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SCIENCE AND PROGRESS.

ENTHUSIASTS ON PERPETUAL MOTION NOT ALL DEAD.

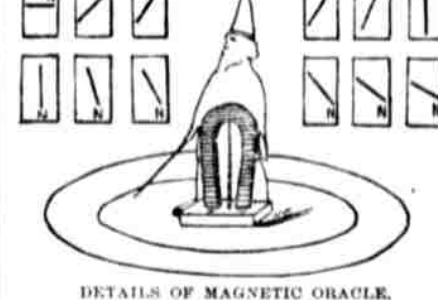
Professor Trowbridge Asserts That Birds Sleep on the Wing—The Scientific Toy Known as Magnetic Oracle Illustrated and Explained in Detail.

The scientific toy shown in the subjoined cuts, taken from La Nature, while far from new, is nevertheless ingenious and cleverly modernized by the constructor.



To make the oracle speak, write upon twelve prepared cards a series of questions relating to history, geography, science, customs, etc. One of the company takes one of these cards at random and reads one of the questions; then the card is placed under the magician's feet, in a groove made to receive it. Immediately the oracle turns on its axis, and after some oscillations becomes fixed in a certain position, its magic wand pointing to one of the numbers by which it is surrounded. On referring to the corresponding number on a list is read an admirably exact and accurate answer.

By varying it will the cards of questions and answers one may obtain from the oracle an indefinite number of replies. Nothing can be simpler than the process by which this result is obtained. The base of the toy, into which the cards slip, bears a vertical pivot on which rests the body of the magician, whose role consists a vertical U-shaped magnet, having its two poles near the base, as shown in Fig. 2.



DETAILS OF MAGNETIC ORACLE.
 In each of the cards there is another magnet concealed, a straight rod, occupying a different position for each of the twelve cards. We see that in virtue of the well known laws of the attraction of magnets for each other, each time that a card is placed with its magnet in the base, the figure will turn round this axis and effect a series of oscillations round its own axis until the poles of the U-shaped magnet holder under its pole are opposite the contrary poles of the straight rod hidden in the card. If the base has been correctly marked previously, the diving rod will indicate the corresponding number of the answer. Anybody with a little genius and a few tools can make an oracle similar to the one shown in the illustrations.

Birds Sleeping on the Wing.
 The very interesting discovery announced by Professor Trowbridge, that birds have a power of sleeping on the wing, brings to mind, says a correspondent in Science, that it is not a recent observation, but was anticipated by Edgar Poe. In a poem which he wrote was written in his youth, and published more than thirty years ago, are these lines:
 O, is it thy will
 On the breezes to toss?
 Or capriciously still
 Like the kite aloft,
 Incumbent on night,
 (As she on the air)
 To which he appends this marginal note:
 "The albatross is said to sleep on the wing."
 This poem, however, was criticized by another philosopher writer, John Phœnix, who gave it as his opinion that the poet invented the fact in nature's history because he found there were no words to rhyme with "toss" but "hoss" and "albatross." This is now happily discredited; but the question remains, How first "said it?"

Perpetual Motion Inventors.
 George Stephenson, England's great engineer, began his experience as an inventor with the perpetual motion problem, for which he constructed a machine. His biographer describes it as consisting of a "wooden wheel, the periphery of which was furnished with glass tubes filled with quicksilver; and as the wheel rotated the quicksilver poured itself down into the lower tubes, and thus a sort of self-acting motion was kept up in the apparatus, which, however, did not prove to be perpetual."
 Not a year passes but some new enthusiast lodges at the patent office the specifications of some machine for perpetual motion. This is not in itself considered evidence of insanity, but it is unquestionably regarded by some as proof of mechanical aberration.

Patent Maple Sugar.
 Numbered with curious inventions for which a patent has been granted is one to an Indiana genius for patent maple sugar. The patent sugar in question is made by mixing an extract of hickory with an ordinary syrup, such as cane syrup or sorghum. This hickory flavored syrup is held down in the usual manner, and a product resembling maple sugar, in appearance as well as flavor, is the result. A dissection made from the wood of maple, it appears, has been used for the same purpose. The inventor, therefore, claims as his invention the use of the hickory extract wherever it may be employed to impart an agreeable flavor.

A New Application of Electricity.
 M. Garel has invented an electrical method of preparing paper stencils for letters, circulars, etc. In this apparatus a piece of very thin paper rests on a carbon block connected with one pole of a small induction coil, while the style, with which the writing is done, is connected with the other pole. On using the apparatus a series of sparks pass between the style and the carbon block, perforating the paper, which can then be used as a stencil in the ordinary way.

Value of seaweed.
 A hundred tons of air dried seaweed will yield, besides the salts, seventy tons of alginate and fifteen tons of cellulose. The alginate is a glutinous substance, with fourteen times the viscosity of starch and thirty-seven times that of gum arabic. It is used for sizing, as a mordant in dyeing, in cookery, the making of confectories, the manufacture of paper, to prevent the incrustation of steam boilers, and many other uses.

PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE.

What to Do and What Not to Do in Case of Apoplexy.

Apoplexy may readily be distinguished from fainting by the little attention to the following details: Fainting is of short duration, and is characterized by pallor of the face, a weak or imperceptible pulse, and no perspiration. Apoplexy, on the other hand, is longer in duration, the face may be flushed, the pulse is usually strong and slow, and perspiration is frequent. The snoring character of the breathing in cases of apoplexy will also serve to distinguish the two conditions. And the circumstances under which the attack comes on may likewise be of aid.

To the above statements Good Housekeeping adds, that a person seized with a stroke of apoplexy should have the freest access of air; windows should be opened wide and all clothing about the neck and chest should be loosened, so that there may be no impediment to the breathing. The belt should be unfastened, and anything which in any way confines the body. The head should be raised somewhat, and if it be flushed or hot, should be bathed in cold water. Bottles of hot water or heated bags of salt should be placed at the feet if the latter are cold, care being taken not to burn the person who is incapable of protecting himself or of remonstrating. He should be allowed to remain quiet, no violent efforts being made to arouse him until a physician be called for great harm may be done by inexperienced zeal for his welfare. Any unnecessary motion of the body may increase the amount of bleeding within the skull.

The New Nineteenth Century Cure.

What with colleges, universities and newspapers, with political campaigns and tariff debates, with reform in politics and constant changes in social customs, with social clubs and clubs-political, with art culture and the decorative mania, we are cultivating, says The Philadelphia Press, every side of man's nature but his physical side. Learned physicians are experimenting with us, healing some of us, and failing to heal others; but few or none of these tell us how to keep well. We believe in the best cure; it is better than the hot water cure, or grape cure, or gymnastics and other exercise. It is not exercise, but rest, we need, and we hail the best cure as the greatest discovery of the Nineteenth century. If hard worked people would take a day in bed now and then less would be heard about nervous prostration.

Cream as a Medicine.

As an antidote for a consumptive tendency it is claimed that cream acts like a charm, and serves all the purposes intended to be served by cod liver oil, with much greater certainty and effect. Besides persons consumptively inclined, those with feeble digestion, aged people and those inclined to chilliness and cold extremities are especially benefited by a liberal use of sweet cream.

Controlling Short Neuragic Pains.

In those who are disposed to neuragic, attacks of pain are frequently brought on by fatigue or unwonted exercise. Journal of Health advises such people to live very regularly and to observe this rule in eating: When the pain comes on in consequence of waiting too long for a meal, a cup of hot drink, such as milk, cocoa or beef tea, will very often stop it.

Treatment of a Fainting Fit.

The common practice of lifting fainting people to a sitting or upright position is sufficient to destroy the spark of life that remains. Medical authority has recently emphasized the fact that such persons should be kept in the prone position while restoratives and local means are employed to return them to consciousness.

Stimulant for the Hair.

A fragrant preparation designed to stimulate the growth of the hair can be made of tincture of sandalwood, two drachms; castor oil, one ounce; alcohol, half a pint. To this the druggist should be directed to add a few drops each of the oils of bitter almonds, orange flowers and bergamot.

A Mistaken Idea.

The old adage, "Feed a cold and starve a fever," is characterized by Journal of Health as a very silly advice. If anything, the reverse would be nearer right. When a person has a severe cold it is best for him to eat very lightly, especially during the first few days of the attack.

SOCIAL ETIQUETTE.

How Unmarried Men May Cancel Social Obligations.

Opera or theatre parties represent a fashionable form of entertainment by which unmarried men in cities cancel some of their social obligations. According to the social etiquette of New York these parties may include a dinner preceding the amusement and light refreshment after it, or merely an after supper. The theatre party that includes only the after supper is the more popular, as it is the least expensive and troublesome; it is still, however, quite a formal affair.
 In this instance the host calls upon his anticipated guests and after receiving an acceptance of his invitation (which should include a gentleman member of the family, or a near kinsman of the young lady, or an elderly lady), he leaves entrance tickets and the party meets at the place of entertainment. If the invited guests do not keep carriage the host may send one if he chooses, but this is not strictly etiquette. In some instances a private omnibus is sent out to collect the guests.

After the amusement the party is conveyed to a restaurant or to the house of a friend where a supper is in waiting. After supper it is not uncommon to dance a little while if the house or room is private, and a piano is sufficient for the music. The champagne of the party is decided when it is proper to go home. There is no objection to such parties in their most refined forms and usages, but a hotel dinner and supper lacks the charm which domestic hospitality should hold for highly bred people.

The Use of Miss or Mrs. Without a Name.

In writing to a young lady do not address her as "Dear Miss." The use of Miss without the name is a vulgarism, and though it is doubtless awkward to address a young woman as "Dear Madam," it is preferable to the exceedingly objectionable term referred to. The use of the prefix Miss or Mrs. without the name is equally to be avoided in conversation. To salute a young lady, for instance, with "How do you do, Miss?" reveals a painful lack of breeding.

The Inscription of the Visiting Card.

Always use the prefix Mr., Mrs. or Miss, whichever it may be, on your visiting card. Though it is by no means uncommon for men and young women to have their names printed on the card without any prefix, the last social usage does not sanction the custom.

Some of the Women of Vanity Fair are wearing button shoes with tops of the same material as their dresses, which, of course, must be made to order, and thus do we get our exclusive footgear.

ALL AROUND THE HOUSE.

The Latest Novelties in Decoration—A Popular Indoor Game—Tested Recipes.

A novel and pretty fire screen is made of a square of plain white matting, raveled about three inches deep and finished around the edges with hempen rope. On the center is painted in oil a genre interior, or, if the amateur cannot manage that, any simple colored lithograph is put in its place and tacked at the four corners with hempen cords and tassels. Art Interchange describes the above as well as the following novelties:
 The newest thing in baskets is the "fisher basket," painted and lined with copper colored India silk, finished on either side with copper and gold colored bows of satin ribbon, and placed on a gilded stand of crossed sticks. Baskets for soiled linen are much benefited by the same treatment, with a finish for the lid of olive and orange ribbon bows.
 A cheap cane bottomed chair, to be had at any furniture shop for seventy-five cents, may be metamorphosed by painting it white and outlining and coloring the front of the wood work with a running vine and a cluster of white flowers. It is then cushioned in yellow satin or gold plush and decorated with bows of ribbon of the same shade.
 A quaint picture frame is made of brown denim, with a tri-cornered piece of fish net drawn over the front, and a little basket of fish netting and cord suspended from the upper left-hand corner. The picture should be a coast or fishing scene.

Bean Bag Parties.

At the now popular bean bag parties a smooth board about three feet long and two wide is provided and placed in an inclined position at one end of a hall or room long enough to give sufficient range. In the board is a hole about five inches square. The bean bags are generally made of colored ticking. There are usually ten bags of one size, and one quite large called Jumbo. A player pitches toward the hole and if ten bags fall into the hole it counts 100, ten being the number for each bag. Jumbo is double the others in size and counts twenty if he is thrown into the opening. When a bag does not go into the hole but remains on the board it counts five, if it falls on the floor five points are taken from the player's score. One hundred and twenty is the highest possible score. There is much fun in the game. A regular score is kept and prizes are sometimes awarded to the player who makes the greatest number of points.

Hints on Painting China.

The following points will be of interest to ladies in their first attempts at decorating their own china. An amateur advises:
 Learn first to mix the paint to the right consistency. If too thick it will not flow readily from the brush, but will come off in lumps or streaks. If too thin, the work will look weak and washed out. A penknife is an excellent thing to have at hand. With it a broad or uneven line can be scraped and fined down to suit. Rub two pieces of fine sand paper together till much of the roughness is taken off, and with these carefully rub your work after it has been fired; this will heighten the polish. Use more flux with colors on earthenware than on china. Greens and browns in china colors can be mixed very much as in oil colors, but it should be remembered that they brighten with firing. Yellow eats out iron red when fired.

Delicious Buckwheat Cakes.

Scald one-half cup of cornmeal with three cups of boiling water; when nearly cold add equal parts of buckwheat and whole wheat or white flour to make the batter a little thicker than required, as it becomes thinner in rising. Add one teaspoonful of salt, one dessertspoonful of molasses and the proper proportion of whatever yeast is used. Beat well, and let rise in a warm room overnight. In the morning dissolve one-third teaspoonful of soda and stir into the batter. One well beaten egg added is liked by some. Deliciously tender "buckwheats," which were the rule in our household, were so made, says a correspondent of Good Housekeeping, by placing the vessel containing the foamy batter, ready for baking, in the snow for perhaps an hour.

Harmless Dainties for the Canary.

An authority on birds advises that raw apple, cabbage leaf and plantain should be provided and one or the other given to a canary every day of the year round. Occasionally give a piece of bread soaked in milk, but never cake or candy. Once a week give boiled egg mixed with cracker. Never hang any birds in a draft or the wind, and never let them out of their cage. In molting time give a dusting of cayenne pepper to their egg and cracker, or bread and milk.

Parsnip Fritters.

A very nice way to cook parsnips is as fritters. Take three large parsnips boiled till soft, scrape and mash fine, picking out all strings and lumps; add two beaten eggs, two tablespoonfuls of new milk and two of sifted flour, an even teaspoonful of salt and quarter of a teaspoonful of pepper; mix thoroughly; make into small cakes, four them and fry brown in butter or oil; eat with butter.

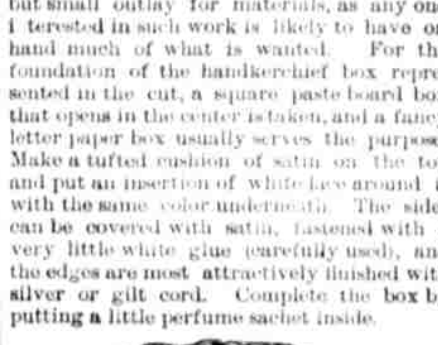
Fashionable Sash Curtains.

No prettier material for sash curtains has yet been found than the thin Indian silks, almost transparent in texture, soft, delicate and yet rich in their many hues.

Decorative and Useful Boxes.

Various pretty and convenient boxes and cases for the dressing table may be contrived, by the exercise of a little ingenuity, with but small outlay for materials, as any one favored in such work is likely to have on hand much of what is wanted. For the foundation of the handkerchief box represented in the cut, a square paste-board box that opens in the center is taken, and a fancy letter paper box usually serves the purpose. Make a tufted cushion of satin on the top and put an insertion of white-lace around it with the same color underneath. The sides can be covered with satin, fastened with a very little white glue (carefully used), and the edges are most attractively finished with silver or gilt cord. Complete the box by putting a little perfume sachet inside.

Handkerchief Box.



A convenient jewel case may be made by covering any box of suitable form (for instance one of the long, shallow cigar boxes) with black satin decorated with a design of flowers, principally in blue and crimson. Around the sides may be put a finish of antique lace. The inside can be lined with quilted satin or with plain satin. Nest and decorative work will make these home made contrivances a success.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE

Prospectus for 1888—Beautiful Christmas Number.

Among the important articles to appear during the year 1888 are the following—Send for prospectus:

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON will contribute regularly to each number during the year. He will write of many topics, old and new, and in a familiar and personal way, which will form new bonds of friendship between the author and his thousands of readers. In his first paper entitled "A Chapter on Dreams," appearing in the January number, he relates incidentally, in connection with the general subject, some interesting facts concerning the origin of the now famous story, "Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS, by W. S. CHAPLAIN, will be the first of an especially important and interesting series of papers on railways, their administration and construction, including great engineering feats, famous tunnels and passes and, indeed, those branches of the subject which in this day engage the attention of the whole country. The illustrations which will accompany this series will be very elaborate, original, and beautiful. The authors and the titles of the future articles will be announced later.

DR. D. A. SARENT'S papers on Physical Proportions and Physical Training will be continued by several of increasing interest, with as rich and unique illustrations as those which have already appeared.

ILLUSTRATED ARTICLES of special interest will be those on the Campaign of Waterloo, by JOHN C. ROPES, on "The Man at Arms," by E. H. BLASHFIELD, two papers by EDWARD L. WILSON, illustrating results of recent Egyptian research; a further article by WILLIAM F. APTAORP, on a subject connected with his recent contribution on Wagner, and many other of equal interest. PROFESSOR SHALER'S articles on the Surface of the Earth will be continued and articles upon two of the most interesting groups of contemporary European writers will be accompanied by rich and novel portrait illustrations.

ELECTRICITY in its various applications as a motive power EXPLOSIVES, etc., will be the subjects of another group of illustrated articles of equal practical interest, by leading authorities upon three topics.

MENDELSSOHN'S LETTERS written to his friend, Moscheles, at a peculiarly interesting time of his career, will furnish the substance of several articles of great interest to musical readers, which will be illustrated with portraits and drawings from Mendelssohn's own hand.

THE FICTION will be strong, not only in the work of well-known writers but in that of new authors, in securing whose co-operation the Magazine has been so fortunate during its first year of publication. A serial novel, entitled "First Harvests," by FREDERIC J. STIMSON, will be begun in the January number, and early in the year no. eties will be published by HENRY JAMES and H. C. BUNNER. The short stories are of noticeable strength and freshness.

ILLUSTRATIONS. The Magazine will show increased excellence in its illustrations. They will be more abundant and elaborate than ever. It is the intention of the publishers to represent the best work of the leading artists, and to promote and foster the most skillful methods of wood engraving.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—To enable readers to possess the Magazine from the first number (January, 1887) the following inducements are ordered.

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