

The Art of The Acrobat

(Continued from Page 5)

The Heel With Nine Lives

They Won't Slip

FOSTER PATENT

NON SLIP

CAT'S PAW

FASHION HEEL

FOSTER RUBBER

That Cat's Paw Plug Prevents Slipping

That Cat's Paw Plug Prevents Slipping

CAT'S PAW

CUSHION RUBBER HEELS

Are worn regularly by thousands who have tried other kinds first.

They make walking *safe*, as well as comfortable—no more slipping on wet sidewalks—no holes to track mud and dirt into the house.

The extra quality of rubber affords greater resiliency and makes them wear longer.

Ask for **Cat's Paw Rubber Heels**—Black or Tan—they cost no more than ordinary kinds. **The name is easy to remember.**

FOSTER RUBBER CO., 105 Federal Street, Boston, Mass.

You Can Dress Well On \$10.00 A Week ON CREDIT BY MAIL

Men's Fashionable Clothes and Furnishings. Latest New York Designs

We will treat any honest man anywhere. Samples and big Catalogue sent FREE.

EXCHANGE CLOTHING CO. Estab. 1865. Largest Tailors and Outfitters 29 Park Place, New York City

Everything On Approval

FROM HEAD TO FOOT

Wrinkles

Thousands have successfully used this formula to remove traces of age, illness or worry. 1 oz. of pure

Powdered SAXOLITE

dissolved in 1/2 pt. witch hazel—use as a face wash. The effect is almost magical. Deeper wrinkles, crow's feet, as well as finest lines, completely and quickly vanish. Face becomes firm, smooth, fresh, and you look years younger. No harm to tenderest skin. Get genuine saxolite powdered at any drug store.

SONG POEMS WANTED

We pay hundreds of dollars a year to successful song writers. Send us YOUR WORK today, with or without music. Acceptance guaranteed, if available. Large book FREE.

DUGDALE COMPANY, Dept. 17, Washington, D. C.

are but the needless accompaniments of the essential privilege of the circus—to present to us a succession of acrobats with their bodies in perfect condition, to exhibit to us that purely physical beauty which we are ever in danger of overlooking or even forgetting. These acrobats, slim and handsome, as Huck Finn found them, may display their daring and their grace, standing on a circling steed or swinging from a flying trapeze, revolving on a horizontal bar or building themselves up into human pyramids on the bark of the arena; but the way in which they may choose to exhibit their skill and to show themselves is unimportant.

While the Greeks had far more opportunities than are vouchsafed to us moderns to behold the human body exhibiting its strength and its skill in graceful play, we have the advantage that many of the most effective exercises are latterday inventions. It seems unlikely that the Athenians and the Spartans, even though they were horsemen, had attained to the art of bareback riding; they may have bestraddled a saddleless steed, but they had not learned how to stand on his back and to turn summersets in time with the stride of the horse. It is, of course, possible that they were familiar with this, but no sculpture and no vase-painting, no anecdote in the works of the prose-writers and no line of the lyrists, survives to authorize us to believe it. And it is pretty certain also that they lacked the horizontal bar, which affords limitless possibilities to the adventurous acrobat of our own times.

The trapeze has a name of Greek origin and it was possibly known to the Greeks. But the Greeks did not foresee the full possibilities of the trapeze, since its most startling utilization, the feat known as the Flying Trapeze, was invented by the French acrobat Léotard, only a little later than the middle of the nineteenth century. The Flying Trapeze is the ultimate achievement of acrobatic art, and it demands the utmost combination of skilful strength and of easy grace. It was a feat that the Greeks would have appreciated and enjoyed; since it demanded and disclosed the perfection of physical courage and of physical skill.

GRACEFUL mastery of the trapeze was the most marked characteristic of Léotard; and it may be doubted whether any of those who have followed the path he traced through the air and who have vanquished difficulties beyond those which he conquered, have been able to outdo him in the essential of grace. The overcoming of difficulty is one of the elements of the pleasure which we take in any art; part of our enjoyment of a sonnet, for example, must be ascribed to the apparent ease with which the poet is able to express his thought amply and completely within the rigid limitations of his fourteen lines with their prescribed arrangement of five or six rhymes. But our delight is diminished if we are made conscious of the effort it has cost the artist to attain his aim. Many of the later performers on the Flying Trapeze let us see that the feats they are attempting are so difficult that they can not be accomplished without obvious effort.

It happens that the present writer is able to bring his personal testimony to the fact that this was the principle which always governed Léotard himself. When the French gymnast paid his only visit to the United States, more than forty years ago, he used to practice in a gymnasium which the writer also frequented. He spoke no English and the writer had a little school-boy French, so that a certain intimacy sprang up. One day Léotard asked the writer to swing a trapeze for

him and he sprang off and caught it with a single hand, and as the second trapeze returned he twisted and grasped the first trapeze again with one hand. This evoked an immediate exclamation of astonishment and admiration at the startling conquest of difficulty, and it was followed by the natural question why so extraordinary a feat had never been exhibited in public.

"Don't you see the reason?" he asked. "Watch me, while I do it again."

He repeated the feat; and when it was over he smiled and asked, "Do you see now?"

The writer responded that he could not help observing a certain awkwardness in Léotard's movements, a certain violence of effort, and a certain lack of grace.

"That's just it," Léotard replied. "The leaps from trapeze to trapeze with the aid of one hand only must be lopsided, since the body is inevitably more or less twisted. There is a sort of wrenching of the person which can not be avoided, even if it is ungraceful. That is why I have never exhibited this feat in public, difficult as it is. That is why I never shall exhibit it, for the quality I seek above all things is grace; which is possible only when I can use both hands, so that I can make what I do seem easy, no matter how difficult it may be."

It was in the same winter that Léotard was in New York about forty years ago that the Hanlon Brothers paid one of their welcome visits to America. They were then acrobats pure and simple, although later when they called themselves the Hanlon-Lees they had become pantomimists. As acrobats they held fast to the same principles which governed Léotard in his performances. They insisted upon certainty of execution; they never failed to perform the feat they set out to accomplish, and to perform it successfully, the first time they tried it.

The present writer was told at the time that there were two or three surprising and alluring feats which the Hanlons had invented themselves and which they practiced laboriously and faithfully all that winter, but which they wisely refrained from ever putting on their program because they were never able to assure themselves of a uniformly successful result. They could do any one of these feats four times out of five, but the fifth time there would be a miscalculation of energy, and the attempt would have to be repeated.

HERE again the modern acrobat, who is guided by a real feeling for his art, is in accord with the principles which the Greeks obeyed. In Attic tragedy, for example, there are no scenes of violence, no scuffles and no assassinations; and this is not because the Greeks shrink from scenes of blood, as some critics have vainly contended, but rather because the actors in their drama were raised on thick boots and were topped by towering masks, which made it almost impossible for them to take part in scenes of violence, in hand-to-hand struggles, in murders before the eyes of the spectators, without danger of displacing the mask and thereby distracting the attention of the audience from the immediate purpose of the dramatic poet. What could not be done gracefully the Greeks refrained from attempting. The exhibition of difficulty for the sake of difficulty, still more the failure to accomplish a "stunt" for the sake of calling attention to its difficulty—these things the Greeks abhorred. They would surely have disapproved of the continuous toe-dancing which evokes abundant applause nowadays from spectators ignorant of the true principles of the art of the dance.

Self Heating Iron

NEW "STANDARD"

Makes and Saves Its Cost Every Month

Economical, safe, convenient. The "Standard" is a sleek, fuel, heat, iron, in one. Fire is inside, Larry (about as where you please) Don't let it get hot (about as where you please) any more, any more, or under shade (free, no right winging, one thing after another.

All kinds of clothes ironed better in half the time. No waiting, no stopping to change irons. Right heat. Easily regulated. No time wasted. Iron on table all the time, one hand on the iron, the other to turn and fold the clothes. The "Standard" is neat, durable and compact; all parts within radius of iron and handle. No tanks nor fittings standing out as sides or ends to hinder or be in the way. No wires or hoses attached to boiler. Right size, right shape, right weight. Cheapest fuel, two cents does ordinary family ironing. Every iron tested before shipping. Ready for use when received. Price low—\$4.50 sent anywhere.

AGENTS MAKE MONEY

Men or Women. Quick, easy, sure. All year business. Experience not necessary. Sells on merit—sells itself. They buy on sight. Every home a prospect. **Every woman needs it.** Price low—all can afford it. **HOW THEY DO SELL.**—Even 2 or 3 a day gives \$27 to \$40 a week profit; 6 sales a day is fair for an agent; some will sell a dozen in one day. Show 10 families—sell 8. Not sold in stores. Send no money. Write postal today for description, agents selling plan. How to get **FREE SAMPLE.**

C. BROWN MFG. CO., 849 Brown Bldg., Cincinnati, O.

Private Garages \$30 and Up

For Automobiles and Motorcycles

Write us the make and model of your machine and we will quote you a most astonishingly low, direct-from-factory price on an Edwards private, fireproof, portable steel garage of the size you'll need.

The "Edwards" steel structures give absolute protection from sneak thieves, joy riders, fire, carelessness, etc. Our Auto garage saves you to \$5 monthly in garage rent. Saves time, work and trouble. Comes ready to set up or take down. All parts cut and fitted. Simple, complete directions furnished. Absolutely rustproof. Joints and seams permanently tight. Practically indestructible. Locks securely. Made by largest maker of portable fireproof buildings. Prompt, safe delivery and satisfaction guaranteed. Postal sent today brings Garage Book and Factory Prices by return mail.

THE EDWARDS MFG. CO., 631-681 Egleston Ave., Cincinnati, O. (110)

I WILL MAKE YOU PROSPEROUS

If you are honest and ambitious write me today. No matter where you live or what your occupation, I will teach you the real estate business by mail; appoint you special representative of my company in your town, start you in a profitable business of your own, and help you make big money at once. Can arrange for spare time only if desired. Unusual opportunity for men without capital to become independent for life. Valuable Book and full particulars Free. Write to-day.

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE REALTY CO., Q-584 Marden Building Washington, D. C.

E. R. Mardon, Pres.

BROWN YOUR HAIR

To Any Shade Desired

Mrs. Potter's Walnut Hair Stain will do it. Just apply once a month with your comb. Gives any shade from light brown to black, and its use can not be detected. Does not soil soap or hands. A perfect remedy for gray, faded or bleached hair. \$1.00 at drug stores. Send for trial bottle.

Mrs. Potter's Hygienic Supply Co., 1845 Groton Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio

PATENTS SECURED OR FEE RETURNED

Send sketch for free search of Patent Office Records. How to Obtain a Patent and What to Present with list of inventions wanted and Prices offered for inventions sent free. Patents advertised **FREE.**

WANTED NEW IDEAS.

Send for our list of Patent Buyers.

VICTOR J. EVANS & CO., Washington, D. C.

PATENTS That Protect and Pay

Send Sketch or Model for Search.

BOOKS, ADVICE and SEARCHES FREE

Watson E. Coleman, Patent Lawyer, Washington, D. C.