

JUGGLING AS AN ART.

Yank Hoe Tells How He Performs the Bewildering Tricks That Have Made Him Famous.

PRACTICE THE SECRET OF SKILL.

The Sword Feat in the Least Slightest Mistake or the Least Nervous Movement Means Murder.

PAPER BUTTERFLIES POISED IN AIR.

Entertaining the Audience With Spinning Tops and Whirling Umbrellas.

HOW WOULD YOU FIT YOURSELF TO BECOME A JUGGLER?

That is the way to become a juggler. Study and study alone will fit a man for the stage with his eyes so trained, his hands so skilled and his nerves so steady that he can split a potato with a sword on the bare throat of his assistant, as I do daily upon the threat of my assistant, Omene.

Requires years of patient practice before a vase of flowers, now alighting for a moment to rest and now soaring high above the face and the rolling of an egg on the edge of a closed fan, are tricks that take more study, more application, and more patience than many a successful lawyer has ever given to the building up of his practice.

Partly born, partly made. In this article I propose telling you what kind of study you need to become a juggler. If you follow my directions you may learn how the tricks are performed, but I cannot guarantee that you will ever be an expert artist. That depends upon your natural aptitude to that kind of work.

Let me first tell you how I began my stage career. I am an Italian and my profession that of a juggler. I have a drug store in Turin at the present time. I have always had a love for juggling. I used to practice the tricks on my own amusement. When the illustrious Royal Japanese troupe of jugglers visited Italy I was interested in their exhibitions, and when I was offered the post of manager I accepted it. Here I

had an opportunity to acquire still more knowledge of the art. After two years of managerial work I became a performer. When I went to London, six years ago, I met Omene, my assistant, to whom I am indebted for many of the tricks I now perform. Omene is a native of Stamboul, Turkey, and is the widow of an English officer killed in the siege of Alexandria.

A JUGGLER'S PRACTICE ROOM. Now come with me into a juggler's practice room. Oh, yes, jugglers spend a part of the day in practice, no matter how advanced they may be. It will not do to let the muscles grow stiff or the nerves lose their strength. That slender cord suspended from the ceiling is the most useful appliance the juggler has in practicing the umbrella feat. This is how it is used. Do you see that shell in the corner filled with rubber balls, square like the rubber plates and round bodied bottles? Did you notice that little ring in the center of the plates and bottles? No? That is an oversight, for without attaching the cord to that ring and suspending the object in the air, the difficulty of learning these tricks would be multiplied a score of times.

Why? I will tell you. The cord is long, as you have seen. The balls are so large that if you are not careful you will strike your head against it in walking across the floor. After the plate is suspended the juggler begins to twirl the umbrella. The Japanese umbrella, and stooping beneath the plate so that it rests on the rim of the umbrella, he begins twirling the handle, at first slowly and then more rapidly, but all the time evenly. As the umbrella rises around the plate begins to revolve on its rim. After it has acquired this motion the juggler gradually straightens his back until a little coil of black cord circles around the protruding point of the umbrella. This is not learned in one day or a week or even a month, and hundreds of times in this practice the plate is tipped and topples over.

THE UMBRELLA FEAT. But you do not begin learning this feat with a plate or a block of wood. You first use the rubber ball and then take up the other articles in turn. After a while you become expert. I throw the ball into the air and catch it with my hand. I toss the block of wood high above the top of the curtain and as it comes down the juggler sends it spinning, end on, until it looks like the fly-wheel of a locomotive and makes a whirling sound like a bee in flight. Now it spins in one spot and now it shoots around the umbrella like a racer off its goal. I change the movement of the handle and it stops. Then I spin it up it flies. I catch it gently and as it topples over I make my bow. The trick is done.

Now for the top tricks. They look simple enough. It almost seems like wasting time to describe how they are done. That is the way they look—from the front of the stage. If you are of that opinion try one of them. Do not let me deceive you when you can so easily mislead yourself. Take a large, heavy Japanese top, with a long rounded top and a thick rounded stem. Twist this stem beneath the palms of your hand until the top begins to buzz. Even this requires practice, and days of practice,

THE ART OF SPINNING A TOP.

The top hums. You touch your fingers to its sides and you withdraw them quickly, as if you had touched something that was very hot. Now comes the knack of picking up the top and doing so without stopping it. Gently now, with the finger and a thumb are enough if you only have the skill. Let it up quickly, before it burns, and drop the point into the palm of your hand. Now incline your hand just slightly, and the top darts toward the edge catch it on the other hand. Slowly? Yes, very slowly at first, but when you are sure of yourself, when you have given to the top impetus enough to catch and then toss it up again and again until its motion dies out on your hand and it topples and falls on its side like a drunken man.

When you have learned to spin the top and catch it on your hand you are ready to learn to balance it on the edge of a closed fan or on a single card. The card is a piece of iron and your nerves of steel. Fifteen minutes with the fan and top will make you shake as with the play the first time you try it.

You have it at last. Now incline your fan point downward and the top hums down toward the floor. Raise the point and it returns to your hand. The billiard cue will walk into it all you have already learned and more too. The addition will be patience chiefly. To balance a top on the rounded side of a cue takes practice. To make it slide over the cue takes practice and back again to the butt requires months and even years of work. But it can be done.

A TRIP SKWARD. Let us take the cord now. This is suspended from the ceiling. Wrap it around

the revolving point one turn and start the top on a trip toward the clouds. How is this done? The top is spun to its utmost speed and by holding the cord just as the cue trick, but it has work enough about it to keep you employed for a month or two.

Here is a neat trick. Roll an egg end over end up and down the edge of a closed fan. This is comparatively simple. First cut a very shallow groove in the fan. Then boil your egg hard, or if you cannot do that shake it well, so that the yolk and white are thoroughly mixed. Now place it in the groove, and with your fingers push it outward push you can make the egg roll over. Keep on with these little pushes until the egg reaches the end. Then reverse the movement, pull it inward a little out toward the starting point. An expert egg roller can take a perfectly round rubber ball and roll it back and forward on the fan without touching a groove, but it is impossible to do it with an egg.

You have often witnessed the butterfly trick and you have probably often wondered at the skill of the performer. If you have ever left the theater to try the experiment of keeping half a dozen tissue paper butterflies balanced in the air by the movement of your fan you wonder how he does it. Now I am going to tell you a secret. There is a deception practiced in this trick. It is not so difficult as you think it is.

THE BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLY FEAT. When the performer comes out on the stage and cuts out of a piece of paper his collection of butterflies he conceals a little of his hand a long hair from a woman's head. It is so thin that it is invisible from a distance. He holds the ends of this in his first hand. The second hand is raised a few inches lower down and so on until all are tied together in a row. The other end of the hair is then attached to the juggler's chin or cheek by a bit of fishbone. If you have the breeze wherever he may choose the butterflies cannot soar beyond the length of their hair.

There seems simple enough, does it not? But if you want to see how hard it is just

try it. It is true that the butterflies cannot fly from you, but that fact does not lessen the difficulty you will have in making things fly at all. It requires weeks of practice to be able to start them in a natural way, and to keep them suspended for any length of time takes many weeks longer. Now comes the difficult part of the trick—to make them alight on a vase of flowers and hover over a bouquet at your feet for some time. When it is once learned, however, it makes one of the prettiest feats in the juggler's repertory.

SHOWER OF SNOW FLAKES. When the trick is ended I usually give to it a dramatic finish. I crush the butterflies in my hand and by a slight of hand I cause them to fall like a shower of snow flakes that descend to the stage, covering me completely in their fall.

The most difficult feat that I accomplish, and indeed the most daring trick I have ever seen, is a shower of snow flakes that I have described. Before you attempt it I caution you to be more certain of your nerves, more sure of your skill than you have ever been before. The slightest mistake, the fraction too much of an ounce of power, and you are a murderer.

These are your properties: A sword with an edge keen as that of a razor, a potato free from marks, an assistant who does not know what nervousness means and who has the most absolute confidence in your skill, and a committed over your own nerves that you have never before.

Go to Niagara Falls August 7, 9:30 p. m., until 11:15, good five days, via P. & L. E. R. R., an excellent offer.

THE FAIR OMAHA. The human race, according to its own way of thinking, has gathered in most of the arts, and knowledge that are to be had. So much the better; for we may hope it will soon have time to sort over and make final selection of the things it has in possession. When it sets about that let it deal first of all with its superstitions. It has accumulated a formidable lot of them; and it holds on to them with a ghastly tenacity. It refuses to give them up even for the enlightened beliefs it talks so glibly about.

It is like a rambling child who, in coming through the lanes and pastures, has filled its little hands with all the worthless weeds that he can hold. Entering the garden at last, where things grow worth the plucking, it will then throw away all its weeds even to make room for the roses and lilies. A good many of them have been sown, but a good many still cling to the hand.

Starvation as a Tonic. One of the lesser superstitions which is still cherished, and which does as much mischief in its way as many of the greater ones, is the belief in starvation as a tonic. True, the medicine is always commended to somebody else. Nobody ever tried it. It is not anxious to receive its benefits; but he is sure the other patient would not do half so well under any other treatment. The cure is, in fact, nearly as simple as the one which I have just described. It is to starve.

He Was the Victim. But that was not enough for him. If he lived his ambition must live also. And it did. It lived and was nourished somehow. And finally it wrought out its own success. In spite of all the terrible load he had to carry, the boy climbed the ladder up which his ambition led him. Before middle age he had made his mark in the world. He had not only managed to live, but he fought his way into one of the learned professions and won conspicuous success for himself.

Little Dead as a Love. A widow in her neighborhood had an active and capable boy. She had no money and no influence; and the boy, who was at the foot of the ladder seemed likely to stay there. The other widow took the boy with her on a trip to the city, and when she came back she found the boy had been killed. She had been fondled by the little girl patient some days before. The act died shortly after his playmate became sick, and a second cat also became sick and was killed. This led to further inquiry, and it was proved that one neighboring farmer had lost 17 cats and another 15 from some throat trouble. One of the farmers stated that he had examined the throats of some of the cats and found them covered with a white membrane. Cats are disposed to run from house to house, and one diseased cat may be the means of carrying diphtheria to many children whom parents are taking every means to protect from danger. Another practitioner reports four most malignant cases occurring in one family. It is

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TONIC OF HARDSHIP.

A Popular Theory of Success That is Wrong, and Even Cruel.

LIFE'S WORK IS HARD ENOUGH. Men Who Go High Despite Adversity Would Go Higher Without It.

SIMPLE LITTLE DEEDS THAT COUNT.

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To Supplement the Steam Engine. A steam launch containing a quadruple expansion gas or vapor has just been experimented upon. The gas is supposed to be generated by evaporating oil in a closed retort in much the same way as steam is raised in a boiler. Several oils, however, are mixed together, and the exact composition of the combination is kept secret. The gas, after passing from the generator, is used in the cylinders, and in doing the work there is returned to the boiler and consumed as fuel, being condensed, however, on its way to the firebox. The launch is said to be about 16 feet long, and it is intended that the engine will develop about 12 horse-power, which would be sufficient to propel the boat at a rate of six to ten miles an hour.

Dry Lubricants. The use of dry lubricants for bearings in places where oil or grease are objectionable or where contact with fire may occur, is becoming better understood, and graphite in one form or another is now in general use. It has been employed on various kinds of machinery with uniform success. Mica also, in a dry pulverized state, has given satisfactory results in many cases. Self-lubricating bearings, consisting of metal shells filled with compounds of graphite or mica, have also operated with complete satisfaction.

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