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cigars. The Edisons devised an iron cigar; a cigar box that, when opened, would explode; a cigar that, when reached for by the "sponger," would give him a smart clip on his forefinger through a spring trap concealed on the cigar; and a cigar that would slide up the giver's sleeve via a rubber cord when the borrower put out his hand to take it.

Cigarettes are borrowed too. Hence, a cigarette box the cigarettes in which were secreted under a piece of thin glass. You reached for a cigarette in plain view, and were cured of the let-me-have-a-cigarette habit by encountering glass.

Pencils are borrowed. Hence, to cure the promiscuous borrower, the inventors of hoaxers produced iron pencils, pencils that jumped out of the hand when one tried to write with them, pencils whose points were made of rubber instead of lead, pencils with a tin cap over the points that could not be removed, and pencils whose points slid in.

ONE of the supreme general bores is the fellow who always sees a piece of lint or thread on your coat and affectionately removes it for you. To cure him, there was devised a small bobbin. The bobbin is pinned under the lapel of your coat with a piece of thread left sticking through the buttonhole. When the bore sees the thread, he pounces on it, the thread starts to unravel—and, after the bore has tugged at it for awhile and still does not get to the end of it, he is either cured or beyond curing.

There are imitation cigar butts, apparently lighted, and imitation cigarette butts, also apparently still burning, to cure the overparticular housewife.

These may be laid on a mahogany table with excellent result. Of a similar nature, there has been "invented" by one of the Little Edisons a small, irregular piece of black tin and an ink bottle. The bottle is turned over on its side, the tin inkspot placed with its end to the neck of the bottle, and the whole placed on a white table cover.

Tacks made of rubber, purses that prick with a secreted needle the wife who tries to go through her husband's pockets at night, and purses that, when opened, unravel for yards, are other inventions to cure certain species of individuals of their certain species of weaknesses.

From the Parisian sources comes a series of six metal disks of different sounds. These disks dropped on the floor sound like the falling of a tray of dishes, and are directed toward the cure of housewives who are too nervous about their servants.

For use against the camera fiend there has been evolved a camera that, when touched, emits a papier-mâché snake six feet long; and for use against the person who is always on the lookout for sympathy, a "bleeding finger," consisting of a linen bandage smeared with red ink, which may be placed over the finger with an acutely realistic effect.

IN the sphere of the manufacture of the ten-cent smile, puzzles and hoaxers or cures are not alone. The Little Edisons have busied themselves with inventing pocket tricks that puzzle quite as effectively as the vastly more intricate devices shown to the public by professional prestidigitators. The Little Edisons here set themselves a pretty problem; for they had to figure out ways and means that would permit the amateur to fool persons. Realizing that the amateur's hand was not quicker than the eye, the inventors had to make up for this deficiency by making their own brains quicker than the amateur's hand or the onlooker's eye; quicker, indeed, than both of them put together. A couple of illustrations will serve to indicate the truly thorough ingenuity of these Little Edisons.

A small paddle with a small playing card (say, the ace of spades) fastened to it is shown. The paddle is turned over, and another ace of spades is revealed on the other side. It is turned back—and where the ace of spades was there is now seen another card, the ace of hearts. An inventive idea, surely! And a certain puzzler. The inventor simply figured out that the onlooker would not stop to think that the paddle had been turned over twice instead of once, and that the ace of hearts had been on the other side all the time. By turning the paddle quickly it would appear that an ace of spades was on each side. It was the Little Edison's brain versus the onlooker's brain, with the former the certain victor. The amateur magician had to do nothing but trust to the inventor of the paddle.

ONE of the best known and most fertile of the Little Edisons of the class of which we are now speaking is Theodore L. Deland, Jr., who has devised and perfected at least a dozen tricks that reveal the craft of these clever fellows at its best. Deland's subtlest contribution is a card trick that can be worked by the most amateurish of amateur magicians, and is yet so inventive that it will puzzle ninety-nine persons out of every hundred. The effect of the trick is as follows:

Four cards are dropped into a hat, and are shown to the onlookers one at a time as the jack of hearts, queen of clubs, jack of spades, and king of diamonds. The claim is made that no one present can remember the names of the four cards. Naturally, as the cards are shown in rather quick succession, onlookers are somewhat reluctant in disputing the claim. The amateur magician therefore says he will remove one of the cards, and challenges anyone present to remember the remaining three. This seems too easy, and one or more of those present will take up the challenge. After the onlookers have named the cards in the hat as they think they have remembered them, the hat is handed round and—the three cards in it are perfectly blank! The reader will admit that there is a bit of puzzle to this.

The way Deland figured out his little problem was as ingenious as it is simple. Five cards are used. Three of these are blank, the fourth is the queen of clubs, and the other looks like this:

On the back of this card are printed the king of diamonds and the jack of spades in a similar way; thus making four cards in one. With the real queen of clubs hidden in his pocket, the amateur throws the three blank cards and the trick card in the hat and, by holding his thumb over the righthand bottom corner of the trick card displays it to the onlookers four different times as four different cards. It seems to the onlookers, therefore, that they have seen the four cards in the hat. "But I will remove one of the cards and make it easier for you to remember the other three," remarks the amateur; whereupon he takes out the trick card and places it in the coat pocket containing the real queen of clubs.

The rest is self explanatory. The remaining cards in the hat, of course, are blank, and then the magician pulls the real queen of clubs out of his pocket; thus presumably showing the onlookers the card they saw him take out of the hat.

OBSERVE, finally, what is probably the most ingenious idea of all. First, the effect. A man holds five cards in his hand, fan fashion. You are asked to select three mentally; but not to mention those you have selected. The cards are thrown into a hat. The man says, "I will now show you the two cards you did not select." He does so. (Mind you, the person who thought of the three cards has not spoken of his choice.) He then passes the hat to the person—and the other three cards have disappeared. Were this a feat of the practised magician, it would have no place in this article. It is mentioned here because it seems best to reflect the inventiveness of the Little Edisons and the best to reflect their appreciation of human nature. Figuring safely that the person who is asked to pick out in his mind three of the cards will never stop to see or, particularly, remember what the two cards he does not select are, the Little Edisons found the rest of the problem easy.

They took two blank cards. On one they designed what appeared to be four different cards; as above.

On the other cards they put a six of spades; thus:

And on the back of the two cards they put an eight of hearts and a seven of clubs respectively. They knew, incidentally, that everyone knew there was "only one side to a playing card," and that consequently no one would ever stop to consider the possibility of two sides. When held properly, the two cards will look like five, as may quickly be observed. The "five" cards are placed in a hat. Naturally, the two cards drawn out were not thought of by the other person, for the good and sufficient reason that he never saw them—and of course the hat was empty! The present writer has been assured that it took more than a year before this simple trick had been elaborated to its present complex form by one of the Little Edisons. It marks the climax of their ingenuity.

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