

WORK AND PLAY SECTION

A MAGICIAN'S RING TRICK

Do YOU want to learn to be a magician? Then make a start by learning to do this ring trick. The one move of sleight-of-hand in this trick is comparatively simple, but it must be practiced enough so that there is not the slightest hesitation in performing it. Practice it at least one full hour before showing it even to the family.

Here is the trick as viewed by the audience: A ring is borrowed and placed in the performer's left hand. The hand is covered with a handkerchief by the owner of the ring. A strong rubber band is placed around the performer's wrist over the handkerchief, thus leaving no openings through which the ring might be extracted. Yet it does escape—right before the watchful eyes of the owner—and is found on the little finger of the magician's right hand. Of course the owner is able to identify the ring as his own, and when the other hand is uncovered it is found empty.

Now let's find out how to do the trick: Borrow a ring from some one in the audience; also a handkerchief and a rubber band.

You should perform the trick in front

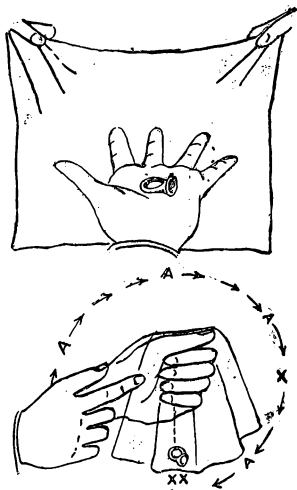
of the audience and a few feet away from them. Have a chair to the left of you. On the seat of the chair throw the rubber band, and across the back of the chair place the handkerchief you are going to use. Borrow as distinctive a ring as possible, so that the audience can easily identify it when they see it on your right hand.

When you have the ring, take your position a foot or two to the right of the chair. Ask the person who loaned you the ring to come up and assist you for a moment. Have him stand to the left of the chair. Have him place the ring on your open left palm and then ask him to cover it with the handkerchief. Do not close your hand yet, but let them see the ring to the last moment. The assistant holds the handkerchief up by two adjacent corners as a screen, so that the hand is concealed to the spectators but not to the assistant;

the assistant should then gently lower the handkerchief over the hand.

As the handkerchief nearly touches the hand, you start closing the fingers, and just as it touches the hand you make one more move that the assistant should not

(Please turn to page 318.)



*A—shows movement of right hand
When Right Hand reaches point X ring
is released and caught at XX*

MAGICIAN'S TRICK *

(Continued from page 310)

see. You turn the hand over to the right so that the little finger is nearest to the floor and the thumb is on the top.

The handkerchief should come up over your wrist and onto the coat sleeve so that the position of the hand cannot be detected by the wrist. The reason for this change of position is that when the time comes you will be able to drop the ring undetected.

Now for the move that does the trick! Say to your assistant, "Will you take that rubber band (which is lying on the chair) and wrap it around my hand so that it will hold the handkerchief down close around the wrist." As you mention the rubber band, point to it with the right hand, and when you say "handkerchief" point to the handkerchief bringing the right hand about an inch away from the base of the left palm.

When you say "close around the wrist," make a circle around the left hand with the right as though you were showing the assistant how you want the band put on. When the hand gets halfway around, you drop the ring with the left hand, and as the right hand reaches the bottom of

its circle and the bottom of the hanging handkerchief, it opens for a moment, catches the falling ring, and continues on its way *without the slightest hesitation*. The circle should be made about two inches away from the handkerchief; just touch the bottom edge so that the ring will not have to fall through the air uncovered.

Perhaps you see why it is necessary to practice this trick very much. If your hand doesn't get there soon enough, the ring will fall to the floor, and if it gets there too soon, you will have to wait for the ring and the movement will be detected. There must be absolutely no pause in the movement of the right hand.

After you have the ring in your right hand, drop that hand to your side, letting it fall well back. Then

take a step forward with the left foot, holding the left hand up as if to give the audience a better view of it. This will bring the left side of your body to the audience. Now slip the ring onto the little finger of the right hand.

When the assistant has finished with the rubber band, bring your right hand into view and point to the left, saying, "You are sure now that you would know this ring if you ever see it again." The ring at this time should be visible to the spectators but not to the helper. When he says he is sure, you go on pointing to the left hand again but bringing the ring into his view this time. As he sees the ring on your little finger he knows it can't be, so he usually looks foolish, and says it ought to be there. Then have him remove the rubber band and the handkerchief from the left hand and satisfy himself that the ring is really gone.

One final warning: You will be tempted at first to make the circle around the left hand too rapidly when you pick up the ring. The movement should be perfectly natural. The audience will be much less conscious of a deliberate moderate movement than they will of a very rapid one.

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE

(Answers from page 311)

	1	2	3
1.	P	I	G
2.	I	C	E
3.	G	E	T