

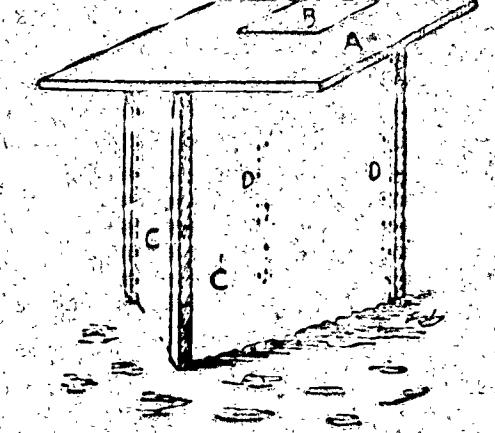
## MAGIC FOR THE HOME

THE "BLACK ART" FOR FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT.

An Easily Constructed Apparatus Which Can Afford Considerable Amusement.—Clever Illusions Performed with Mirrors—Drawing-Room Fun.

**T**HIS AMERICAN public loves to be mystified. This is proved by the large audiences in a gypsies and illusionists succeed in getting together. There are a number of illusions now being exhibited publicly which are perfectly available or private entertainments if one knows how to get the secret to begin with and an inexpensive reproduction to end with.

We intend to describe here a magic box in which may be produced all sorts of articles in a semicircular way. Most families have one member, who owns a tool box and knows how to use it fairly well. Tak-



TRICK TABLE.  
ing this for granted, the woodwork of your magic box trick will not cost much.

First of all make a table top two and a half feet long and two feet wide of three-quarter inch thick pine wood. This table must have five legs. Three of these must be plain straight up and down legs, two inches square and thirty inches long. Put one of these legs half way along the long side of the table with one of the sharp edges outward. Put the other two, also with edges outward, on the two ends of the table, half way across. The two other legs employed may be

A—Top.  
B—The hinged door.  
C—Mirrors.  
D—Props.

merely props to hold the table steady when finished. These may be put about seven inches from either end at the back of the table.

Have a thin groove in both of the inner sides of the front leg, and a groove in the side which faces the front leg of both end legs. Now get two pieces of thin mirror glass thirty inches high and about eighteen inches wide each. These must be slid in the grooves, one edge going up flat against the table and the other touching the floor. Your table now has a solid front each mirror on a different angle.

Cut out half way down the back of the table a piece of its top one foot square and set in a new piece which will fit closely and yet be easy to move. Hinge this with two small hinges under the table, and put a "button" under the table at the back edge to keep this swinging door-like place until you wish to use it. If this swing piece is nicely fitted the joinings on top can not be seen at a little distance.

Cut No. 1 will show the structure as it will appear completed. You will see

A—the opening in the bottom.

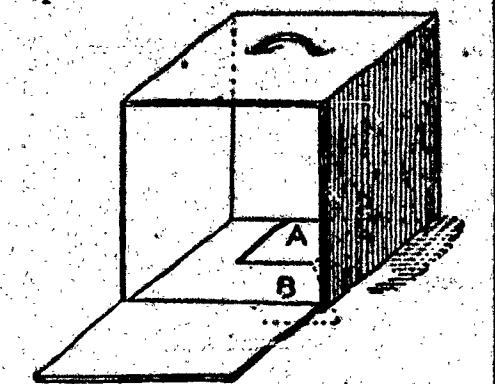
B—the piece which swings downward.

here the relative position of the legs and the angle of the mirrors, which are indicated by dotted lines. The back legs, or props, are also shown by dotted lines. It will be seen that only half of the side of the leg in which the mirror slides is shown in reality. The actual half will reflect in the mirror just beside it, and this little bit of reflection does more to give an idea of a clear, open space under the table than any one who has not seen a similar illusion can possibly imagine.

We have now to make the magic box. This should be eighteen inches square inside measurement. It may be carefully finished outside or not, just as your taste dictates. Make it of half inch material, so that no one can think it has hidden chambers anywhere about it. Line it with paper of some neat pattern and have its front a swing door hinged at the bottom edge.

Make a swing door in the bottom of the box like the one in the table, but only ten inches square, with very small flat hinges and a thin "button" to hold it in place. As the box is to be set on the table during the progress of the mystification these door fittings must not be thick enough to give the box an appearance of being set unevenly. Have a leather handle on the top of the box by which to carry it.

Cut No. 2 will show the box with its two doors opened. The ten-inch space with its swinging door is shown at the back of the box. The front door, which is provided with a little hook, can be opened or shut when occasion demands, as we shall explain later.



BOX WITH DOORS OPEN.  
To complete the apparatus needed for the proper display of the illusion we are describing you will need to rig up a semicircular screen. Four uprights six feet high, with a hooped wire joined to them at the top, can easily be constructed, and a curtain running all around the wire either straight down or on folds must extend

to the carpet. Have the curtain of perfectly plain goods, pink or yellow. This screen should be big enough to admit of the front of the table being well set in, so that nothing but the screen can reflect in the mirror. It should also provide for a clear space of at least two feet on all other sides of the table so that the audience will not be able to see that the produced articles are put through the curtain in some way.

Cut No. 3 shows the construction of the screen, and the table, and box inside the semicircular recess. The visible operator is also shown, but in bad position, and he is shown in this way for a purpose. As the mirrors reflect only the side objects, because they are on an angle, yet do not reflect any object directly in line with the end leg, it follows that the operator should stand on a line with the one of the end legs, and not too close to the table, because if he does stand close spectators on the side of the room farther from him will get an angle of vision which would bring his legs in view back of the table leg.

The operator should stand at least a foot away from the side of the table and his length of arm will enable him to handle the front door of the box at will. In all probability he will get credit for not wishing to let off the view of the people on his side of the room. He must be careful to avoid getting back of the leg line, as in this case again his legs would be expected to show under the table. Now as regards the semi-circular curtain.

That part of it which reflects in the mirror on either side will retain in the reflection its circular form, and all the people in front will imagine they are looking under the table and that they see the curtains at the back. The illusion here is perfect.

The apparatus is completed and it now calls for finess in handling if the results are to be perfectly satisfactory. Do not have your front row of spectators any nearer than eight feet from the edge of the screen and keep them as much as possible in the center of the room. When a temporary curtain which hides your trick is drawn, your accomplice, who should be small, but clever, is under the table, back of the mirrors. He has there a

small collection of articles which are to be used from time to time.

**Copper Gun.**  
The recent successful test, as announced, of a small copper model gun, tempered by the process invented by Alard of Quebec, has attracted considerable attention. Before firing the gun was carefully gauged at two different points, one and two inches from the breech; and of the powder charge. In the first experiment the gun was charged with three-fourths of an ounce of sporting powder and wadded with a plug of paper driven well home with a mallet. After firing the charge the gun was examined and gauged at the above mentioned points, and the diameters were unchanged. The next test was a very severe one, one and three-fourths ounces of sporting powder being used, leaving only sufficient room for a plug of paper, which before was driven hard home, filling the piece to the muzzle. This charge was fired with Blackford fuse, and subsequent examination of the gun showed no flaw or perceptible expansion.

**England's Breach of Promise Case.**  
A novel action for breach of promise of marriage is being fought out in the law courts of the old country. Miss

Jennie Mignell, of Johore, Sultan of Johore, and her mother, Mrs. Mignell, are suing for damages for the loss of their inheritance.

Jennie Mignell, a handsome young lady of Brighton, England, has brought suit against her royal highness the Sultan of Johore, for trifling with her young affections. The lady is spoken of as being "in a good position," that is to say in society to some extent, and as the defendant is a monarch, the case is a peculiar one and will be followed with interest. Portraits are

here given of both the plaintiff and the pursued, in this latest of many remarkable developments in that peculiarly British institution known commonly as "an action for breach."

**Whaling Industry.**  
The whaling industry has fallen off so much as to play but a small part in the world's commerce. The latest figures obtainable show the production to average between 15,000 and 20,000 tons of 252 gallons per year. There are two kinds of whale oil, the sperm, taken from the head of the cachalot or sperm whale, and train oil, which is derived from the common whale, or as it is more commonly known, the right whale. Sperm oil is worth from \$4.50 to \$5.00 per ton and the ordinary train oil about \$2.00.

**Married in Haste.**  
Richard Swon of Hall's county and Miss Addie Lisenberry of Andraian, Mo., do not believe in long courtship. They met Oct. 12 for the first time, fell in love and Oct. 14 were united in marriage by Judge J. J. Wimber. The groom is wealthy.

The United States produces 44,000,000 tons of hay.

## STORIES OF ANIMALS

### A CAT CHARMED BY A GOMPER SNAKE

**A PHILADELPHIA APE FEEDING KATE IN THE ZOO—A TOM CAT MISTAKES A TURTLE'S BLEED FOR A RAT AND FRANTICALLY BITE IT.**

**CALM S. SOBER**  
A young man went up on the roof of one of the gold buildings of San Francisco the other day to enjoy the air. Over by a chimney the cat was closely watching something that the young man could not see. He stepped over to satisfy his curiosity and received a decided shock to his nerves. The gleaming eyes of the cat were fixed on a small coiled undulating masscosa up to the chimney. The first glance might be deceptive, but the second certainly was not. The young man undoubtedly saw a snake. The reptile was a large brown and black fellow, with a body about two inches round. It was coiled in its head resting on its body. The two broad eyes looked wicked and the long tongue was working rapidly. As the young man approached nearer the cat suddenly turned to look at him. In the instant that the cat's eyes were removed the snake began to slip out of its coil and glide around the chimney. Once out of sight of the tail, it began to slip along the murex quite rapidly, making directly for a secluded corner a few yards away. The cat followed slowly, watching every movement of the reptile. At this point the young man recovered his presence of mind, and stepping over grabbed the slimy thing by the tail. It was a gopher snake, fully four feet long, and promptly attempted to roll about his arm. With a quick movement, however, the sharp jaws of the turtle finally cut off the cat's foot and brought the head down with a snap against the roof. After wriggling or two the reptile ceased to bite.

**THE TOM CAT DECAPITATES THE TURTLE.**  
The turtle pulled and struggled, but the cat held on. Finding it could not get away the turtle began to fight a bit itself, and with a quick snap it caught one of the cat's hind feet in its vice-like jaws and held on. Scrapper pulled, bit, scratched and emitted the most terrific yells and a reeves, but the turtle would not be shaken off.

Finally Scrapper secured a good hold on the turtle's neck, where it was soft and tender, and he began to bite it with all the power he had. Both contestants were bleeding freely by this time and the cat's leg was broken. Still they held on. The sharp jaws of the turtle finally cut off the cat's foot and held it, but a moment later the turtle's head came off. Scrapper having bit and clawed its neck in two.

The feline lay down to rest a while and lick the bleeding stump of his off hind leg. As soon as Scrapper regained his breath he picked up the turtle's head and, with a savage growl, lunged off toward the house.

**WHERE WATER COMES FROM.**  
The Great Ocean is fed from the hills of the Great Continent.

Where does all the water in the sea come from, is a question that many a small boy has asked his father, and which many a father has found himself utterly unable to answer. Some idea of where it comes from may be gathered from a glance at the following table of the hourly quantity of water discharged into the sea annually by some of the best known rivers of the world. It was compiled by an expert, and may be copied as accurate:

River—	Amazon.	Mississippi.	Yangtze.	Nile.	Rheine.
Flow per hour.	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Flow per day.	26,400	26,400	26,400	26,400	26,400
Flow per month.	792,000	792,000	792,000	792,000	792,000
Flow per year.	23,760,000	23,760,000	23,760,000	23,760,000	23,760,000

This, of course, throws the question back a step. The question becomes, where does the water in the river come from? When that is answered by the statement that it comes from the hills we have gone about as far as we can go. Water is an element, and what its original source may be no man knows.

New Haven's Memorial Building.

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