the performer's right hand, be made to move either up or down the stick, or by giving the thread an extra tug to jump right off the stick.

Mesmeric Influence.—A very effective trick is the following. The performer makes some mysterious passes over a small table or chair, and then placing his hand flat upon it, he raises the object bodily into the air, presumably by some magnetic force. The method employed is very subtle. A tack is driven beforehand into the seat of the chair or object it is intended to deal with. This tack must be driven in at an angle. It should project about an eighth of an inch above the surface. The performer has upon the third finger of his right hand a ring. This should fit loosely. After making the mesmeric passes, which may be left to the performer's fancy, he lays the palm of his hand flat upon the top of the object, and inserts ring underneath the tack. It will be an easy matter now to raise the object high in the air. By using the ring as a lever the tack may be withdrawn and the chair or table handed for examination. The effect of the illusion is as fine as could be wished for.

The Rising Coin.—A very tall, narrow, cylindrical, and transparent glass vessel is given for examination, and a half crown is placed in the empty vessel which is now filled with water. At the performer's word of command the coin rises from the bottom of the cylinder to the performer's finger tips. This is a novel combination of two principles—first that aluminium floats, and secondly that a concave disc if wetted and placed on a slightly convex surface will adhere by suction to that surface. The glass vessel used in the experiment is quite free from preparation. The bottom of this latter should be slightly concave and moist. The half-crown is exchanged by the performer for a disc of aluminium the size and shape of the coin. This disc must have a concave side and to this surface a piece of black silk cotton is fixed by solder. The substitute is dropped into the glass, which up to this time is empty, where it adheres by its concave side. Care must be taken that the thread is held to the bottom of the vessel by the weight of the disc on top. If the cylinder be now filled with water, the disc will hold fast to the bottom, but if, during some mesmeric passes on the part of the performer, a slight tug be given to the thread, the disc will become detached from the bottom and will float upwards through the water. During this trick it is best to place the cylinder against some black background which will serve to show up the substituted coin during its ascent.

The border sat in his lonely room,
His heart was heavy as lead;
His eyes were watery with the 'flue,'
And throbbing was his head.
But soon a familiar voice he heard—
'Twas his old friend Mr. Jure;
Who, hearing he was very ill,
Brought Woods' Peppermint Cure.