

Revelations of a Stage Hypnotist

The following remarkable statements have been made to the London Times by a man who for 20 years toured the United States as a hypnotist and mesmerist subject. He has now returned from the business, and here gives some of his experiences with American stage audiences and doctors.

I HAVE visited nearly every important city in the States, but I have yet to see in America the performance in a theater or public place of amusement. Naturally, the reader asks, "Is there, then, no such trick as genuine hypnotism?" My answer is, "Yes, but not on the stage." There are doctors who practice hypnotism in the treatment of nervous disorders, for instance, but they are usually men of rare personal magnetism and charm, possessing great strength of will. Even doctors, however, have been fooled about hypnotism, as I will explain.

It is some 30 years ago, when I was 11 years of age, that I first became attracted by the hypnotic business. With a school chum I had gone to see the performance of a much-advertised professor. We had seats near the front, and when the professor called for volunteers in order that he might demonstrate his hypnotic powers a gentleman who occupied the seat to the right of my friend said, "Why don't you go on the stage and let him try it on you?" I suggested that we all three should go up, which we did, our new acquaintance sitting between my chum and myself.

CROWDED LIKE A ROOSTER.
The professor commenced by fastening the eyes of some of the men, so that they could not open them. I felt nervous, and was about to leave the stage, when our new acquaintance slipped a dollar into my hand and whispered, "Do anything the professor suggests to you, and pretend to be controlled by him, but for Heaven's sake don't laugh; keep a straight face." That was enough for me. I pretended to go off into a deep sleep, remained apparently so glued to the chair that I could not get up, rode on a broom, jumped over chairs, crowded like a rooster, made a song, and in fact, threw my whole life and soul into everything he asked me to do.

The performance was a big success, and the audience laughed and yelled with delight throughout the evening at the silly things we did under the supposed influence of the famous professor. That was my first introduction to the hypnotic business, and when afterwards the professor asked me to join the men who were traveling about with him from town to town, and who always went on the stage when he asked for volunteers from the audience, offering me \$15 a week and railway fares, I jumped at the offer and ran away from home.

THE BOY MESMERIST.
Thus I became a professional mesmerist subject, and ultimately joined another professor, who taught me all the tricks of the trade, acted as my manager, and advertised me all over the country as "The Boy Mesmerist." About 20 years ago I left him and started on my own account. I advertised myself as a hypnotist and fun-maker, and carried with me a few clever rakes to act the part of a select. A hypnotist, however, generally has little trouble in getting people to act the fool and pretending to be under his control. Particularly he offers them a shilling or so to do it.

I found, however, that I could make more money as a mesmerist subject than as a hypnotist myself, particularly when I made a tour of America, with a very close lecturer, who was boasting hypnotism for all it was worth. His idea was to so impress doctors and medical students with the demonstrations that they would pay him fat fees for lessons. It was no uncommon thing for him to mule a professional medical to the extent of \$500 for a course of lessons in hypnotism, and clear out of the town before the doctor discovered we were frauds.

A COUPLE OF CLEVER TRICKS.
It was my part to act as the subject for demonstrations at all the leading hospitals and medical schools, and we found no difficulty in making the doctors and students believe that the tests given with me were genuine.

I had so trained myself that I could endure almost unlimited pain. I have learned to change my pulse-beats by a mere variation of breathing. They would hold my breath, clench and twist my hands in my pockets, so as to change my respiration. These two tricks were enough to inspire the doctors and students with confidence.

THE NEEDLE TRICK.
We would also allow them to take a needle and thread and run it through my cheeks, or run a lady's steel button through my forehead. The lecturer would simply pinch my cheek or arm so tightly as to make it almost numb, the consequence being that when the needle or pin was stuck through, I felt little additional pain. Then there is an easy method of so pulling the skin as to prevent any bleeding. At times, however, the students would stick pins and needles into me when the lecturer was not watching, and as I was not prepared for the shocks they proved very painful, but I never betrayed myself while supposed to be in a state of lethargy.

One of the worst tests to which I was ever submitted was when a doctor, in order to thoroughly convince himself of the genuineness of all he had witnessed at one of the hospital demonstrations, invited the lecturer to bring me to his private office for further tests, saying he was willing to give \$500 for a complete course in hypnotism.

FOOLING THE DOCTOR.
The lecturer went through the formality of hypnotizing me by stroking my forehead and suggesting very loudly that I should go to sleep and feel no pain. Then the doctor sprang a surprise on us by removing my shoes and stockings, and placing metal plates connected with an electric battery against the soles of my feet, gradually applying the current. For some time I held perfectly still, but as the current increased I found it so painful that I almost yelled aloud. Luckily the doctor was suddenly called away. In a moment the lecturer disconnected the wires at the footplates.

The doctor returned and put on the full current, but as there was no longer any connection, I did not feel anything. He was amazed and astonished at the demonstration, and in an hour later we had his check for \$300 in our pocket. Two days later the other couple of hundred dollars came along, in return for which the doctor got many pages of typewritten instructions on the art of hypnotic suggestion.

DENTISTS AND HYPNOTISM.
Dentists were also eager to learn how to hypnotize so as to be able to extract teeth without pain. They paid liberally for lessons, and when they thought they knew enough to try to use hypnotism in place of gas we would artificially introduce a patient whom we had bribed beforehand to go through the performance of pretending to be hypnotized by the doctor and allowing him to extract a tooth without any fuss. The dentist business was not always a success, however, as some of the subjects would yell and scream, in spite of the fact that an old bad tooth had been selected.

The lecturer, who, of course, was present at this first operation, would often prevent a patient's outcry in the following manner: He would stand at the back of the dental chair, put his hands on the forehead of the subject,

leave without extracting much money from our intended victim. But it was easy to say, in cases of suspicion, that the man was not under proper control, and that he should have been placed in a deeper state of hypnosis.

HYPNOTIC TRANCE FRAUDS.
In 1891, we hit upon a new plan—namely, hypnotic trances. The lecturer was supposed to send me into a trance for a number of days, during which time I received no food. I lay in a coffin, and all the medical men of the town were invited to see the test. We had no trouble in securing engagements at theaters and music halls, and we used to get from \$300 to \$700 a week at the business. Sometimes I was placed in an ordinary well padded coffin, which was lowered into an 8 ft. grave, a tube 1 foot in diameter being run from the coffin directly over my face, extending through the ground and running 4 feet above the surface of the ground.

A small incandescent light globe was hung down into the coffin so that my face could be seen night and day. We had no trouble in fooling the doctors and the public, but we found great difficulty in smuggling food and water

down into the grave, because the newspaper men were always sceptical, and watched us very closely.

NARROW ESCAPES.
I had one or two very exciting experiences while engaged in this fake business. On one occasion I was buried at the foot of a hill for three days. A heavy storm came on, and the grave filled so rapidly with water that I was nearly drowned.

On another occasion, when I was buried for a week, a drunken man moved the chewing tobacco from his mouth, and throwing it down upon my

face, it lodged just under my left eye, where it remained for 167 hours, for I dared not move. It burned into the cheek and left a bad scar.—Tit-Bits.

A WEAKLING
The only way to describe the poor child that is afflicted with worms. No matter how much or how often it eats, the worms get all the nourishment from the food, the child gets practically none. White's Cream Vermifuge gets rid of the worms quickly, easily and with no bad after effects. Price, 25 cents a bottle. Sold by Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept., 112 and 114 South Main St., Salt Lake City.

REMOVAL.
Wm. T. Knapp and Co., wallpaper etc., 127-129 east First South.

SUNDAY EXCURSIONS.
Via Denver & Rio Grande R. R.
To Provo canyon, 7:50 a. m., 8:40 a. m., \$1.25.
To Ogden, 10:25 a. m., 1:35 p. m., \$1.00.
To Phalaris Glen, 8:20 a. m., \$1.00.
Return on any train. Special leaves Provo canyon 7:30 p. m.

WELCOME G. A. R. DELEGATES

WELCOME STRANGERS WITHIN OUR CITY'S GATES—TO ONE AND ALL, REGARDLESS OF WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU COME FROM, WE EXTEND TO YOU A CORDIAL AND HEARTY WELCOME.

Monday we throw open our Doors to throngs of Visitors to our Fair City. We shall do what we can to make them feel that Salt Lake is a Good Place to be in.

A Grand Bargain Carnival In Honor Of Our Guests Begins Monday.

The Average Store expects little in the way of Business during a Holiday week and gets little. This Store, with its different way of getting at things, expects, provides for, and will be getting Big Business next week as always.

The Bargain Offerings of next week are of such compelling Power, that midst the whirl of gaiety and entertainment those Economically inclined must pause to take advantage of them.

THERE'S A REASON FOR THE CROWDS HERE. FIND IT IN THE PRICES.

1000 Yards Bleached Baby Flannel
Regular 81-3c, next week, per yard—
41c

100 Pieces Yard Wide PERCALES
Suitable for boys' school waists and children's school dresses, value 12 1/2c, next week, per yard—
7 1/2c

Arnold's Superfine Flannel-ettes
The finest made—the first shipment for fall—in the newest colorings and designs for kimono's and housegowns, value 20c, next week, a yard—
14c

Marseilles Bed Spreads
White and colored, fringed, hemmed and scalloped, value \$5.50, next week at, each—
\$3.89

GLOVE SPECIAL EXTRAORDINARY 50c a pair.
For good quality pure silk Gloves with 2-claw wrist and guaranteed double finger tips in all sizes, black, white and colors, here's the best 7c Gloves in the Market, on sale at
50c

ESTABLISHED 1864
F. A. Auerbach & Bro.
ONE PRICE TO ALL NEVER UNDERSOLD

THE BEST OF ALL RIBBON SALES
Beautiful Ribbon in fancy stripes, fancy plaids, fancy print warp, fancy color or color combination, width ranging from 4 to 5 inches. Ribbons worth up to 65c a yard, including all the newest things in fancy ribbons go in sale next week at a yard
25c

Ladies' HOSE
Best 20c Grade
12 1/2c
Fast black seamless quality with double soles, heels and toes, all sizes, best 20c grade at pair—
12 1/2c

Ladies' Sleeveless VESTS
Fine 50c Values at 25c
Extra fine Swiss ribbed fancy trimmed, low neck, sleeveless vests, all sizes, a variety of the best 50c values to choose from at, each—
25c

Men's Union Suits
\$2.00 white flannel Union Suits, exceptional values, only about 6 dozen in the lot, all sizes from 34 to 46, special at, per suit
\$1.49

Men's Underwear
Odds and ends of 50c, 65c, 75c and some \$1.00 line—limited number of sizes in each, your choice at, per garment, only—
39c

FINEST TABLE CLOTHS THE WORLD PRODUCES.
An Importer's Sample Line—One-Third Under Cost.

All Femininity "love" fine Table Linens, and an announcement of this character is sure to attract widespread interest. We secured a number of the Very Finest Cloths in various sizes, representing the sample lines of a large importer at ONE-THIRD UNDER COST and to make the sale doubly attractive, we add all the Cloths from our own stock of a corresponding character, which we offer at

1/3 Under COST
33 1/2 PER CENT UNDER VALUE.

Special Attractions in Our CLOAK DEPARTMENT
For Visiting People and Home Folks to Enjoy the Rich Bargains.

\$5 and \$6 Dress Skirts, \$2.89
Excellent Dressy Skirts of all wool Panama in black, navy and brown, made in the latest models, all gracefully hung. Worth \$5 and \$6. Next week they're a Special attraction at
\$2.89

\$10 Linen Dresses, \$3.95
Exquisite White Linen Dresses, handsomely embellished with hand embroidered fronts, trimmed with baby Irish lace insertion. Worth fully \$10.00. Next week they're a Special attraction at
\$3.95

\$2 Lawn Waists, 97c
Hundreds of pretty white Lawn Waists, with new embroidery, fronts, long sleeves, some all over embroidery, open front or back. Worth fully \$2.00. Next week they're a special attraction at
97c

\$25 and \$30 Silk Pongee Coats, \$10.95
Gathered for quick selling, we offer handsome Silk Pongee, full length, semi-fitted Coats, worth fully \$25 and \$30. Next week they're a Special attraction at
\$10.95

\$12 Lace and Repp Coats, \$4.25
Handsome lace and net Coats in 3/4 lengths. Repp Coats in full length semi-fitted models, this season's popular shades, worth fully \$12. Next week they're a Special attraction at
\$4.25

\$10 Dress Skirts, \$3.95
A collection of new fall skirts made in the new pleated models, a few gored effects in the newest materials in all colors worth fully \$10.00 and more. Next week they're a Special attraction at
\$3.95

Special Attractions in Our Silk Dep't
FOR VISITING PEOPLE AND HOME FOLKS TO ENJOY THE RICH BARGAINS.

Black Taffeta Silk
36 inch wide Black Taffeta Silk high lustre, crisp and rustling the \$1.25 quality on sale while it lasts, at per yard
89c

Messaline Silk
55c quality messaline Silk, 20 pieces which we should have received two months ago but were delayed in transit our loss in your gain, take them while they last at per yard
59c

Pongee Silk
27 inch wide Pongee Silk, regular value 60c, sale price, per yard
35c

Foulard Silk
Messaline Foulards, about 20 styles over from the midsummer sale, odd lengths up to 20 yards, regular value \$1.25 closing out sale price per yard
69c

Ladies' KNITTED Underwear
EXTRAORDINARY PRICE REDUCTIONS ON RELIABLE QUALITIES, VALUES TO OVERSHADOW ALL FORMER BARGAIN OFFERS.

LADIES LOW NECK SLEEVELESS UNION SUITS, in all sizes, lace trimmed on bottom, best 40c value on sale at
25c

LADIES EXTRA fine quality "Harvard Make" UNION SUITS, high neck, with long or short sleeves, knee or ankle lengths, all sizes, best \$1.50 value on sale at
\$1.00

LADIES LOW NECK SLEEVELESS SWISS Ribbed VESTS, in all sizes, plain or fancy front, best 30c grades on sale at
12 1/2c

LADIES fine low neck sleeveless Vests, all sizes, in the best 50c Grade on the market, on sale at
18c

LADIES KNEE lengths Jersey Ribbed Pants, lace trimmed on bottom, all sizes, the best 35c grade on sale at
20c

Special Attractions in Our Clothing Section
FOR VISITING PEOPLE AND HOME FOLKS TO ENJOY THE RICH BARGAINS.

\$4.00 BOYS' SUITS AT \$2.45
A number of choice patterns in excellent quality fabrics, regular knee pant styles, sizes 10 to 16—choice at
\$2.45

\$6.00 BOYS' SUITS AT \$3.75
Wool Cheviot, worsted and cassimere suits—including some knickerbocker Models—Choice patterns—standard makes—sizes up to 16, special at only
\$3.75

\$7.50 BOYS' SUITS AT \$4.50
Choice patterns—nobby styles—sterling qualities—made substantially as well as neatly. A limited number of sizes in each of several patterns. Special at only
\$4.50

\$19.00 BOYS' SUITS AT \$5.95
All wool worsted, cassimere and cheviot Suits, the dearest of styles, made up and finished in best of taste. Rare values. Knickerbocker and regular models. A limited number of sizes in each pattern. Special at only
\$5.95

Special Attractions in Our Shoe Section
FOR VISITING PEOPLE AND HOME FOLKS TO ENJOY THE RICH BARGAINS.

CHILDREN'S TAN OR BLACK OXFORDS, sizes 5 to 8, goes per pair
95c

CHILDREN'S TAN OR BLACK OXFORDS, sizes 8 1/2 to 11, goes per pair
\$1.15

MISSIES TAN OR BLACK OXFORDS, sizes 11 1/2 to 2, goes per pair
\$1.35

YOUNG LADIES TAN OR BLACK OXFORDS, sizes 2 1/2 to 6 goes per pair
\$1.95

BOYS' TAN OXFORDS, sizes 11 to 5 1/2, value \$3.50, goes per pair
\$1.95

LADIES OXFORDS, values up to \$5.00, goes at per pair
\$2.85