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Manipulation

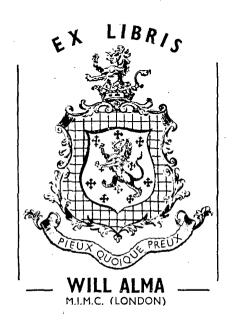
Act.

(ILLUSTRATED.)









The State Library of Victoria "ALMA CONJURING COLLECTION"

Full and Complete____ Exposé, and Explanation

- OF THE -

METHOD OF WORKING STILLWELL'S







AS PRESENTED TO

Messrs. HAMLEY BROS., Ltd.,

BY THE ORIGINATOR AND INVENTOR,

Mr. GEORGE STILLWELL,

and performed by him in all the principal Theatres and Music Halls in U.S.A. and Europe.

ILLUSTRATED.

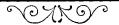
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PARIS AND NUREMBERG.

The____

Handkerchief Manipulation Act.



This Act was originated entirely by Mr. Geo. Stillwell. He first presented same at Philadelphia at Kornig's Casino. Finding that it was well received, he protected it in the United States, and showed it at all the leading vaudevilles Theatres of the States in 1896.

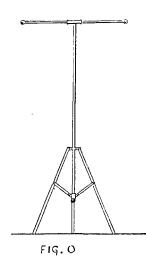
Mr. STILLWELL showed the Act in New York at Pastor's Theatre many times. Needless to say it shared a similar fate to all other first-class Acts, and was copied and pirated to such an extent that it was protected by Mr. STILLWELL.

Many "champion" manipulators sprang up with imitations, but throughout, Mr. STILLWELL'S Act was acknowledged to be the original and best.

In the spring of this year (1902) Mr. STILLWELL came to England and opened with the same Act at the Palace Theatre, London, where the Act had an astonishing effect on all who saw his marvellous Handkerchief performance. It is being extensively copied, but these copies should not be mistaken for the genuine Handkerchief Manipulation Act as presented to us by the inventor and hereinafter explained.

STILLWELL'S Handkerchief Manipulation Act.

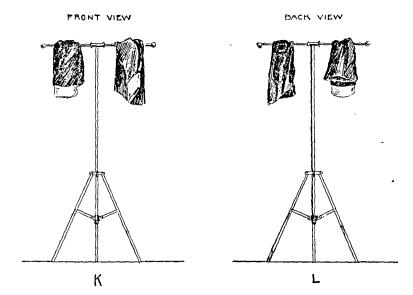




The stage is completely empty with the exception of a plain brass Telescopic Stand (Fig. 0), which is simply a Portable Brass Stand, with a horizontal Brass Rod about 20 inches long, having a Knob each end (Fig. 0). This is so simple that it is apparent to everyone that there is no deception about it at all. This Stand is all that is seen on the stage when the performer enters.

After making his bow he proceeds to relate to the audience the ordinary process of manufacture of silk, and describes the evolution of it from its rough state round the cocoon of the silkworm to the finished and dyed

article generally met with. He observes that notwithstanding the rapidity with which, owing to the improved and perfected machinery now in use, silk is ordinarily manufactured, he will endeavour to show the audience a far quicker but less comprehensible method of manufacture—"The Mystical Process." Having said this heremoves the sleeves from his dress coat and places them over the Telescopic Stand (Figs. K and L, see p. 4), and shows his shirt sleeves turned up and his arms bare and hands empty (Fig. B, see p. 6). He now asks the audience to notice carefully that there is nothing concealed in his hands, and to prove this, he shows them many times back and front, proving the impossibility of anything being concealed in them.



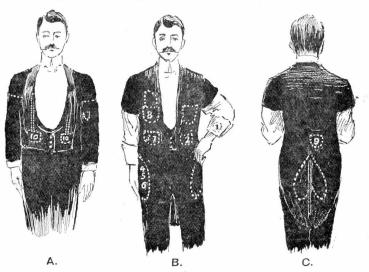
Bringing his hands together, he with his left hand, draws from the finger tips of his right hand a beautiful silk handkerchief. He continues to do this, bringing forth many brilliantly coloured handkerchiefs. After a dozen or more are produced he places these across the Stand along with the coat sleeves. The performer continually throughout shows his hands empty, back and front. He next asks some lady or gentleman to say a number of handkerchiefs that he shall produce. A number being chosen, say "Six," performer again shows his hands empty. Then suddenly the audience see a handful of silk handkerchiefs of different colours appear in his right hand. Taking these one by one he carefully counts them out, showing that he has produced the exact number named. Placing these over the Stand, he next selects two handkerchiefs and remarks to the audience that he has demonstrated his wonderful power to create the magic "silk," but not to dispose of it. He will now, with the permission of the audience, cause the two selected handkerchiefs to entirely vanish; previously having shown his hands empty, back and front. He takes one handkerchief and

carefully inserts it gradually into the palm of the closed left hand, and then the other (Fig. S, see p. 8). When they are quite in he opens his left hand, and lo! they have entirely disappeared. He shows both hands again quite empty, and then immediately produces the handkerchiefs one by one from the finger tips of the Having now proved his complete mastery over the "Mystical Silk," as far as the manufacture is concerned, the performer announces his intention to initiate his audience into the "Mystical Dyeing Process." Selecting from the handkerchiefs now scattered about, three of one colour (say, purple), he freely exhibits these to the audience, showing that there is nothing concealed in them, by shaking them and passing his hand down them, at the same time showing both hands to be empty with the exception of the three handkerchiefs. He now inserts the handkerchiefs one at a time into his closed left hand (Fig. S, see p. 8) between the first finger and thumb, from which they emerge at the other end, having entirely changed in colour; the three purple handkerchiefs having changed respectively to Red, White, and Blue.

Taking these three handkerchiefs, and selecting four or five others of different colours, performer asks the audience to select any one that he has in his hand. A colour being chosen, say, "green," he takes it, and by gathering it up in a small round bundle transforms it into a beautiful highly polished billiard ball, exactly matching in shade the previously selected handkerchief. The audience being somewhat sceptical of his wonderful powers, and overhearing one of them remark that the handkerchief is concealed in his hand, performer shows both hands entirely empty, and holds his left hand right out with the billiard ball resting on the palm; he then brings his right hand and places it flat on the left, thereby causing the ball to vanish, and in its place a large number of varie-coloured handkerchiefs to appear, and from these many others are showered forth in seemingly endless quantities, covering the entire floor all round forming a most beautiful and dazzling display. No sooner have these appeared than the performer throws up his hands, and out flashes a beautiful large silk American or Union Jack Flag, which is shown back and front to the audience, after which, to the amazement of the company, the performer instantly produces two large Flags (Union Jack and American) on handsome staves, being about 6 feet long each. With this splendid and dazzling dénouement is this novel and beautiful Act brought to a close. It is unique and quite unparalleled for simplicity in stage setting, yet the show is tremendous, all the many coloured glistening silks making a beautiful, enchanting, and most effective display.

EXPLANATION.

On the stage there is merely the Stand (Fig. 0, see p. 3); there is no deception about this. The performer has, however, a special dress coat and waistcoat with pockets, &c., so arranged as to carry with the greatest ease the various fêkes necessary in such a position that they can be easily got at.

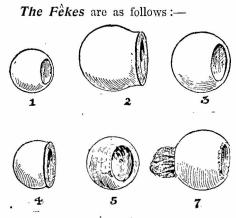


The coat is an ordinary dress coat with the sleeves cut off just above the elbow (Figs. A, B, C). In order that the cut (or separation) shall not be seen when the sleeves are worn, on to the two

sleeves which are cut off, an extra piece of cloth of the same material is sewn, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. This piece overlaps the top section of the sleeve remaining on the coat, and neither the cut or white shirt underneath can possibly be noticed when the sleeves are carefully drawn over the parts of the sleeves remaining on the coat. On one of the sleeves there is a small pochette sewn (preferably the left), formed of a circular piece of wire which is sewn on to the sleeve (Fig. L, see p. 4), and from which there is a piece of black cloth sewn on to the sleeve of coat, thus forming a pocket. This should be sewn in about the bend of the arm so that when the arm is bent it is unnoticed.

The Coat has two inside breast pockets on each side, upper and lower (Fig. B, see p. 6), also the two ordinary tail pockets (Fig. C, see p. 6), one on each side, in addition there is also a pocket in the middle of the back (Fig. C, see p. 6).

The Vest has two inside pockets, one on each side (Fig. A, see p. 6). These are made in the lining of the waistcoat or vest.



No. 1. A small Rubber Ball with hole.

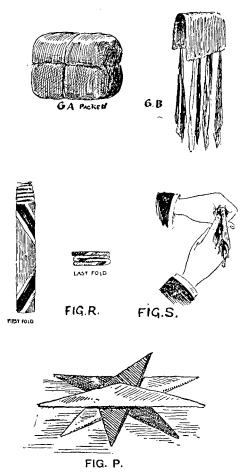
No. 2. Alarger Rubber Ball with larger hole, and with thick rubber band cemented in the opening,

No. 3. Same as No. 1, but rather larger, but trifle smaller than No. 2.

No.4. Same as No.1, but with thick rubber

band cemented in opening, which is rather larger than in No. 1.

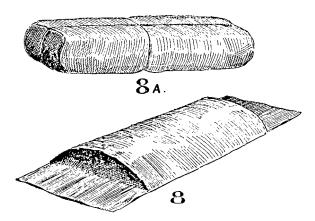
No. 5 is a glass hollow ball with hole.



No. 6 is composed of a piece of black silk folded over and sewn down one side (Fig. 6B). Attached to each side are three handkerchiefs. Hold the opposite sides to those sewn together. and pin them together. This now forms a bag; hold the bag mouth downwards with the handkerchiefs hanging, and gently gather them up into the bag. When they are all in, hold the mouth of the bag to prevent them springing out, and tie it round and across like a parcel, with some fairly strong cotton or silk thread, when this is done remove the pins. This packet should be tied and folded as small as possible. (Fig. 6 A.)

No. 7 is a Rubber Ball nearly as large as

No. 2; it has two round holes in it, one opposite the other. A piece of purple silk should be taken, as near as possible a match to the purple handkerchiefs; and a small bag should be made of this by folding over and sewing the sides together, also the bottom must be sewn up. The other end should be folded round the side of one of the holes in the Ball, and the bag pushed into the Ball (No. 7, see p. 7).



No. 8 is composed of a piece of black silk sewn in the shape of a bag (No. 8) with the ends open. At each end there is a flap. This must be pushed inside the bag and pinned to the side to form a pocket or bag, and filled with twenty or more handkerchiefs; after which, the flap at the other end is pushed inside over the handkerchiefs, and this end also pinned. The parcel should now be tied round and across (same as No. 6 A), and when this is done the pins are taken out, and forms packet No. 8a.

No. 9 is a silk American (or Union Jack) Flag, this is pleated and folded and put in pocket (Fig. C) at back of coat (Fig. R, see p. 8).

No. 10. These are the American and English Flags on Staves, which are put in inside pockets of vest, the English Flag being in left side, American in right (Fig. A, see p. 6).

No. 11 is the Telescopic Brass Stand. This should be stood a little at the back of the stage (Fig. 0, see p. 3).

The Handkerchiefs.—These are made of the finest silk, and are very thin, capable of being inserted in a very small space. These should be used in preference to any other kind for putting in the Balls, &c., &c.

PREPARATION OF FÉKES FOR HANDKERCHIEF ACT.



- No. 1. Is filled with three handkerchiefs, inserted carefully one by one.
- No. 2. Is filled with seven handkerchiefs, inserted carefully one by one.
- No. 3. Take four handkerchiefs, fold them across from corner to corner, and lay them across each other like a star (Fig. P, see p. 8), then take the ends and fold them into the middle, and press the whole lot into the ball with the middle outwards.
 - No. 4. Is left empty.
 - No. 5. Is left empty (Glass Ball).
- No. 6. Is a packet with six handkerchiefs attached, and is explained in foregoing matter (see p. 8).
- No. 7. In this fêke the bag must be pushed through the ball as in Fig. 7, see p. 7. The handkerchiefs are then inserted one at a time, and in following order, viz., Blue, White and Red.
 - No. 8. Is a packet of handkerchiefs, and is explained in foregoing matter (see p. 9).
 - No. 9. Is a Flag which is pleated (as illustrated, First Fold), and then folded into a neat bundle about 3 inches square (Fig. R, see p. 8).
 - No. 10. Are Flag Staves. The flags are pleated and folded as above (Fig. R), and put close to the staves, which are placed in the waistcoat pockets (Fig. A, see p. 6). The Tops pointing downwards.

FULL EXPLANATION OF STILLWELL'S HANDKEROHIEF ACT.



First put on the coat leaving the sleeves off. Then turn up the shirt cuffs and place "No. 1" under the right shirt cuff, easily get-at-able. "No. 2" is placed in lower left breast pocket of coat,



Fig. D. Showing Ball in right palm.

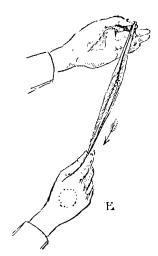


Fig. E. Showing the Thumb and first finger of left hand holding corner of Handkerchief and right hand drawing sharply away, pulling Handkerchief out of Ball.

and "Nos. 8 and 7" in right. "Nos. 4, 5 and 6" are put in right trousers pocket, and "No. 8" in top right-hand breast pocket of coat. "No. 9" is put in back pocket, in small of back of coat (Fig. C, see p. 6), and "Nos. 10" are put one each side in the

inside pockets of vest. Now slip the coat sleeves on, over the turned-up shirt sleeves, being careful to hide the pochette in left coat sleeve.

N.B.—Reference should be made to Figs. A, B and C, which shows the correct pockets for fêkes.

To Commence.—On entering make some remarks such as is mentioned in foregoing description of Act, introducing the patter on

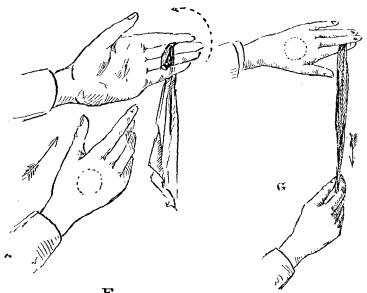


Fig. F. Showing the Right hand going up to the left, Handkerchief being held in between first and second fingers. Note arrows, one showing direction of Right hand, namely upwards. The circular arrow shows the turn of the left hand so that the ball when transferred from Right to left is not visible to the audience. Completion of the move is shown in Frc. G.

Fig. G. Showing completion of move described in Fig. F. It will now be seen, Ball is in left hand, the back of hand being facing audience.

page 3. Meanwhile pull off the sleeves of your coat, placing them over the Stand, being careful to place the pochette on left sleeve so

as to be at hand, on the far side of the Stand (Figs. K and L, see p. 4). Now pretend to arrange the shirt cuffs, and in doing so get possession of ball "No. 1" under the right shirt cuff and palm same in left hand. Next show the hands empty by transferring ball from one palm to the other (Figs. V, W and X, see p. 14). The right hand is brought up to the left, and as the palms cross, the left palm grasps the ball and palms it. The operation is then reversed, thus getting ball into the right hand, taking care the

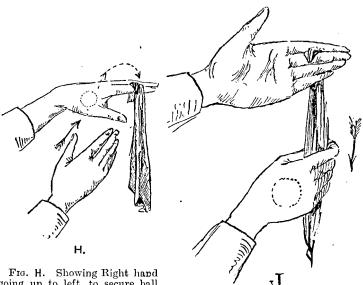
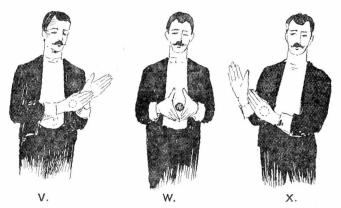


Fig. H. Showing Right hand going up to left, to secure ball from left and palm in right hand. Handkerchief now hangs at the back of fingers, as shown in Fig. J.

Fig. J. Shows completion of movement in Fig. H, the fêke being now in right, which is stroking down the handkerchief.

hole is not covered up (Fig. D, see p. 11). Now quickly bring the right hand to the left, and catch hold of the handkerchief with the left thumb and first finger, and draw the right hand sharply away from the left, giving the appearance of the handkerchief growing from the finger tips (Fig. E, see p. 11). Then place the

handkerchief between the first and second finger of the left hand (Fig. F, see p. 12), now bring the right hand up to the left, and leave the ball in left and turn left round away from the audience, at the same time stroking down the handkerchief with right hand (Fig. G, see p. 12). The left now has the ball palmed. Next bring the right up to the left at the same time turn left hand round (Fig. H, see p. 13), and palm ball in right hand again, with which stroke down the handkerchief which now hangs at the back of the left hand (Fig. J, see p. 13). This gives the appearance of both hands being shown empty. When this is done another handkerchief is pulled out in the same manner, and the same movement gone through. N.B.—It is absolutely necessary that this movement be thoroughly mastered before the Act can be properly performed. A careful



reference to the illustrations will enable a thorough comprehension of this movement. When the third handkerchief is produced unperceived, get possession of fêke "No.2," lying in lower left breast pocket of coat. This is easily done in turning with your left side towards the audience, to pick up a handkerchief that you have dropped on the floor with the left hand.

The Ball "No. 1," is left in the same pocket when getting possession of Ball "No. 2" (which is covered by the movement as already explained, of picking up a handkerchief).

Now proceed in precisely the same manner as with load "No. 1." After the seventh handkerchief is produced, they are all held in the left hand, and are placed over arm of Stand, and under cover of this, Ball "No. 2" is replaced in pocket from which it was taken. Now select a handkerchief from among those on the Stand, at the same time getting possession of load "No. 3" (right hand lower breast pocket), then say that you will produce any number of handkerchiefs called for. Force a number (six of course, being number of handkerchiefs in fêke "No. 3"). Show both hands empty as in load "No. 1," and seize hold of the handkerchiefs with finger tips of left hand from Ball "No. 3," which of course is palmed in right hand, the handkerchiefs being specially folded (Fig. P, see p. 8) all come out together. Now count the handkerchiefs over one at a time, to prove the number is correct, unperceived getting rid of ball by putting in left tail pocket. Then secure Ball "No. 4" from right hand trousers pocket (Fig. B, see p. 6) and palm same in right hand, and under cover of selecting two handkerchiefs transfer it to left. The two handkerchiefs are then placed over right arm, and are one at a time taken and vanished into ball "No. 4" (Fig. S, see p. 8). The ball is palmed from hand to hand permitting you to show both hands empty, as explained in the description of the movements used with Ball No. 1, &c., &c., and as illustrated in Figs. V, W, X, see p. 14. Handkerchiefs are then produced same as with "No. 1." The ball being got rid of by putting in pocket under cover of hand-Then under cover of selecting three Purple handkerchiefs, secure Ball "No. 7" in the left hand, and transfer it to the right hand, palming same to show left is perfectly empty. Again transfer Ball "No. 7" back to left hand, this is done by picking up the Purple handkerchiefs. The handkerchiefs are laid over the left arm, whilst doing so place ball in left hand again. Now insert one Purple handkerchief the opposite end to which the others were put in, and as one of the Purple handkerchiefs is pushed in, it forces out the Red which appears at the bottom. Take this and place it over the Stand near the sleeve with pocket. When the last handkerchief is out, the "Blue," place it over the

Stand, at the same time dropping the ball in the pochette of Now select five or six different coloured handkerchiefs of distinct shades, at the same time unperceived getting load "No. 5" from right hand trousers pocket (Fig. B, see p. 6), and palm same. The left side of body must be facing audience. A colour being chosen, say "Red," it is gathered up into a small bundle with the left hand, and is then pushed into the hole of the Glass Ball, which gives the effect of a highly polished billiard ball. Now place the billiard ball on the left hand, and while calling attention to it quickly get load "No. 6," right hand trousers pocket (Fig. B, see p. 6), into the right hand, which you smartly bring down over the Glass Ball ("No. 5"), at the same time break the thread and shake out the six handkerchiefs attached to the load. While doing this, with the left hand get rid of load "No. 5," into the left hand trousers pocket, and secure load "No. 8," right hand top breast pocket (Fig. B, see p. 6), then break the thread and scatter handkerchiefs in all directions with left hand, the right meanwhile getting possession of the American Flag ("No. 9") from pocket in small of back (Fig. C, see p. 6); when the handkerchiefs have all been produced quickly shake out the American Flag, and under cover of this drop the silk bag amongst the handkerchiefs on the floor, and get hold of one of the Staves ("Nos. 10"), inside vest pockets (Fig. A, see p. 6); with the left hand, which takes the staff in the right hand vest pocket. Then throw it out with a quick jerk, taking care to hold the handle of staff very tight. Next produce the other one in left breast vest pocket by means of the right hand, this is done under cover of the first Flag and Staff produced, hold the two staves crossways, and if quickly executed this makes a most brilliant finish.



Lessons in Magic.

The New Handkerchief Production (by Ellis Stanyon).—The effect is as follows:—Both hands are shown on all sides. The right hand makes a catch in the air, and a 12 in. silk square is produced which is placed in the left hand. This is continued until some two dozen silk handkerchiefs have been produced and this number is again mysteriously multiplied into a hundred or even

more at the discretion of the performer.

You will find nothing better for producing the above effect than a hollow ball, 2 in. in diameter, in thin spun brass with a circular hole ¾ in. in diameter. The ball is identical to that in the old Handkerchief to Billiard Ball Trick, only, of course, much more roomy; such a ball will hold six 12 in. squares in fine silk comfortably and about eighteen such as used by some Handkerchief "Kings"; but there is no necessity to crowd the ball or to use make-shift handkerchiefs, as I will presently show you. To economise space several of the handkerchiefs might be cut in half diagonally, as, even when thus mutilated, being always held by one corner, they would readily pass as square. The left hand, receiving the handkerchief, pulls one out of the ball.

The silks are loaded into the ball one at a time, one on top of the other, and you will find that, when loading, if you just twist the last corner of the first round the first corner of the second, and so on with each in order, that the pulling out of the first handkerchief will have the effect of leaving the corner of next in order, slightly protruding *i-c.*, conveniently arranged for the next "catch."

The manipulation of the ball is as varied as sleight of hand applied to billiard ball work. All performers I have seen up to now, invariably make use of three of these balls but more or less may be used according to taste; when one ball is exhausted it is secretly disposed of and another obtained in like manner, and this, in the case of performers I have seen, is done at the vest or breast pocket and under cover of the handkerchiefs produced and some chatter about silkworms: again, an empty ball may be dropped into profonde, and a loaded oue taken from bottom edge of coat where it has been kept in readiness by means of a spring clip or similar contrivance. The bottom of vest may also be used to advantage, and empty balls may be laid on table under cover of the bulk of silk produced. The multiplication of the handkerchiefs to a hundred or more is accomplished by pulling out a bundle from the opening in vest—under cover of the last half dozen produced—a loop of wire attached to the bundle will facilitate matters.

N.B.—We have balls as described already in stock, painted a very natural flesh colour, price each 3/6, post free 3/8. Each ball fitted six fine quality silk handkerchiefs, properly made and arranged, 6/- extra.

HANDKERCHIEF AND RIBBON COMBINATION TRICK

To produce a number of handkerchiefs and ribbons from bare hands. My first handkerchief I wind around one end of my wand, another handkerchief I place under my coat collar, a lot of silk ribbons are stuffed into the opening of a hollow rubber ball. This ball is hung behind a chair, together with a load of several more handkerchiefs. I fold a large American flag and vest it. Everything is now ready for the trick. With the wand under my arm, and being careful not to acquaint my audience of the presence of the balled handkerchief on the one end of it, I show both hands empty, and produce the first handkerchief, in the manner familiar to MAHATMA readers. This I roll up and palm in my left hand, and, while pretending to reproduce it from the right elbow, the right hand manages to steal the load—the second handkerchief-from the coat collar, when the right forearm is raised. I shake out the visible handkerchief, and bringing the right hand over the left, I produce the palmed handkerchief, and both are hung over the back of the chair, and in doing so. obtain possession of the ball of ribbons and bundle of handkerchiefs, from the back of the chair, which I then produce. ribbons and handkerchiefs will form a bundle large enough to screen the right hand when it is lowered to obtain the secreted flag from the vest. The flag, when once secured, is spread out.

This combination I have been working for some time, and thinking that some of the readers may approve of my routine, or elaborate on it, I contribute it, as an idea for the readers of TISSUE PAPERS, RIBBONS AND FLAG.—(STANYON'S METHOD.)

Effect.—Three strips of tissue paper 5×2 are burned in the flame of a candle, the performer crushes burning paper between the hands and causes them to change to red, white and blue ribbons. He next gathers in the ribbons, which by merely rolling between the hands, blend together and form a flag.

For the trick you will require nine yards of one-quarter inch ribbon, three strips of three yards each of the required color. The three strips are sewn to a piece of black ribbon about eight inches long. You will also require a silk flag about three feet square. The ribbons are rolled up from the end opposite to the black strip, to the point where the black strip is joined on. The flag will be best pleated in one and one-quarter pleats prior to being rolled up in a similar manner to the ribbons, it is then placed by the side of the ribbon and there secured by bringing the black strip around the whole. To show the trick place the bundle under the left arm (flag at bottom), with the black ribbon to front. Light the papers with the right hand, and as they burn pull up the sleeve, then transfer papers to the left hand and pull up left sleeve, removing bundle from the armpit under cover of the movement. Keeping firm hold of flag, bring your hands quickly together and throw out ribbons; when this is done gather up the ribbon rolling it into a ball in the hands. and when well secured develop flag slowly. When flag is fully developed show it from both sides, then quickly allow it to fall over hand containing ribbon which is thus carried away in secret.

PRICES OF APPARATUS, FÉKES, &c., FOR USE IN THIS ACT.

- Stand. Best Brass, as per illustration p. 4, 11/6. Post free 12/6.
- Best Silk U.S.A. and Union Jack Flags, $14 \text{ in.} \times 14 \text{ in.}$, 1/4; $14 \text{ in.} \times 14 \text{ in.}$ (better quality), 2/-; $36 \text{ in.} \times 36 \text{ in.}$, 7/6; $54 \text{ in.} \times 29 \text{ in.}$, 15/6; $72 \text{ in.} \times 36 \text{ in.}$, 25/-. Postage 3d. extra.
- Brass Throwout Flag Staves, 48 in. Brass, 14/6; 54 in. Nickeled, 17/6; 72 in. Nickeled, 21/-. Postage 4d. extra.
- Superior Make, Thinner, Locking Flag Staves, 4 ft., 15/6; 6 ft. 6 in., 25/-. Postage 6d. extra.
- Special Fine Silk Handkerchiefs for this Act, 9d. each, 8/6 per doz. Postage extra, 1d. each, 3d. doz.
- Fêkes, including Nos. "1," "2," "3," "4," and "7," rubber balls, all ready for use, 4/6 the set of five. Post free 4/10.
 - No. "5," Glass Billiard Ball, 2/6. Post free 2/9.
 - No. "6" (with six handkerchiefs attached) and No. "8," 8/6 the two. Post free 8/9.

All the above Fêkes, riz., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, 12/6; will be sent post free on receipt of 12/9.

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