

FIG. 11

back of the left hand so it faces the audience. (See Figure 12.) Grasp the handkerchief that is hanging in full view from the left hand, turn it over and stroke it down two or three times, showing the right hand now to be empty. (See Figure 13.) In this move the fake has been transferred from the right hand into the left hand.

Important. Read this through carefully, following the movements

holding the fake palmed, take the handkerchief from between the thumb and first finger of the left hand and bring it between the first and second fingers; that is, hang it over the back of the three lower fingers. (See Figure 10.) Now stroke the handkerchief with the right hand, which is holding the fake in a perfectly natural manner, and on the upward movement place the fake into the palm of the left hand. (See Figure 11.) At the same instant turn the

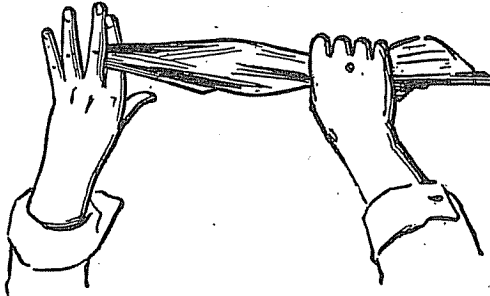


FIG. 12

with the fake and handkerchief as mentioned, because the importance of the whole performance of this part of the entertainment consists in this clever sleight of hand movement which was invented and performed with international success and fame by Mr. Stillwell.

Now stroke the handkerchief which is hanging from

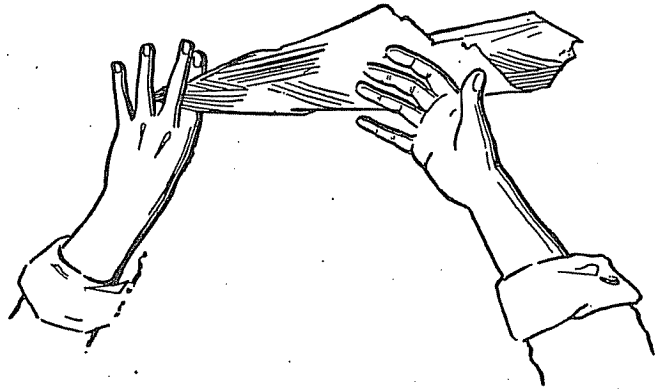


FIG. 13

the left hand; hold the fake in the left palm, and continue to stroke the handkerchief, showing the front and back of the right hand to be empty. On one of the strokes, which start very near to the other hand, drop the fake into the right hand behind the handker-

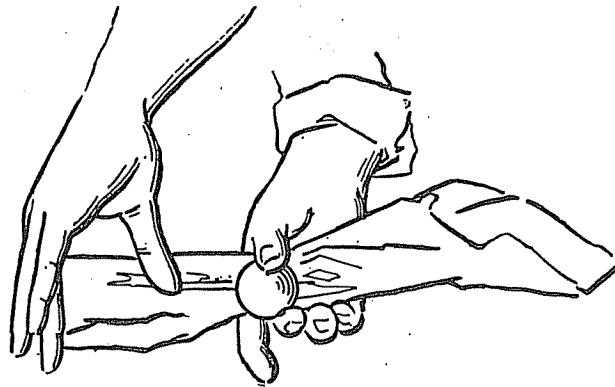


FIG. 14

chief which is hanging over the index finger of the left hand. (See Figure 14.) The view shown in the illustration is the one you get. The audience obtains the opposite view. When you drop the handkerchief you continue to stroke it as before. Now you have transferred the fake to the right hand. You now turn the left hand toward the audience, still holding the handkerchief in the same position between the first and second fingers. (See Figure 10.) You are now where you started with the fake in the palm of the right hand. Take the protruding point of the white handkerchief from the palm of the right hand and bring out the second handkerchief, your right side all the time facing the audience. You proceed in exactly the same manner, releasing the second handkerchief and repeating the operations just as described until the three handkerchiefs have been produced. Show your right hand and then your left hand to be empty in the manner already described.

This is a very spectacular and pretty act if nicely done and properly practiced. Do not be afraid because you think the description sounds hard. I have taught this to many boys who have learned it in a short time and performed it with wonderful success.

However, you have not yet finished the trick because you are left with the fake still in your right hand, and the three handkerchiefs. You have to get rid of the fake, and this is done in a very simple and deceptive manner. You go over to the handkerchief stand which is on your left and in the act of dropping the three handkerchiefs over it, fuss around the stand a little bit. While placing the handkerchiefs on the stand, you drop the fake into the servante behind the other handkerchiefs that are hiding it. While doing this you take the second fake, which we will call No. 2 and which is concealed in the little pocket inside the servante.

This fake has in it three silk handkerchiefs which have been

placed there all together. They must be tucked in very tightly, and you will be surprised to find that three handkerchiefs, which seem to take up so much space, can be so easily tucked into one of these fakes. I have seen four of the very finest quality silk handkerchiefs put into one of these fakes. This fake not only has a large hole in it but has two small holes through which a piece of horse hair or cat-gut is tied in the form of a loop. (See Figure 15.) This loop is for the purpose of concealing the fake on the back of the hand, and should be sticking up over the fake as it lies in the pocket of the servante, so that when you drop the other fake, after having produced the red, white and blue handkerchiefs, you take the thumb of the right hand and pass it through the loop, picking up the fake containing the new set of handkerchiefs.

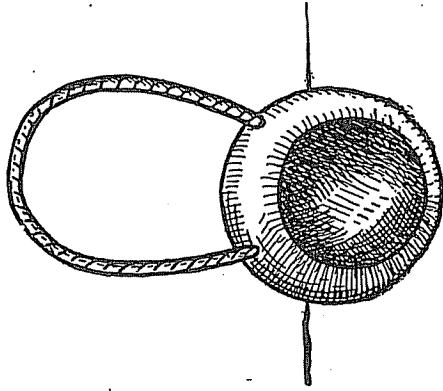


FIG. 15

After you have tried this once you will find out how easily the fake can be held, and even persons very close to you cannot detect the horse hair. Again, standing with your right side toward the audience and the back of the right hand facing in that direction, you hold the fake suspended upon the thumb, with the cat-gut loop in position as in

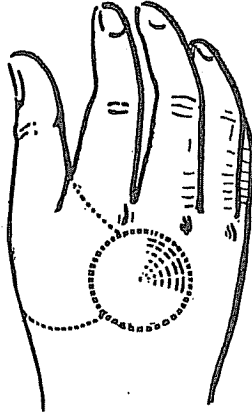


FIG. 16

duced the red, white and blue handkerchiefs, you take the thumb of the right hand and pass it through the loop, picking up the fake containing the new set of handkerchiefs.

Figure 16. Now, once again, you reach forward, showing the left hand to be empty; a little pull on the sleeve with the right hand and you show the left hand front and back. You now fake

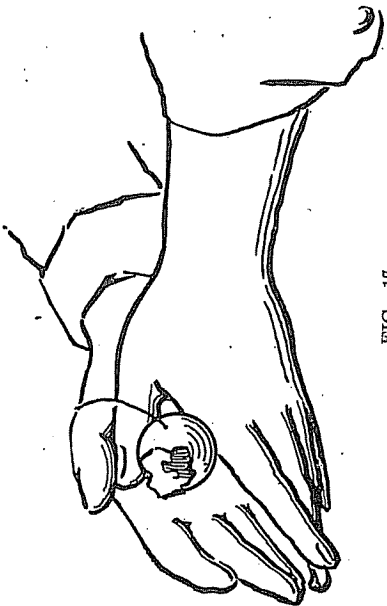


FIG. 17

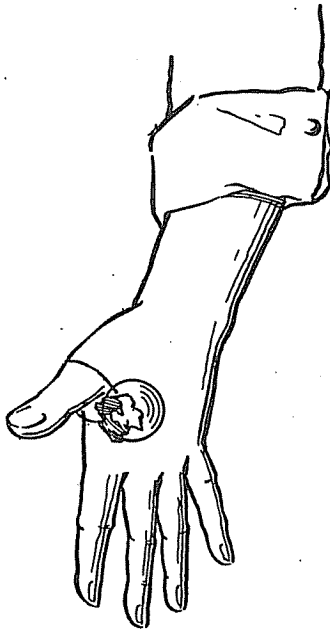


FIG. 18

the left hand, which is facing the audience, and bring it toward the right hand which is holding the fake as though you were going to clap them together, palm against palm. Then you take the thumb of the left hand and put it through the loop, trans-

ferring the fake from the right onto the back of the left hand (see Figure 17) where it now hangs concealed. Back view is not seen by audience. (See Figure 18.) You can now face the audience showing the palms of both hands to be absolutely empty, being careful not to turn the back of the left hand so that it can be seen by the audience. You now once again approach the left hand with the right, turning around so that you

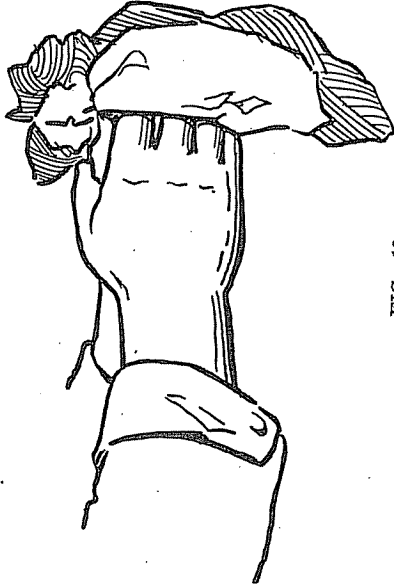


FIG. 19

can get the fake between the two hands; and then, holding them in a position as though you were catching a ball, you gradually work the handkerchiefs out of the fake all together (see Figure 19), making a very astonishing effect, the idea being to produce a variety of colors. This enables you to start your performance, having produced a number of silk handkerchiefs. This last trick with cat-gut loop on the fake must be practiced before a mirror so that it will become second nature to you to do it. It may seem very difficult for you to do. However, I have seen a number of boys do the trick with unusual success and after careful practice they were never detected. It has been done most suc-

cessfully by the leading conjurers in all parts of the world, and it will be well worth your time and patience to try this because it makes a beautiful introduction to an evening's entertainment with handkerchiefs. However, if you do not care for these tricks, you can start in with the more mechanical tricks, which we will describe later.

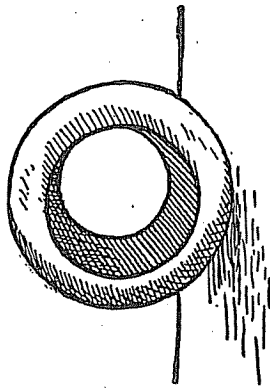


FIG. 20

DYEING A HANDKERCHIEF

This trick is worked by means of a little fake having two holes in it, as illustrated in Figure 20. In this fake is inserted one of the silk handkerchiefs (blue) and the fake is then put on the table or in one of the pockets of the servante which is concealed by a handkerchief back of the stand. You now explain that you are going to select a handkerchief. You go over to the stand and pick up a handkerchief (red), and at the same time the little fake. Conceal it in the palm of the right hand, holding the handkerchief between the thumb and first finger of the same hand. Show the left hand front and

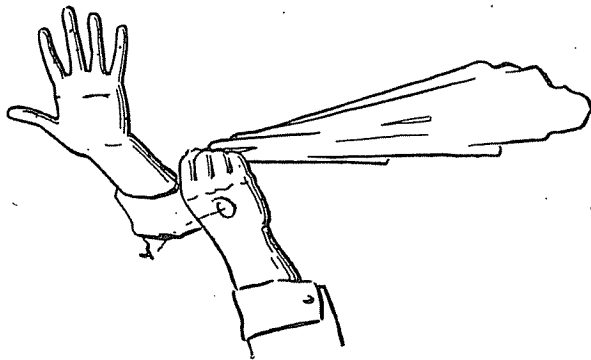


FIG. 21

back. (See Figure 21.) Now you stroke the handkerchief with the left hand (see Figure 22), still holding the fake in the right.

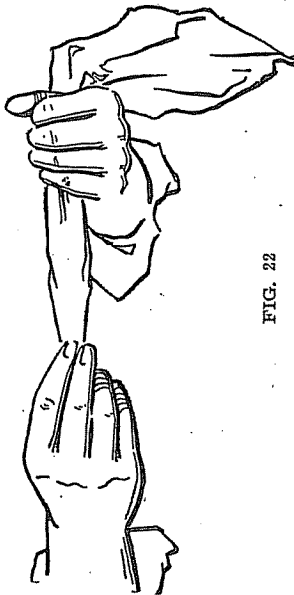


FIG. 22

On one of these strokes you simply drop the little fake into the palm of the left hand. Change your position directly around so that the left side of your body faces the audience. Pull the handkerchief once more through the left hand, which is closed, holding the fake in the inside of it, the back of the hand facing the audience; but on the last stroke do not pull the handkerchief clear through the hand. Holding on to the handkerchief which hangs down you now take the tip of it (see Figure 23) between the thumb and finger of the right hand and bring it up

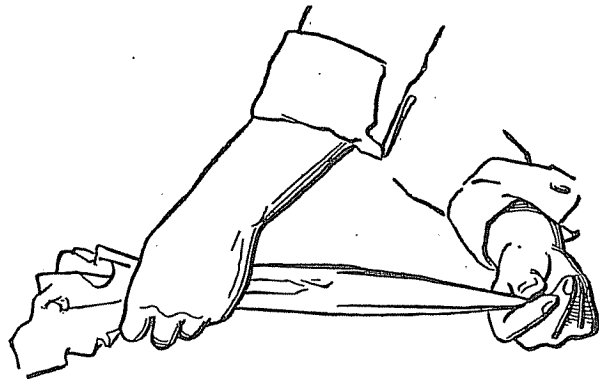


FIG. 23

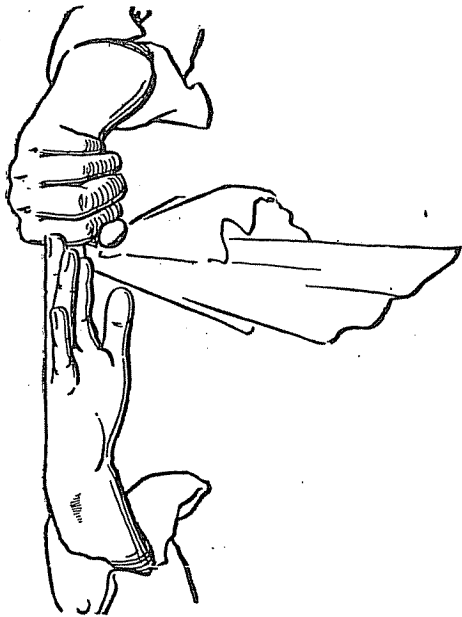


FIG. 24

and around so as to tuck it into the other side of the closed fist. Now face the audience with the back of the hand toward them

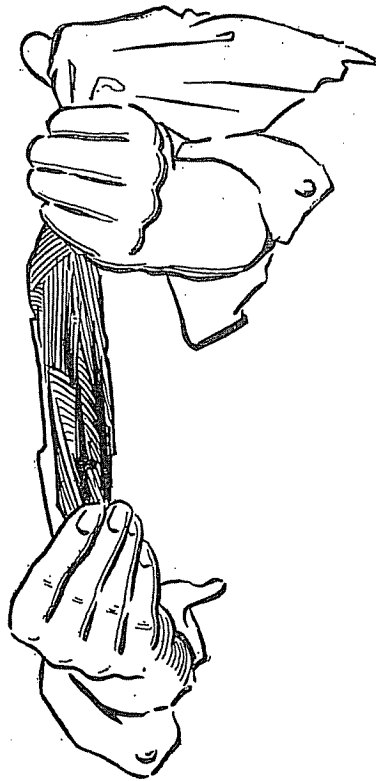


FIG. 25

and tuck the red handkerchief into one end of the fake. (See Figure 24.) Next turn the left hand directly over so that the fake is facing you (see Figure 25), the handkerchief hanging down on the other side, and draw the blue handkerchief little by little out of the fake. This leaves one end hanging down, so tuck the red handkerchief in a little more, turning the hand over each time you tuck and pull it. Pull a little of the blue out, tuck a little of the red in and so on, until the blue is clear out where you can hold it firmly with the little finger against the palm of your hand. Turn the hand holding the fake over, with the back of your hand toward your face, and tuck the red handkerchief into the fake with the index finger. In this act of tucking in you first use the index finger, then the second finger, repeating this tucking or pushing operation several times; so that the audience will not detect when you transfer the fake from the left hand into the right. This is the important part of the trick, for in one of the tucking motions the second finger grasps the fake and places it into the palm of the right hand. (See Figure 26.) The move is shown in position to clearly illustrate method of transfer. In reality the back of right hand conceals this movement. This leaves

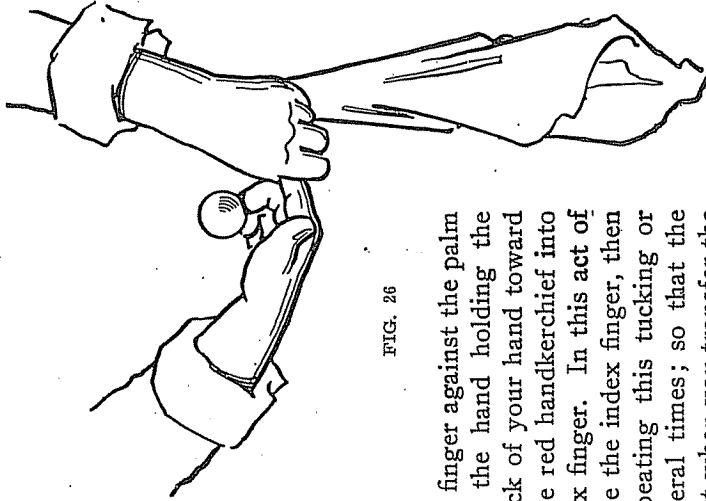


FIG. 26

the back of right hand conceals this movement. This leaves

the handkerchief, the color of which has been changed, hanging from the left hand with the fist closed. You now turn your hand over again, swinging your body around so that your right side faces the audience. You turn the hand over, not opening it as yet. The audience will be under the impression that you still have the red handkerchief in your left hand, whereas it has been transferred to your right hand. You now take the tip of the handkerchief which is hanging from the left hand and you pull it out, keeping your eye on the left hand. The audience will keep their eyes where you direct them.

Now is the psychological moment of the trick. Everyone wants to see that hand open. They think the handkerchief is in it. Now slowly open the fingers, one by one, starting with the little finger, and show it to be empty. Then go over to the handkerchief stand and lay the handkerchief across the bar, dropping the fake into the servante. This is one of the best handkerchief tricks that has ever been done. Although simple, it will always get you a good hand if done neatly and deftly. Again we emphasize the importance of following up the movements of the fake as you read the directions, otherwise it will appear impossible to understand the trick. Then you should practice in front of a mirror, and you will soon be able to do the trick with astonishing results.

The next trick is The Conjuror as a Dyer.

THE CONJURER AS A DYER

Insert the three colored handkerchiefs one at a time in a round metal tube, putting in at last one white handkerchief. Then drive two stout pins in the rear edge of the table and on these lay the metal tube which, although directly below the rear edge of the table, is entirely concealed from the audience. On

the table or chair, have lying three white handkerchiefs and a sheet of rather stiff paper of about 7x10 inches in size. First pick up the paper, and after freely showing it again, place it near the rear edge of the table or over the back of the chair. Then hold up the three handkerchiefs, lay them down and pick up the paper again and behind it, unknown to the audience, the metal tube. Proceed to roll the paper into the form of a cylinder, the operation being facilitated by the metal tube. When done, pick up the first white handkerchief and insert it partly into the lower end of the paper cylinder, then taking the wand push it in entirely. This pushes the other white handkerchief out of the upper end of the tube and paper, thus apparently demonstrating that the white handkerchief has passed clear through the tube. Take this handkerchief again and insert it in the lower end of the tube and this time it changes into a red handkerchief in the act of passing through. The next white handkerchief, by a similar process, is changed into a yellow one, and the last into a blue one. As the last blue handkerchief is held up and shown, the other hand holds the paper cylinder in such a manner that its lower end rests against the rear edge of the table or back of the chair. A slight relaxation of pressure allows the metal tube to slide out of the paper into a bag or box of sawdust concealed behind the table. The conjurer can now unroll the paper and show it to be empty.

Some performers make the paper tube first, and then show it empty, after which the metal tube is loaded into the paper one.

This is accomplished by having the metal tube concealed under one of the white handkerchiefs and, in the act of picking up the latter and inserting it into the lower end of the paper cylinder, the metal tube is inserted first under cover of the white handkerchief, the trick then proceeding as already described.

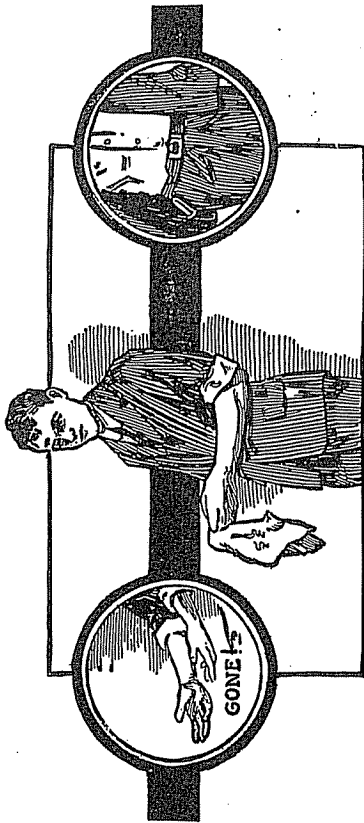


FIG. 27

THE HANDKERCHIEF VANISHER

The Handkerchief Vanisher or "Pull," as it is sometimes called, is a very useful piece of magical apparatus, enabling the performer to cause a handkerchief to disappear from his hands. It consists of a small metal cup to which a piece of black elastic cord is attached.

Thread the end of the elastic through the belt strap of the trousers directly over the pocket on the right side and pass it around the back until the "Pull" is brought up close to the body. Tie the end of the elastic to a button on the left side. This leaves the "Pull" hanging from the belt strap (see Figure 27) on the right side, hidden from view by the coat.

To cause the handkerchief to disappear, stand with the left side towards the audience, holding the handkerchief in the left hand and calling the audience's attention to it. While you are doing this you have an opportunity to get hold of the "Pull" with your right hand. When this is done, turn sharply around towards the audience so that your right side is now towards them. You still have the handkerchief in your left hand. The right hand closed around the "Pull" (with its back towards the

audience) is held in front of the body, the elastic being stretched out to its full length and being hidden from view by the right forearm. Now push the handkerchief completely into the "Pull" and release it. Of course it will instantly fly beneath the coat and out of sight. **Keep your right hand closed as though it still contained the handkerchief, at the same time move both hands away from your body.** This gives the spectators the impression that you are still holding the handkerchief. Then open your hand, showing it entirely empty. Practice this several times in front of a mirror before showing the trick to an audience. If there are no belt straps on your trousers, a small ring sewn directly over the pocket will answer the purpose.

THE MIRROR GLASS

This is a simple piece of apparatus which can be easily made and is very effective. Take an ordinary prism glass tumbler.

(See Figure 28.) Cut a piece of mirror to fit inside of the glass and place inside as shown in the illustration.

Now, to the audience, it looks as though the glass is entirely empty; it is very deceiving and no one will ever imagine there is anything in it. In back of the mirror you can conceal any number of handkerchiefs you desire. Now cover the glass over with a handkerchief; wave your wand over it and pronounce the words "Mysto Magic"; as you lift the handkerchief off you lift the mirror also and disclose the handkerchiefs. It is a very effective production and quite pretty and startling.

Many other combinations can be worked up with the mirror

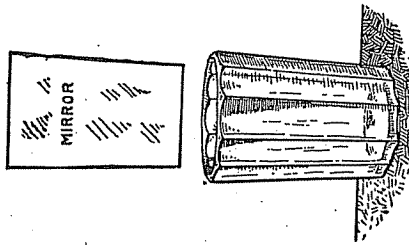


FIG. 28

glass to suit your fancy, and you will enjoy it very much because it is simple to do. You will not have to worry about its working successfully.

THE DISAPPEARING HANDKERCHIEF FROM A LAMP CHIMNEY

I consider this one of the best handkerchief tricks ever invented. It has a decided feature over most tricks in that it can be done right in front of the eyes of the audience, whereas most changes are made when the object is concealed. Here is a trick

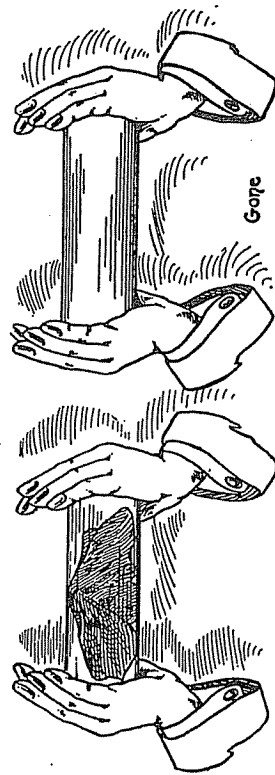


FIG. 29

where you tell them you are going to vanish something right in front of their eyes. No one will ever guess the secret if the trick is done well. Some of the best magicians use this trick when they first come on the stage and it really is very effective.

The Effect. You exhibit an ordinary glass lamp chimney or one of the mica kinds that you buy in the 5 and 10 cent stores. Any glass tube will do (see Figure 29) or anything that is transparent, about 6 or 8 inches long and $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 inches in diameter. You exhibit this tube and an ordinary handkerchief which, holding in your right hand, you tuck into the tube. Hold the tube between the palms of the hands in

front of you. Now, with the magic words, "Mysto Magic," the handkerchief will disappear right in front of the eyes of the audience.

The Secret. There is no fake about the lamp chimney. There is no fake about the handkerchief, except that to the center of it you tie a stout cord which you run up the sleeve of the right arm and across your back, attaching it above the elbow of the left arm. When it is attached and your arms are released, hold it so that the handkerchief will be under the right sleeve. Now you can pull the handkerchief down to the tips of the fingers of the right hand, holding your arms so that the handkerchief will be in full view. This enables you to tuck it into the chimney in a perfectly natural way. The cord cannot be seen by the audience. Of course you must have the handkerchief in your hand before you start the trick; in other words you must pull it out of your sleeve unnoticed. Now, by giving the chimney a forward push the cord will be shortened and the handkerchief will disappear.

If you will practice this a few times you can make the handkerchief disappear so neatly that it will not be detected.

This is a difficult trick to explain, but if you will follow the directions about attaching the cord across your body, as already described, you will find it comparatively simple and easy.

HERMAN'S VANISHING KNOTS

This is one of Alexander Herman's favorite tricks and with a little practice you can make a big success of it like he did. It does not require any fake handkerchiefs; everything can be passed for examination. Although I do not give magical entertainments very often, I can always do this trick without much practice after once getting the secret of it. I do not mean that you should not practice, because practice is the thing that

will give you self-confidence. Never try to do a trick in front of anyone until you have practiced it.

The Effect. You go into the audience and ask someone to tie two handkerchiefs together at the ends. Then you take the handkerchiefs out of their hands and draw the knots tighter; asking someone else to tie another knot, take them

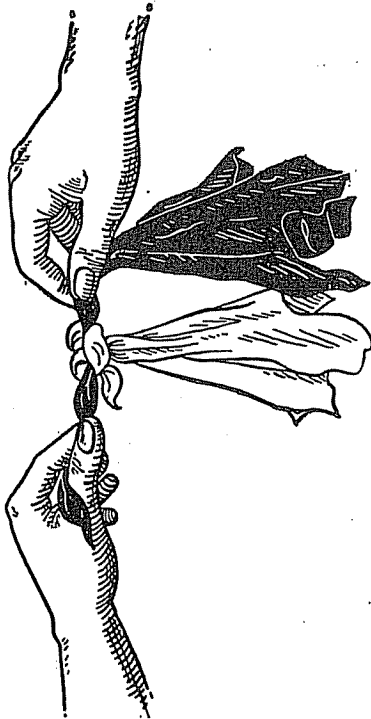


FIG. 30

back and tighten them. Then you fold the knots inside the handkerchiefs and blow on them, drop them, and they fall apart. You can have three or four handkerchiefs tied together, which is still more effective, with the same results.

How the Trick Is Worked. Take two ordinary silk handkerchiefs, twisting them rope fashion. Now you ask one of the audience to tie the ends together. After tying them together you can say "Oh, they are not tight enough" and you give them another pull, giving the impression that you are pulling them still tighter. You do this after each knot is made; and as many as three can be tied with perfect safety if you are thoroughly familiar with the trick. (See Figure 30.)

What You Do. After the audience has tied the knot and you are supposed to be tightening the knot, you really straighten one end of the handkerchief by grasping it above and below the knot; the result of this being that you pull the end of one of the handkerchiefs out of its knotted condition into a straight line, although the other end of the handkerchief remains tight and twisted. In reality, you are converting the knot into a slipknot. After the next knot is tied you straighten the same end of the handkerchief in the same way. All you have to keep in mind is to keep the one handkerchief straight and pull the same one straight each time. Try this while reading the directions, and you will soon see how simple it is. Another thing to remember in pulling this into a slipknot is that one end is left longer than the other, because the other is twisted around and around the straight end. You can get around this very easily by drawing it partially back through the slipknot every time you are supposed to be tightening the knots.

To Do the Trick. Now cover over the knots with the left hand, holding the straightened portion of the handkerchief immediately behind the knots between the first finger and thumb of the right hand. In doing so, that is when covering over the knots, you draw the straightened portion completely out of the slipknot.

We have simply described here the trick as performed with two handkerchiefs, but we would suggest that you do it as Herman did, because it is much more baffling by allowing a number of handkerchiefs to be tied together in this way. When tying a number of knots, you can use an excuse for examining each knot, asking each one, "What kind of a knot did you tie?" This gives you an opportunity to make the slipknot as already described.

Be On Your Guard. There is only one thing that is likely to fool you in this trick, and if you are on your guard you will