

SOME OF THE TRICKS OF SPIRIT MEDIUMS.

Paraphernalia Employed in the Making of Ghosts by Which the Foolish and Unsuspecting Public is Gulled Into Nonsensical Belief.

In view of the recent exposure by the police of this city of the methods of certain spiritualistic mediums, the following from the Kansas City Star will be of particular interest.

Some of the newest paraphernalia devised by fraudulent spirit mediums were exhibited to me a day or two ago by a professional man who, for many years, has fostered a fad for prestidigitation, employed very industriously in independent psychic research. None of these bits of apparatus is for sale. In the metropolis there is a market where magicians assemble annually to purchase their best, assuming equipment, with which they experiment in a model theater attached to the establishment. But the man who poses as a genuine holonher and elbow rubber with the spirit world does not buy his stuff in the open market. He invents his best juggling tools and has them manufactured, confidentially, by a skilled machinist or model maker. In time the secret, especially if tested, is passed to a pal in the trade. Then, again, not a few "fake" mediums are always deserting the "world of graft" for the honest business of open leg-dermain—if we can so adjective so hidden a calling.

That it is well to set a thief to catch a thief is a true bit of wisdom, and it is less true though no less wise 'tis best to set a prestidigitator to catch a prestidigitator.

Sleight-of-foot is now being employed quite as extensively as sleight-of-hand by the progressive, fad-operating under the mask of spiritualism.

The false toe, perhaps the very newest of the inventions in question, illustrates the importance which the pedal extremities now play in fraudulent seances or sittings. It is a counterfeit of the tip of the shoe, not of the flesh and blood digit of the lower extremities. A pair of these was lately discovered in the kit of an ingenious seance juggler. They are made of spun brass, as thin as paper, but with a wonderfully high degree of tensile strength. They snugly fit over the tips of a pair of patent leather shoes, and being lacquered over, have the precise polish of a glossy boot. Even the extension of the sole, the stitching therein and the fancy border of the tip are represented. When worn over the supposed medium's shoes they attract no attention.

Thorough exposure of sleight-of-hand manifestations has made the progressive bogus medium more wary of manual manipulations than he used to be. In individual seances he may place the "sitter" opposite him at a table. The spun-brass toes are in place. The room is bare and the doors locked. The light is turned down after the possibility of intervention of a third person has been banished. "Now, to prove to you that these manifestations which you are about to witness are not caused by me," says the medium, "I will ask you to grasp both my hands and place your toes upon mine. Thus you can account for my hands and feet throughout the experiment."

The sitter presses his toes upon those of the "medium." By so doing he enables the latter to withdraw one

or both "feet" from the false shoe toes. The sitter continues to press hard upon the spun brass. The medium holds his hands tightly, and therefore is assured that he cannot stoop to peer under the board. The manifestations continue. They are skillfully worked by the juggler's feet.

A paper mache hand is secreted in the lower leg of the medium's trousers, which are made baggy for the purpose. This hand is waxed and painted. From the wrist extends upward a flesh-colored stocking leg. This hand is fastened to a long elastic band, attached to the medium's waist. Having withdrawn his toe from beneath that of the sitter, the medium begins to jerk and twitch. He attributes these spasms to spirit influence which he feels coursing through his nerves, but they give him excuse to "melt" from the table with his elbow. He must break the chain for a minute to pick up the trouble-some thing, while apparently grasping it with his free hand he pulls the paper mache hand down his trouser leg and deftly fits it to his wrist on his toe. Then he resumes the "chain" with his hand. Presently, by dint of a board, he causes the "spirit hand" to dart up here and there at the edge of the table. Sometimes it plucks at your elbows, and if the room be very dark it glows as a result of a coating of phosphorus. This astonishing materialization having been completed, the medium kicks the ankle loose and the elastic band carries the hand safely to its hiding place up his leg.

Another spirit hand is in reality the medium's foot exposed half way to the ankle by a stocking deprived of the toe. Now a foot is very like a hand in its primary respects, but not until we compare our upper and lower extremities by placing them side by side do we realize how very unlike a hand a foot is. But by means of "crease paint" dark brown lines to simulate extension of the spaces between the toes, these digits can be made to appear long. By making a "crest" of the foot so treated—although not of the treatment—the thumblike length of the great toes will not be noticeable in the dim light.

By training his toes to pinch objects, or perhaps by exercise of an innate spine-like power, the bogus medium who employs this latter form of "spirit hand" is able to strike wonderment to the hearts of his sitters, who feel the departed dead plucking at their sleeves or deign at their nether—vents. But there is no evidence that this bit of hocus pocus is utilized in connection with a sham shoe toe. A slipper from which it may be readily withdrawn is employed as the incensement of the painted foot.

A pair of false hands for quite another purpose were manufactured by a supposed Baltimore medium who works them with great success. He took a pair of steel ball guards, such as used by bicyclists, and to one end of each he attached a block of rubber fitting snugly into the thumb of a chamola glove; to the other end the four fingers of the same glove, similarly mounted. Thus he made a pair of clamps which, when dipped into hot water and partially dried, felt precisely like a pair of human hands attached to a person's arm, for instance. Standing behind his subject, he grasps the latter by the

STRANGE CORNERS OF UTAH.

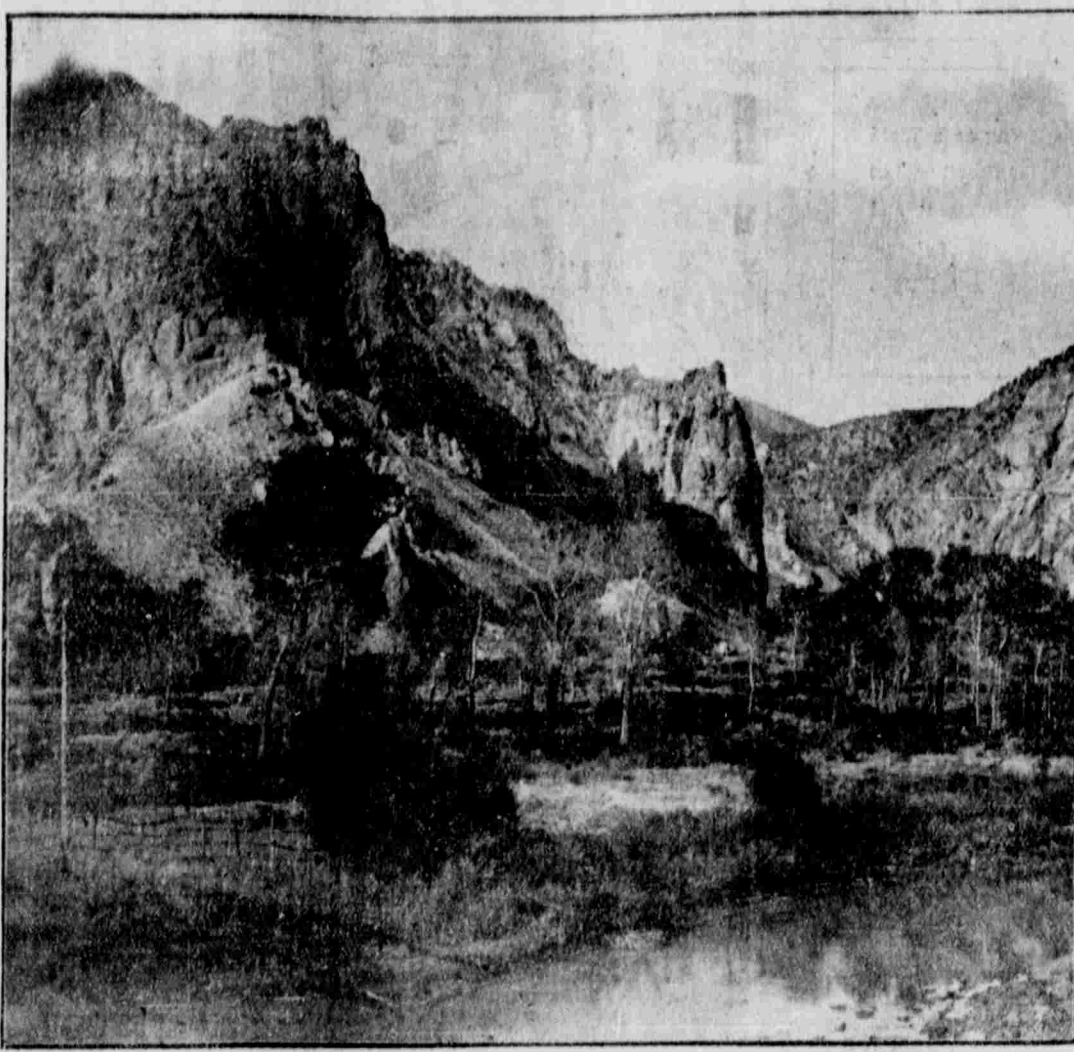


Photo by C. R. Savage.

DEER CREEK IN THE SEVIER CANYON.

Time was, not so many years ago, when the gorge which conveys the stream in Deer Creek, to the Sevier river, was a veritable hunter's paradise. In fact, it is so now during certain seasons of the year. Back into the hills far from the regular roads and trails of man, the noble buck, with his roe and fawns, is wont to graze on the rich verdure of mountain and glen. Sometimes he is seen almost scaling the cliffs and bounding through the trees at the approach of man. At others he stands calmly, but alert, at a safe distance and views the situation like the splendid monarch that he is. The mountains of the Sevier have many nooks and corners that afford fine natural homes for the antlered herds that are growing thinner each year, but none better than the wilds of Deer Creek canyon as shown in this picture.

upper arms to prove that his hands are not in use. After so doing he substitutes the heated false fingers for his own, being careful that the counterfeit thumbs are on the side nearest the subject's body. The spring in each clasp exerts about the same pressure as the normal hand grasp. Thus the medium's hands are free, while the subject still feels confident that they are in place. The medium now writes messages upon a slate on a table alongside, whacks the subject on the cheek, presses a rubber glove packed with ice against his forehead and causes various other spirit phenomena.

This clasp arrangement is useful also in chain sittings when a plurality of subjects are grouped around a table or otherwise arranged in a dark room. Each of the medium's neighbors distinctly feels his hands' pressure, yet tambourines are being played, the table is dancing a jig and the shades of the departed are pounding their bony knuckles against the table. How wonderful!

A spirit wardrobe is carried in a watch case is another novelty. This idea comes from Australia. The medium

enters the cabinet—a bare corner of wall curtained off. Nothing is inside. Everyone in the audience inspects it. Enter Mr. Medium. Presently the spirits appear standing before the cabinet-bearded men, flaxen-haired women, rosy-faced children. A hardened skeptic in the baldheaded row is converted. The bewhiskered spirit is the deceased grandfather, uncle, father or brother of nearly every sitter. The blonde woman certainly fits some dead one in each spectator's family. As for the rosy-faced cherub, he is known to all. The light is very dim, to be sure, but all the better for the phenomenon of recognition.

The medium enters the cabinet in shirt sleeves to dispel any suspicion that he has another wardrobe tucked away in the folds of his coat. Indeed, he might have worn nothing, on entrance, but a pair of shoes and a watch and chain. But that watch is all important. It is a "fake watch." Into the hollow case have previously been tucked away yards and yards of silk gossamer made into a white robe. This gossamer silk, more filmy than the very finest chiffon, is now woven at great cost for this express purpose. If only

one spook is to materialize at a time only one such garment is needed. If two or three are to appear together the necessary robes are tucked away in the gas jet which, unsuspected of any sinister function, protrudes from the wall inside the cabinet. From this jet the gas has been cut off and its pipes can be stuffed with gossamer silk.

The heads of the dear departed are extracted from the hollow, metallic heels of the medium's shoes. They are of rubber, similar material to that from which toy balloons are wrought, but more skillfully painted. The whiskers and the flaxen hair and the rosy cheeks are of rubber. In one hand the medium holds the inflated head of the flaxen-haired lady from which is draped the uncertain flimsy form. In the other hand he has the rosy-checked cherub similarly draped. Over his own face is stretched the rubber mask of the much bewhiskered old man whose features change with his own. Or he can be a flaxen-haired lady himself, if his cranialum be not too big. Marvelous is the manner in which he can make these subjects do the disappearing act in the dim light. And when the light is turned up, there he is and the cabinet is bare.

The rubber heads are also used at table seances, being inflated at the ends of telescope tubes which may be folded and returned to the pocket of the medium. Covered with a little phosphorus, they are highly effective in the darkness.

The success of the table seance depends primarily upon the "battery" or "chain," all sitters holding hands about the board. This chain, of course, serves the medium a two-fold purpose. It assures him that all hands are out of mischief and it deceives his subjects into the belief that his are likewise safely accounted for. But he depends upon prestidigitation to free at least one of his hands—the right, unless he be left-handed.

The usual chain is effected by each sitter grasping with his left hand the right wrist of his left-hand neighbor. Thus is formed a "chain" under the table or a "battery" across the room. The medium is somewhere in the midst of the chain to prove that he is guarded on each side. The chain being completed, he makes an excuse to withdraw his hold and blows his nose, probably to banish suspicion. Then he frees his right hand for a second, during which he crosses his knees. Then he requests that his right-hand neighbor resume the hold on his wrist. But instead of giving that neighbor his right wrist he offers his left. Since the beginning of the seance he has gradually worked his left hand until it grasps the sitter on his left by the fingers rather than by the wrist, but that sitter's hand has become so numbed by the grasp that the gradual change has been imperceptible. But now, since his fingers are held, the left-hand neighbor cannot feel that the right-hand neighbor now holds the wrist of that same left hand. The medium thus grasps his own. The sitter on each side still feels a hand resting on the medium's knee and feels satisfied. But the medium has gained the freedom of his right hand and the materializations commence.

Another "battery" is formed by a chain of hands kept on top of the table. Each sitter, including the medium, has his two thumbs crossed and his little fingers crossing those of his two neighbors. The medium suffers convulsive twitches which betoken the approach of the spirit power. During these joltings he frees his right hand, as if by sudden accident. It seems but a second that it is released, but in that second he has extended the index finger of his left hand, crossing it over the little finger of his right hand neighbor. It being substituted for his right little finger. His right hand is now free and he is unsuspected. Henry Ridgely Evans, to whom I am indebted for my material, has broken these tricks by such sleight-of-hand, and has thus been enabled to effect counter materializations, to the embarrassment of the medium.

Crazy tongues compactly wrought of fine steel are substituted for telescope rods in some of these fraudulent seances. False hands coated with phosphorus are thus manipulated, the crazy tongues being sufficiently long to project such bodies across the table or toward the ceiling. Tambourines are similarly juggled, and one supposed medium clamps at the end of his crazy tongues a compact music box whose teeth are muffled to utter the tones of a guitar. When this is elevated to the ceiling the effect is, of course, awe-inspiring. After employing sleight-of-hand to break the chain at one seance Mr. Evans grasped a tin trumpet through which the medium was delivering, by aid of a long telescope tube, spirit messages uttered high above the table.

Beautiful Clear Skies.

Herbine exerts a direct influence on the bowels, liver and kidneys' purifying and strengthening these organs, and maintaining them in a normal condition of health; thus removing a common cause of yellow, mothy, greasy skin, and more or less of pimples, blotches and blackheads. 50c at Z. L. M. I. Drug Dept.

ADVERTISEMENT.



DEMOCRATIC STATE TICKET.

For Justice of the Supreme Court, RICHARD W. YOUNG.
For Representative in Congress, WILLIAM H. KING.

DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE TICKET.

For members of the State Senate, SIMON GAMBERGER,
RULON S. WELLS.
For members of the State House of Representatives, MELVIN MOHMON MILLER,
MAHONY S. WOOD,
C. P. OVERFIELD,
F. B. STEPHENS,
ORSON H. BERTT,
THOMAS MORRIS,
L. S. HILLS,
T. F. PAGE,
BARNEY B. QUINN.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY TICKET.

For Commissioner (long term), WILLIAM J. HORNE.
For Commissioners (short term), W. B. ENNIS,
G. A. WHITAKER,
For County Clerk, ORSON F. WHITNEY.
For County Treasurer, W. H. DALE.
For Sheriff, G. H. NAYLOR.
For County Auditor, GEORGE H. WOOD.
For County Assessor, JOHN HALVERSON.
For County Recorder, THOMAS ALSTON.
For County Attorney, RAY VAN COTT.
For County Surveyor, W. H. EVANS.
Salt Lake City Precinct.
For Justice of the Peace, C. M. NIELSEN.
For Constable, B. Y. GOLDING.

This ticket speaks for itself. It represents the best element and the best ability of the State.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

Idaho State Democratic Ticket.

For Congressman, JOSEPH H. HUTCHINSON, of Ada.
For Governor, FRANK W. HUNT, of Lemhi.
For Lieutenant Governor, W. E. ADAMS, of Washington.
For Supreme Judge, F. E. FOGG, of Idaho.
For Secretary of State, CHARLES J. BASSETT, of Bingham.
For State Auditor, J. C. CALLAHAN, of Kootenai.
For State Treasurer, E. P. COLTMAN, of Bingham.
For Attorney-General, F. D. CUTLER, of Nez Perce.
For State Supt. of Schools, MISS PERMEAL FRENCH, of Blaine.
For Mine Inspector, J. H. NORDQUIST, of Shoshone.

WINDOW CLEANING

BY THE WEEK OR MONTH.

The National Cleaning Co.

Janitor Service. Cleaning of All Kinds. Carpets Beaten and Cleaned. Telephone 1411-z. 113 W. Second South St.

A GOOD WATCH IS A PRIDE TO ITS OWNER.

WE HAVE determined to make every man and woman in Utah proud of their timepiece, by offering for one week a line of the most Reliable and Beautiful Watches manufactured in America, at prices which will make it possible for everyone to carry a watch which has genuine merit as a time-keeper. Our Christmas Watches are all here, and it is this bright, new line we offer, and no old or shopworn goods. Anyone who intends to give a watch for a Christmas present will save money by taking advantage of the prices quoted at this sale.

EVERY WATCH IS FULLY GUARANTEED,

And any dissatisfied customers may have their money refunded upon demand within one week from time of purchase.

LADIES' SPECIAL.

0 size Elgin or Waltham Movement, in gold filled 20-year hunting case, plain or handsomely engraved. Regular Price \$18.00. Sale Price **\$12.75**

GENTS' SPECIAL, OPEN FACE.

12 size Elgin or Waltham Movement, in gold filled 20-year case, plain or engraved. Regular Price \$17.00. Sale Price **\$12.00**

GENTS' SPECIAL HUNTING.

12 size Elgin or Waltham Movement, in gold filled 20-year case, plain or engraved. Regular Price \$19.00. Sale Price **\$14.25**

Gents' 14-k Solid Gold Special.

12 size Elgin or Waltham, 15 jeweled movement, in solid fourteen-karat gold, open face case, for **\$35.00**

A better watch cannot be bought for \$50.00.

Ladies' 14-k Solid Gold Special.

0 size, Elgin or Waltham, in solid gold, fourteen-karat hunting case, to be sold during this week for **\$25.00**

BESIDES the specials we here quote, we have a grand display of all sizes in gold, gold filled, gunmetal, nickel and silver cases, with standard American Movements from which to select. We are the only Utah agents for the world renowned "Jules Jurgensen" Watches, which today stand without rivals as perfect timepieces.

We are also agents for the Touchon & Co., Repeaters and Split Seconds, ranging in price from \$235 to \$700. We have the best equipped Watch Repair department in Utah, and the most skilled workmen.

Lerysons
JEWELERS.
154 MAIN ST.

Gents' Silver Enamel Open Face.

12 size solid silver, handsomely enameled, Elgin or Waltham, 15 jeweled movement. Regular Price \$19.00. Sale Price **\$15.00**

Gents' Silver Enamel Open Face.

12 size solid silver, handsomely enameled, Elgin or Waltham, 7 jeweled movement. This watch is extremely genteel. Regular price \$15.00. Sale Price **\$12.00**

HOWARD WATCHES.

We have four only first grade Howard Movements, cased in heavy fourteen-karat solid gold hunting cases. Regular Price \$150. Sale Price **\$110.**

BOYS' GUN METAL WATCHES.

10 size, open face, trimmed with gold with good American movement, to be sold during this week for **\$5.00**