



THE MAGIC COTTON.

How to Put a Hatful of the Fluffy Stuff in a Goblet.

Do you know that you can mystify your little friends when the proper opportunity occurs by putting a whole hatful of cotton into a small goblet?

A hatful of cotton put into a goblet! Impossible, you say? Not at all, and there is no catch or trick about it either. What makes the feat seem more remarkable is the fact that the glass is not empty in the first place, but is filled, or nearly filled, with alcohol. The raw cotton must have been carefully pulled apart into little shreds so as to be as light and fluffy as possible. In this condition it doesn't take very much of it to fill even a "stove-



THE MAGIC COTTON TRICK.

pipe" hat if it is laid in very gently. Then all you have to do is to take it out bit by bit and drop it into the glass. As it accumulates you must press it down on the bottom of the glass with a spoon or lead pencil, and by proceeding slowly and carefully you will finally succeed in getting it all into the glass without even causing the alcohol to overflow, to the great amazement of the spectators.—New York World.

Dickens' School Pets.

When Charles Dickens was a boy at Wellington House academy it was the secret pride of the students there that they owned more white mice, red polts and linnets than any other set of boys within their ken. These were kept in hatboxes, drawers and even in the school desks. A small but very accomplished mouse, which lived in the corner of a Latin dictionary in Dickens' desk and could draw Roman chariots, fire paper muskets and scale pasteboard ladders, fell at last into an overfull inkpot and lost both its white coat and its life. Dickens nevertheless won a prize for his Latin, and a well thumbed and blotted Horace which he once presented to his coach recently fetched a high price at an exhibition in England.

Incombustible Wood.

Alum and glue in equal parts are dissolved in water strongly saturated with salt. Both solutions are mixed together. Dip splinters of wood into the fluid until every part is saturated; let them dry and repeat the process. Wood prepared in such a way will not burn. To make the trick more interesting and to avoid the suspicion that the splinters are prepared mix them among other unprepared splinters after marking them in a certain way.

After burning a few splinters pick out one of the prepared ones and declare that by your magic influence the splinter you hold in your hand will become incombustible. Hand it over to the audience, and it is easily understood that nobody will be able to set it afire.

Turn the Edges In.

Dear little girl, if you would sew
Have near each needle thing
Your needle, thimble, scissors, thread,
Your buttons on a string.
Prepare your work with greatest care,
The best are you begin,
And if you find the seams are rough
Just turn the edges in.

Dear little girl, if you would grow
Like flowers in the spring,
Have near the tiny thoughtful deeds
That early sunshines bring.
Sweet temper, patience, love and trust
The race will surely win,
And if good resolutions fray
Just turn the edges in. —Exchange.

He Loves Wild Animals.

The young emperor of Morocco is passionately fond of animals, especially wild ones, and a large, open square outside his favorite portion of the palace is entirely given over to them. Through the bars of their cages blink huge, tawny maned lions and spotted tigers, while gazelles, Barbary sheep, cranes and even wild boars roam about the grounds at will.

Royal Children's Clothes.

Prince Edward of Wales and his brothers are allowed to wear their old clothes at Sandringham and get themselves as dirty as they please.

While in London they have to keep their attire four times a day and change themselves always spick and span. It goes without saying that they much prefer Sandringham.

CULINARY CONCEITS.

Too much baking powder in a cake will make it "crumbly."

Vegetables that will be done in twenty minutes' boiling will require from thirty to forty minutes if steamed.

Brush the bottom crust of pie with white of egg before putting in the fruit to prevent the juices being absorbed and the crust soggy.

Lettuces that have grown stalky and are useless as salads are a dish fit for a kingdom of kings if steamed and served like cabbages with butter, pepper and salt.

A variation of fried potatoes is obtained by slicing as for French fried, soaking in cold water to extract the starch overnight if possible and rolling in fine corn meal before plunging in deep fat.

Rolls from the bakery should be left in the bag, the top tightly twisted before putting in the oven to heat. For some reason the rolls come out crispier and fresher than when removed from the paper before heating.

When frying doughnuts have a kettle of boiling water on the stove, and as each doughnut is taken from the fat plunge it for a second in the water, then drain. The doughnuts are entirely free from greasy taste or feeling when so treated.

The Popular Girl.

You have, of course, met girls who, without your knowing anything definite against them, have impressed you as persons to be avoided, but have you also met the girl whom you, as well as everybody else, instinctively likes?

She is the girl who appreciates the fact she cannot have the best of everything in the world and is quite cheerful when her neighbor gets it.

She is the girl who never says thoughtless things which cause pain. She is the girl who, when you invite her out, takes care to please you by looking her best.

She is the girl who makes the world brighter to both young and old by being so cheery herself.

She is the girl of whom you instinctively know that you may ask a favor and that she will grant it feeling she has received one from you. In fact, she is the happy, unselfish, sympathetic girl who sees good in every one and is quite willing to play "second fiddle" whenever by so doing she can add to her neighbors' happiness.

Little Men and Women.

Treat the children like little men and women. It will do much toward making them men and women. Perpetual frowns, scoldings and fault finding do much toward making them surly, ill tempered and story tellers. Love wins in every instance. A mother should never be so busy that she cannot listen to her children. If they live to be men and women they will all too soon leave her. She should make the most of them while she has them. She should encourage outdoor exercise or sports and she should not forget to train them with proper regard for their personal appearance. She should never allow them to form such habits as coming to the table in negligee, neglecting their nails or their teeth or carrying soiled handkerchiefs about. She should never nag them or forget that they are creatures of reason, not animals that require to be driven, nor should she fail to instill in them a distaste for all that is vulgar.—American Queen.

Utilizing an Old Bureau.

Some genius recently made a piece of hall furniture out of an old mahogany bureau, one of those with handsome carved legs terminating in claw feet. The top and interior, with the exception of the deep bottom drawer, had been removed. This drawer was covered with a hinged lid and served for the seat. The inside of the bureau was neatly finished with panels in which the rejected drawers were utilized, and the whole carefully dressed over and polished. When new handles of colonial design were added to the remaining drawer and the seat piled with gay cushions, an exceedingly attractive settle with a convenient receptacle for wraps and parasols was the result.

Glove Cases.

Glove cases are very useful indeed, serving to keep gloves separate from other things, and if well embroidered they are ornamental as well. Sachets or cases for gloves are preferable to boxes, especially to those who move about a good deal, as they take much less room in packing. A glove case can be made of art linen, Roman satin, silk, etc., and should be long enough to take ordinary four button gloves easily, and if you put a division in it the result will be good. A division is made lengthwise and consists of a doubled piece of silk used for lining. This permits of the separation of white from colored gloves.

Miss Alice C. Fletcher.

Miss Alice C. Fletcher, now connected with the bureau of ethnology, is president of the Anthropological society of Washington. It was she who several years ago devised a system for loaning small sums of money to aid Indians to buy land and build houses for themselves. A lifelong student of aboriginal languages, poetry, music and customs, her latest work on Indian music and poetry will outline the Indians themselves and give future generations an idea of what their music and poetry were like.—Washington Post.

Efficient Housekeepers Rise Early.

"It often surprises me," said the good housekeeper, "to have a woman say that it doesn't matter if she rises late in the morning because she has plenty of servants to look after things. As if a late mistress did not make a late household! The woman with plenty of servants is just the one who ought to rise early to look after them."



No. 276.—Word Building.

1. A vowel. 2. A preposition. 3. Used in a favorite boys' game. 4. To strike; to gain an advantage. 5. To cry like a very useful animal. 6. A contest in which numbers are engaged.

No. 277.—Hidden Cities.

"Can't you make a better omelet?" Said little Mary Jane To the maid who brought her breakfast in. "I'll not get well again, But surely on such fare will starve, And very soon at that." Just then her brother Frank ran in To get his summer hat. To tease Frank for the rope he had Then Mary Jane did try. (To scramble up a risky wall For ladder reach too high Her brother had the rope obtained.) "I'll give it you," said he, "When I celebrate my birthday By climbing that wall. See?"

No. 278.—Numerical Enigmas.

Even the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 old man had to laugh to see the haste with which the 1, 2, 3, 4 sought his 5, 6, 7 to escape our notice.

It is not always a question of 1, 2, 3. She may not be able to lift a 4, 5, 6—no one would want her to—but she does her work as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 perfectly.

No. 279.—Novel Double Acrostic.

All of the words described contain the same number of letters. When rightly guessed and written one below another in the order here given, one of the rows of letters, reading downward, will spell the name of a great musical composer, and another row, also reading downward, will spell a word which forms part of the name of one of his most famous compositions.

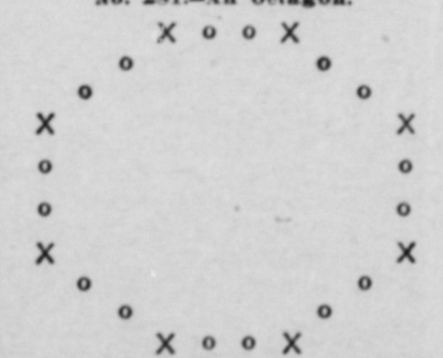
1. Belonging to Abram. 2. The surname of a famous English admiral. 3. One who is empowered to examine manuscripts before they are committed to the press and to forbid their publication if they contain anything obnoxious. 4. A thin cord. 5. Ought to. 6. A titmouse. 7. To take vengeance for. 8. Heaviness. 9. To ask.

No. 280.—Picture Puzzle.



A meeting place for lovers.

No. 281.—An Octagon.



1. A favorite flower. 2. At the very time. 3. Middle of the day. 4. An iron pin. 5. A singing bird. 6. To preserve. 7. A harbor. 8. To pull asunder.

No. 282.—Beheadings and Curtailings.

Complete, I am a blossom; beheaded, I am not so high; doubly curtailed, I am a cow's language; with both head and feet cut off, I am an exclamation of surprise.

No. 283.—A Charade.

My first and my second imply obligation; My third and my fourth is a town; My third and my fourth apply also to faces Moved quickly from laughter to frown. My whole is a carriage that saves many horses A trip into the country or town.

No. 284.—Intentions.

One is meant to please. Two is meant to persuade. Three is meant to inhabit. Four is meant to combine. Five is meant to add. Six is meant to warn. Seven is meant to harm. Eight is meant to sustain.

A Definition.

"Pa, what is a bigot?" "A bigot, my son, is a person who doesn't think as I do and sticks to it."—Harper's Bazar.

Key to the Puzzler.

No. 268.—Diamond: 1. V. 2. Beg. 3. Canal. 4. Expense. 5. Venezuela. 6. Request. 7. Cream. 8. Elk. 9. A. No. 269.—Divided Words: 1. Pa-ll, ca-ne-pane. 8. La-rc, ca-mp-lamp. 2. Bo-ck, co-at-boat. 4. La-cc, ra-ke-lake. No. 270.—Word Square: 1. Ache. 2. Gray. 3. Hair. 4. Eyyr. No. 271.—A Garden Romance: Jack rose, black-eyed Susan, violet, four-o'clock, rue, bluebell, dogwood, Sweet William, dandelion, Jack-in-the-pulpit, nightshade, Johnny-jump-up, lily. No. 272.—Metagram: Paper, caper, taper. No. 273.—Animal Puzzle: 1. Dogma, dogwood, dogmatize (mat-eyes), bulldog, doggerel (R. L. Coward (R. D.) cover (err), cowhide, cowslip, cowlick. No. 274.—Riddlemere: Arizona. No. 275.—Insertions: 1. Re-b-el. 2. We-ild. 3. Mi-n-ce. 4. Di-k-ea.

An Animal Story For Little Folks The Lion's Love Letter

Soon after the lion fell in love he thought it would be just right for him to write a letter to his sweetheart, and he started out to find pen and ink with which to do it. Almost the first person that he came across was the porcupine, who was just bristling with quills—the finest sort of quills for letter writing. "Hello, Porky!" cried the lion. "I want to borrow one of your good quills to write a letter."



"Oh, my! Oh, my! Oh, my!" "But I'll tell you what I'll do. You can tell me what you want to say and I'll write the letter for you."

"No, indeed," cried the lion. "I must write it myself."

"Not with my quills," answered the porcupine. "You might break one of them, and I would never get it back again."

"You won't let me have a quill! You refuse me, the king of beasts! Then I will teach you a lesson. I will eat you alive!"

And with that the lion opened his great big mouth and brought his jaws down with full force upon the little porcupine. The next moment he was howling with pain, while blood flowed from a hundred gashes in his mouth made by the sharp points of the quills.

"Oh, my! Oh, my! Oh, my!" he screamed in pain. "What have you done?"

"I haven't done anything," answered the porcupine. "I haven't moved from this spot."

"Oh, my! Look at the blood!" cried the lion.

"It will make good ink for your letter," said the porcupine. "You are unkind to me," said the lion. "And you tried to be unkind to me," said the porcupine.

And then the lion turned on his heel and went home a much wiser animal than ever before.—Chicago Tribune.

Asbestos Mats.

The common custom of using rush mats under hot dishes as a protection to the polished wood does not appeal to a housewife as giving an air of daintiness to a pretty set dining table, and we suggest a pretty idea for table mats. Cut a round or oblong piece of linen the size desired and embroider with sprays of flowers or a conventional design; then cut two pieces half as large for the underside. Place the two straight edges together, which should be on the selvaige at the middle across the center. When placed in this manner, they are the size of the upper piece, and both should be basted together and a scallop worked around the edge through the top and underside. Now you have a mat with an opening in the center, into which you can slip a piece of asbestos cut the shape of the linen, only a trifle smaller. When the mat needs laundering, slip out the asbestos and launder same as dollies.—Martha Manning in Pilgrim.

To Preserve Brushes.

Good hairbrushes are costly items, and a way to keep the bristles stiff and clean for years is worth knowing. A Russian coiffeur gives this recipe: Have ready two basins; put a lump of soda the size of a walnut in one and three parts fill it with boiling water. The other basin should be three parts filled with water as cold as you can get it, to which you have added sufficient lemon juice or good white vinegar to give it a noticeably acid taste. Shake the bristles of the brush well up and down in the boiling water till they are clean, then at once rinse them thoroughly in the cold water and stand them up to dry in the air or in a warm place, but not too near the fire. Of course the backs of the brushes must not be wet.

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