

TO PASS A COIN THROUGH THE TABLE. Throw four or five coins down on the table. Now place the open palm of the left hand just below the edge of the table, so that you can pull the coins off the table one at a time and drop them into the palm. Before attempting to do this, unknown to the audience, palm a coin in the right palm, and as you count the coins off — 1, 2, 3, 4 — and as you pull the last coin drop the palmed coin in with the rest. The impression given is that you have counted four coins and dropped four in the left hand, whereas you have really five coins in the hand. Now you pick up a coin from the table with right hand; place the left hand on top of the table; take the coin that you have picked up from the table and tell your audience that you will pass it through the table. You hit the underneath part of the table with the coin held in right hand, at the same time palming it. Then open the left hand and throw the coins on the table, showing that you have five instead of four, having passed one through the table, which leaves you with another coin now palmed unknown to the audience. You can repeat the operation by counting the coins off again, dropping them into the left hand, counting 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and when dropping the fifth also drop the one now palmed into the hand, making six, whereas the audience thinks there are only five. Again pick another coin off the table in the same manner and repeat the trick as described above.

CHING LING SOO COIN TRICK. Two coins are used for performing this trick. One is a coin and the other is a shell, and both have a hole pierced in the center. (See Fig. 31.) The trick is performed as follows: First, hold the coin between your first and second fingers, then take an ordinary string and thread it through the hole. Then ask one of the spectators to hold one end of the string in one hand and other end in the other hand. You now throw the handkerchief over the coin and state that you will remove the coin from the string, but just as you do so

you pretend you have made a mistake and that instead of removing it from the string you will take it off the string and put it back on. What you really do is to remove only the shell, keeping the inside of the shell away from the audience so it will

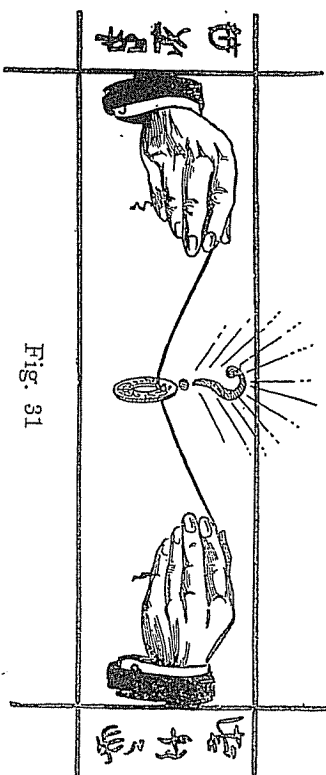


Fig. 31

not be detected. After you remove it the spectator still retains hold of the string. You now take the shell and place it under the handkerchief. Pretend that you will put it on the string, but what you really do is to palm the shell; then remove the handkerchief, and to the astonishment of the audience the coin is seen upon the string.

The astonishment and startling effect of this trick can be further increased by following the trick with that known as "The Chinese Coin on String," for by it the coin can now be removed from the string while a spectator apparently is holding it in his hands.

CHINESE COIN ON STRING. A coin with a hole in it is passed for examination, after which it is threaded on a string, the ends of which are held by the spectator. While the ends are being held firmly the coin is covered with a borrowed handkerchief, under cover of which the conjurer removes the coin entirely. The coin can be thoroughly examined, and found to be without preparation.

THE SECRET. Two coins, exactly alike, are required to perform the trick. The string should be about two feet long. Have the duplicate coin concealed in your right hand before the trick begins. Now, have one of the audience thread the coin onto the string, and have him hold the ends. Throw the handkerchief over the coin, and under cover of the handkerchief you grasp with the left hand the coin that is actually on the string, covering it. Now take the duplicate coin, which has been concealed in the right hand, and place it on the string as follows: Tell the spectator to give you plenty of slack. Pull the string

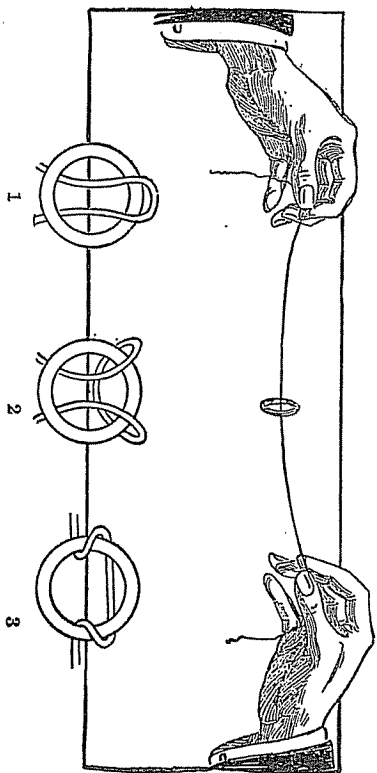


Fig. 32

through the duplicate coin. (See Fig. 32.) The string being pulled through the coin, as in 1, pass it over the coin 2, until it eventually assumes the appearance shown in 3. The performer now requests some one to remove the handkerchief, and just as it is being done, he slides the left hand (in which, it will be remembered, is the original coin) along the string toward the spectator's right hand, and the right hand makes a similar move toward the spectator's left. The performer indicates, as well as invites, the

spectator to free his hands, so that the performer is now holding the string. The spectator is now requested to remove the coin himself, which, of course, he can easily do.

The success of the trick depends upon this move, which is a perfectly natural one, and should be carried out without haste or excitement. You will find that the spectator will do as you request. The coin may again be examined, during which time the coin, which you have pulled off the string in this undetectable manner, can be slipped into your pocket. No one will suspect that there is a duplicate ring used.

By carefully reading the above, and at the same time going through the moves, you will be able to perform a trick which will bewilder and astonish the most intelligent audience.

COIN TRICKS WITH SIMPLE APPARATUS

VANISHING COIN FROM GLASS. A borrowed half-dollar is covered with a handkerchief. One of the audience holds it over a glass of water, and at the command of the performer drops it into the glass, where it is distinctly heard to fall. Upon removing the handkerchief the coin has completely disappeared.

SECRET. Take an ordinary drinking-glass with a flat bottom, as in Fig. 33, and partly fill it with water. Conceal a glass disc, the size of a half-dollar, in the right hand. Borrow a half-dollar and allow it to be marked. Now borrow an ordinary handkerchief and take the coin in the same hand in which you have the glass disc concealed, and place it under the handkerchief. Under cover of this, exchange the disc for the coin, and conceal the coin where the glass disc was, and leave the glass disc in the handkerchief, asking the spectator to hold the coin (glass disc) over the glass of water. Tell him to drop the coin (glass disc), which makes the same sound as the half-dollar would. You now remove the handkerchief and the "coin" has vanished.

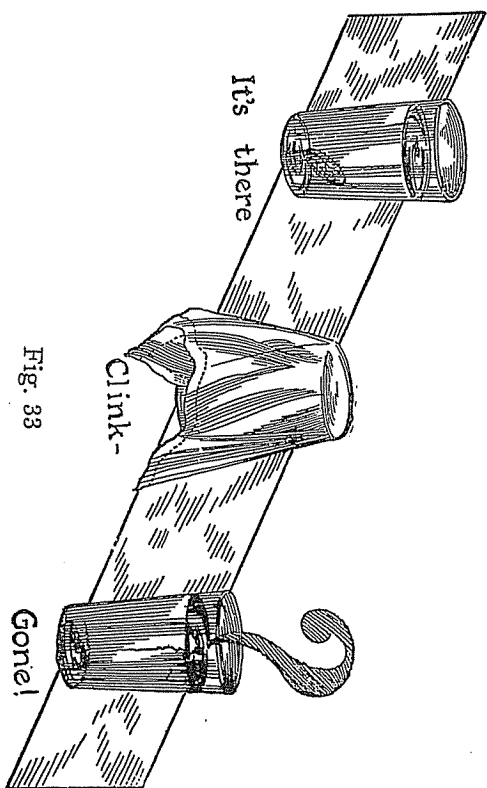


Fig. 33

The water may be poured out of the glass and yet the disc will not fall away and still remains invisible. The real coin can be produced in any way that suits the fancy of the performer.

TO REPRODUCE THE COIN. In the last trick we stated that the real coin could be produced in any way that suits the fancy of the performer, but we recommend, in conjunction with the vanishing coin from the glass, the following trick, known as the "Appearing Half-dollar in a Ball of Wool." These two tricks together are extremely effective. This trick has been performed by some of the best magicians, and never fails to bring the desired results. In the last trick the real marked coin was left palmed in the hand. You then exhibit an ordinary ball of wool, as in Fig. 34A, which can be shown to be tightly wound. You can explain that inside of the ball of wool is a metal box, and by throwing the ball of wool into a glass tumbler, one end of the ball of wool being held by a spectator and the wool unwound, the metal box will drop into the glass, and the marked coin will

be found inside of it. The metal box will be found to be securely closed and the top held on by means of an elastic band.

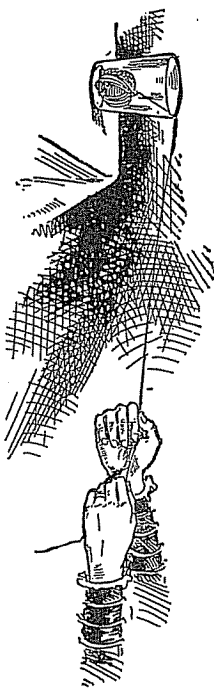


Fig. 34A

The metal box has an ordinary cover. The cover is removed and a metal tube, large enough for a half-dollar to drop through, is placed in the metal box and the cover put on and bound about with an elastic band to hold everything in place. (See Fig. 34B.)

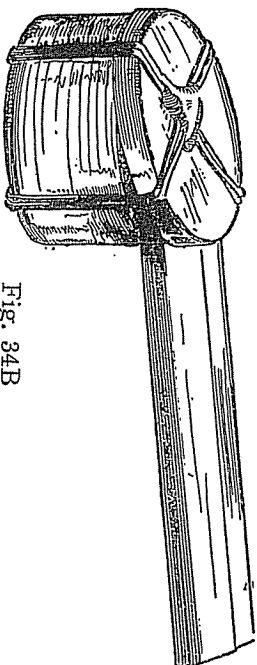


Fig. 34B

Of course, it cannot be actually closed, as the tube keeps it from closing. In this position the wool is wound about the cover so that when the tube is withdrawn the elastic will cause the cover to close. The metal box must have a fitted cover so that it will easily find its position on the rim of the box when the tube is withdrawn. When the tube is withdrawn from the yarn it, of course,

leaves no trace of anything having gone into it, and no one can conceive how the coin got inside of the box.

What you do is to go over to the table where the ball of wool, prepared as just described, is concealed behind something. You drop the marked coin through the tube, pull the tube out of the yarn, thereby closing the box, and leave the coin inserted therein. You take the ball of wool and drop it into the glass, and giving some one the end of the wool, tell him to start to unwind it. Then any one in the audience can open the box and take the marked coin out of it.

VANISHING AND REAPPEARING HALF-DOLLAR.

Effect: A half-dollar is borrowed, marked, and the date noted. It is then placed under a handkerchief in full view of the

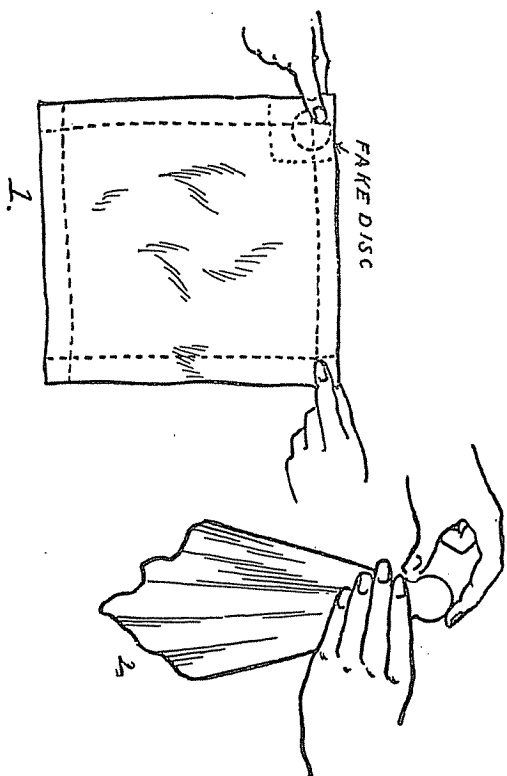


Fig. 35

audience and some one is asked to step forward and hold the coin which is under the handkerchief. (See Fig. 35.)

The performer now steps up, takes two corners of the handkerchief and shakes it out, showing that the coin has disappeared. He then makes the statement that he will cause the coin to invisibly return to its owner. The owner, when asked to look into his pocket, finds the marked coin there.

SECRET. Take two handkerchiefs and sew them together, concealing on the inside a disc of metal the same size as a half-dollar. Or, if you have a handkerchief with a stitched corner, you can cut a hole in the border and conceal the disc in the corner of the handkerchief. That is all that is necessary in the way of apparatus to do the trick.

You show the handkerchief one side and then the other to convince the audience that it is an ordinary handkerchief. You then ask for the loan of a half-dollar, asking the owner to notice the date or mark it so that he can be absolutely sure of its being the same one returned. You then come back on the stage and ask the party who loaned the half-dollar to you to follow. You hold the coin between the thumb and first finger of your right hand. You now put your hand under the handkerchief, and as you do so you palm the coin, and get hold of the disc which is inside of the double handkerchief or the hem, and you ask the man whose coin you have to hold it in full view of every one. He now is holding the disc, and you have palmed in your right hand the half-dollar. You now place your two hands on him and ask him to step forward. As you place your hands on him you drop the half-dollar into his pocket. This can be easily done, as all have their eyes upon the handkerchief the party is holding. They all think the same as he does, that he is holding the coin. You then step forward, grasp the handkerchief by its edges and shake it out. The gentleman is then asked if he is sure the coin has not returned to his pocket, whereupon he looks in his pocket, and, to his surprise, he will find the coin there.

THE PASS PASS COIN TRICK. In this trick five coins and two shells are used, and they are arranged on the table in two rows, as in the diagram. (See Fig. 36.) In one row there are apparently three coins only, but really there are three coins and a shell which fits over the bottom coin. The other row also has apparently three coins. In reality, however, there are only two coins and one shell. In this position the two covers are taken, one in each hand, and the coins are pushed into piles and covered. The covers are now removed and the coins drawn out upon the

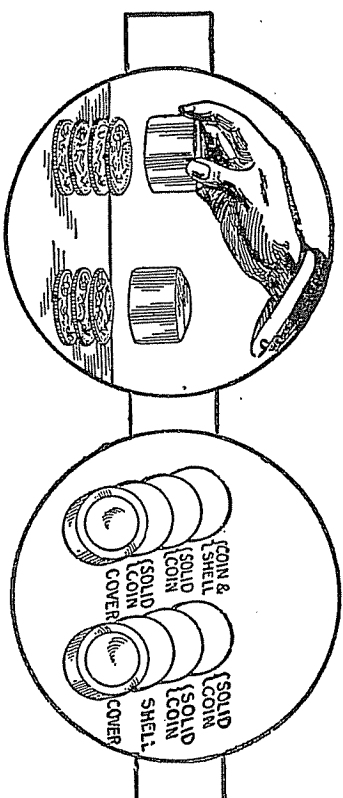


Fig. 36

table, and it will be noticed that the ones in the right-hand pile have diminished to two and the ones in the left-hand pile have increased to four (for in counting them you pick the shell off the lower coin and expose it to view). Apparently the number has increased on one side and decreased on the other. Pick up the right-hand pile and place on the left-hand pile. Now apparently pick off two from the top of the pile and place them on the table overlapping each other, as in the beginning of the trick. What you really do is to take off the shell and one coin. You now proceed as before, covering the two, and the four at

your left likewise. Removing the covers, only one coin is seen under one cover, while five are discovered under the other. Place all the coins together once more and pick off the shell only.

When only the shell is left on the right, you apparently pass it from underneath the table right through the table top and into the remaining pile. Have a small piece of adhesive wax or soap stuck to the under side of the table. Press the shell against it and leave it there. When you remove your hand from under the table you can show it to be empty. Remove the cover from the pile and show that the last coin has joined the others.

This trick requires some practice, but the effect is quite wonderful and will repay you.

THE OKETTO COIN BOX. The apparatus for this trick consists of the box only (Fig. 37), which is not prepared. The secret lies in the method of performing it, which makes it one of the best

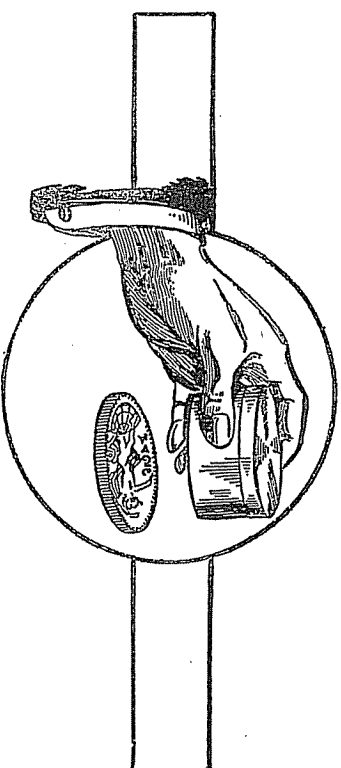


Fig. 37

pocket tricks. The box is placed on the palm of the left hand against the base of the fingers and the cover at the tips of the fingers. A half-dollar is borrowed and dropped into the box.

The performer, with his right hand, approaches the left, taking up the cover and apparently placing it directly over the box which contains the coin; but what he really does is to turn the box directly upside down and place the cover on the bottom. After a little practice, this movement can be executed under the very eyes of your spectators. No one will possibly suspect that the box is open at the bottom. The coin is now resting directly against the palm of your hand, covered by the box. The box is drawn forward to the tips of the fingers of the outstretched left hand. Now, to convince your audience that the coin is actually on the inside of the box, place the thumb on top, holding the box against the fingers shake the coin against the sides. Now state that you will further increase the effect by placing an ordinary playing-card underneath the box; but what you really do, however, is to place the card between the coin and the box, so that the coin is under the card and the box is on top of the card. This, to the audience, will make it doubly impossible for the coin to be removed through a "trap-door" in the bottom. You now ask any one to draw a handkerchief over the box, and request him to tap it, when you open your fingers. The coin drops to the floor. Now, before allowing the box to be examined, you take hold of the handkerchief with your right hand and remove the cover from the bottom, dropping the whole apparatus onto the table, giving the audience the impression that the cover fell off accidentally.

With this explanation, and the box in front of you, any one, with a few minutes' practice, should be able to perform the trick. It requires a little practice, and must be performed with confidence.

THE MULTIPLYING COIN (Fig. 38). A coin, the size of a half-dollar, is shown on the palm of the left hand. The right hand, which the performer shows to be absolutely empty, is passed over the coin, whereupon it "multiplies" to two.

The "coin" is really a coin and a shell which fits over it and looks exactly like another coin. To perform the trick exhibit the coin with the shell fitted over it, which, of course, will look like one ordinary coin, and place it upon the outstretched palm

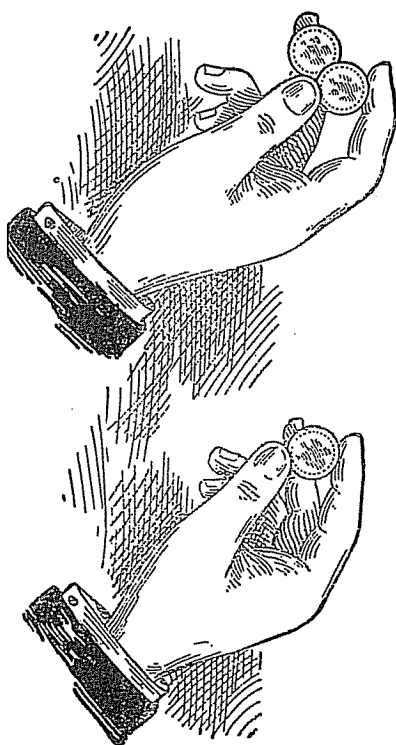


Fig. 38

of the left hand. Now pass the right hand, which you take great pains to show empty, over the coin, and as you do so clip the sides of the shell with fingers and lift off the shell. Many moves of a very deceptive nature can be performed with this apparatus.

VANISHING THE COIN FROM PAPER. The effect of the trick is that you borrow the coin and have it marked, if so desired. This is folded up in a piece of paper, and to satisfy the audience that the coin is still there, you allow any one to feel it before you make the last fold. When the paper is torn up the coin is found to have vanished, and can be reappeared in any of the various methods described.

The secret of the trick lies in the method of folding the paper, and this is done as follows:

First the paper is laid out flat to be folded as shown in No. 1, Fig. 39. Next, one side of the paper is folded over and then the other; and if part of the paper overlaps, that is folded down

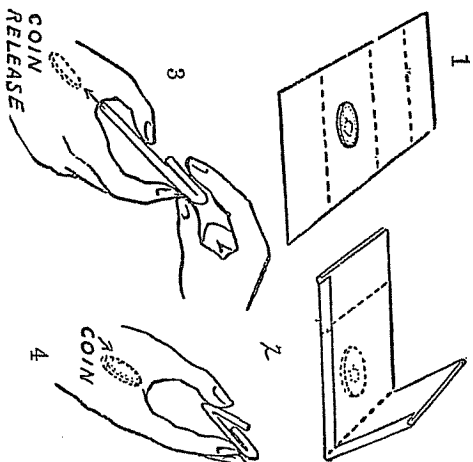


Fig. 39

as in No. 2. This leaves the paper in the form of a flat tube with both ends open. Now the front end of the flat paper tube is folded over. Up to this time everything is perfectly fair, and you can step forward and ask some one to feel the coin in the paper to demonstrate that it is still there. You now make another fold, which is designated as No. 3, at which time you

release the coin by holding the paper as illustrated, letting it slip down into the palm of your hand just before making the last fold, as No. 4. All that is necessary to release this coin from the tube is to tilt the hand a little bit and it will slip into the palm, where it can be palmed.

From the explanation this sounds very simple, but requires a little practice. Nicely presented, it is very puzzling to the audience. The simplicity of the trick is the most interesting part of it, and I have never seen any one have the least suspicion as to how the coin is disappeared. This is not really called a trick, it is only a method or ruse to disappear a coin right under the eyes of the audience. The method of reproducing the coin will leave to your own fancy. Personally, I work this in con-

junction with the trick of reproducing a coin from a sealed envelope, which makes a good combination.

COIN JUGGLING. The following effect in coin juggling, and one that can be mastered in a comparatively short time, is always quite effective. It can be put into your program almost any place, and will impress upon the audience your skill as a manipulator. The effect of the trick is that three coins are placed on the back of the hand, as in Fig. 40, and they are then thrown into the air and caught, one at a time.

The secret of the trick lies in the fact that you toss the coins into the air from the back of the hand, as in position No. 1. In doing so you flex the back of the hand, and in this way the coins are not actually tossed together. What takes place is that coin A leaves the hand first, B next, and C last. No. 2 illustrates how the coins fall, and should clearly visualize to you how simple it is to catch the coins one at a time as they fall.

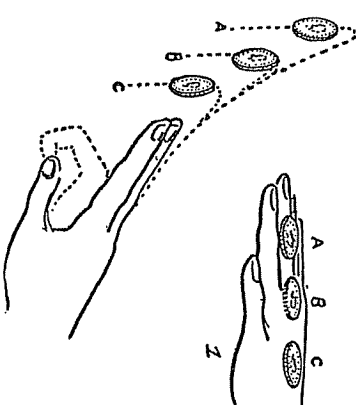


Fig. 40

REPRODUCING A COIN. Get two envelopes, one of which can be fitted into the other. (See Fig. 41, Nos. 1 and 2.) The only apparatus necessary is a flat tube of metal, such as is shown and used in the celebrated Ball of Wool trick. The secret of getting the coin into the center of the envelope is quite similar to the Ball of Wool trick, and is almost as effective. The tube is arranged so that it can be passed into the center of the second envelope; although both envelopes are sealed, sufficient space

can be left to insert the tube at a point near the flap (No. 6). Now the envelopes thus prepared and sealed with the tube inserted are ready for the trick. The envelopes are put in the pocket with the tube in position for inserting the coin when ready. You now borrow a coin, which is marked, and place it in a piece

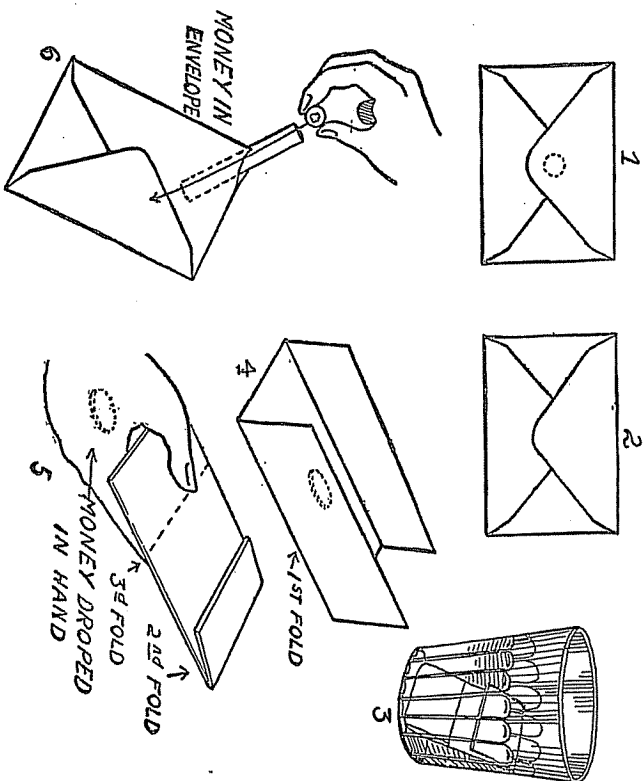


Fig. 41

of paper folded as described in the Vanishing Coin from Paper trick. We show this folding process once again (Nos. 4 and 5), and to add to the method of presenting it, we suggest that you do not tear up the paper, but place it in the tumbler, where it is visible to the audience (No. 3), thereby giving the impression that the coin is still inside.

You now reach down into your pocket to secure the envelopes, when you drop the palmed coin into the tube, which leaves the coin in the center of the second envelope. The tube is withdrawn and the envelopes passed out to be opened. Ask some one to hold the envelopes over his head and another party to hold the folded paper over his head and command the coin to pass from one to the other, when it will be found that the coin is in the envelope.

PASSING A LARGE COIN THROUGH A SMALL HOLE. This is a simple little pocket trick, which can be classed more as a puzzle, but I find it nice to know a few of these simple little tricks that you can spring unprepared at any time or any place. The effect of the puzzle is that a hole smaller than the coin is cut out of an

ordinary piece of paper. (See Fig. 42, No. 1.) Now ask any one if he can put the

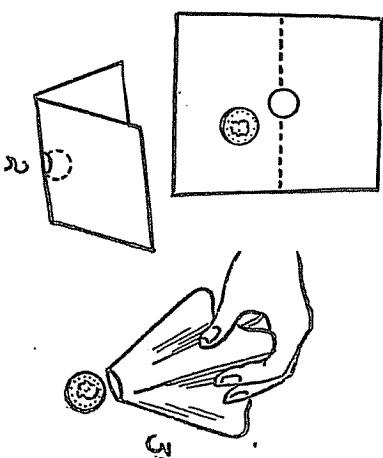


Fig. 42

half-dollar through the hole; he will, of course, find that he cannot do so. The secret of the puzzle lies in folding the paper as in No. 2. Then draw in the ends, or what is really another fold, as in No. 3, and the coin can be made to pass through without tearing the paper. You should try this little trick, because you will be surprised to find how small a hole a large coin can be passed through in this way. It is a very interesting little coin trick, and one which you will perform easily and delightfully.

TO MAKE A COIN DISAPPEAR. This is a dandy little trick, because it requires no practice and any one can successfully do the trick. The effect is that an ordinary piece of white unprepared paper is laid on the table. With another piece of paper you make a cylinder, which can be pinned together or pasted together

with a sticker. (See

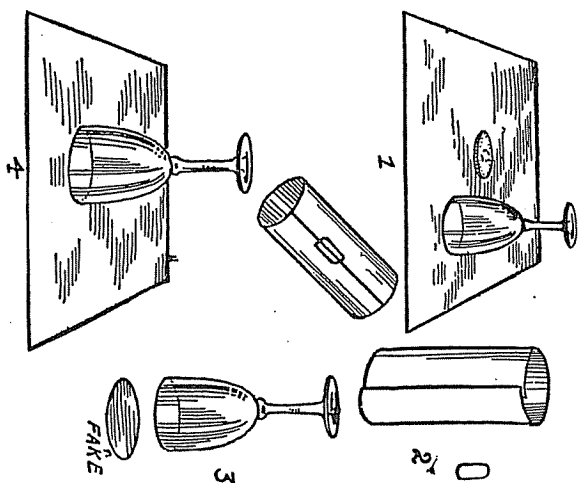


Fig. 43

Fig. 43, No. 2.) This cylinder is placed over a goblet, under which is a coin. The goblet can be raised inside the cylinder with the thumb and first finger. Now, with a few mystic words, you can command the coin to disappear. Upon removing the cylinder the coin has vanished from under the goblet. You can command it to reappear by placing the cylinder again over the goblet. When both are lifted the coin will again appear.

The secret of the trick is in the preparation of the goblet in advance, by pasting over the mouth of the goblet a piece of paper the same color as the paper that you are going to use on the table.

Now, after preparing the goblet in this way, have it setting on the paper on the table, as in No. 1. The cylinder is then put over the glass and placed over the coin. Upon removing the cylinder the coin will apparently have vanished. To make it

reappear, it is only necessary to remove the goblet and cylinder together. You can readily see that it is a very simple little trick, and one that you can do with very little practice. The apparatus is always handy about the house.

THE COIN APPEARING IN THE LEMON. The following is a very effective little trick, and one that will give you great pleasure in performing, because the apparatus can readily be gotten up, and it makes an excellent after-dinner trick.

The effect of the trick is that a coin is borrowed and a member of the audience is asked to mark it so that he can identify it later. While he is still retaining hold of the coin you pass around a plate of lemons and ask some one to select a lemon. You now put the lemon on the table in front of every one and, taking a handkerchief from your pocket, you place a coin under the handkerchief, asking one of the company to hold the coin through the handkerchief. Next you take the lemon and, forcing the end of your knife into it, you tell the party holding the coin under the handkerchief that when you say "let go," he is to drop it. You retain a corner of the handkerchief in your own hand. When you say "let go" you cut the lemon in two; the coin is found in the center of the lemon. The one who loaned the coin to you and marked it, is asked to identify it.

The secret of the trick lies in the prepared handkerchief first, which can be prepared before the trick is done, by having a duplicate coin sewed in the corner of the handkerchief. (See Fig. 44, No. 1.) It is necessary to secure a handkerchief with a wide hem, so that the coin can be inserted without fear of detection. When you take the handkerchief from your pocket and borrow a coin, which is placed under the handkerchief as in No. 3, what you do is to palm the marked coin and pick up the corner of the handkerchief where the fake coin is, and push this up under the handkerchief. In this position it can be held by any one in the audience, as in No. 5. Now the second thing necessary to have is