

PSYCHIC MAGIC

VOLUME
FOUR



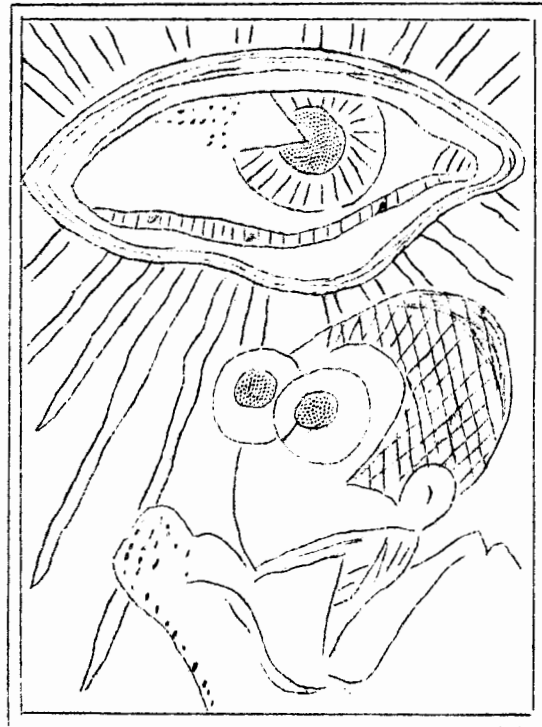
BY
ORMOND McGILL

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THE X-RAY EYE ACT

A rare form of clairvoyance is the basis for one of the most popular of pseudo-psychic exhibitions: "X-Ray Vision", or "Seeing With the Fingertips". A number of exceedingly thorough works, "Intuitional Sight" by Eddie Joseph, and Dr. Q's "Sight Unseen", and "The Pineal Eye" by William Larsen have splendidly cover the subject in recent years.

The traditional method of performing the effect is to have cotton wadding placed directly over the eyes, this being held in position with adhesive tape. For this purpose it will prove more effective to pull a bunch of cotton right off from the roll and place it directly into the eye sockets than to have wads previously prepared. By thus pulling off the cotton the whole "test" gains an air of authenticity. This applies also to cutting off lengths of tape in readiness to be applied to the eyes. Just keep in mind that in presenting an effect of this nature, it must appear as a laboratory controlled experiment being conducted upon the stage.

Having pulled off the cotton and made two pads approximately three inches square (make these pads good and thick, so the cotton really bunches up), next cut off four six-inch lengths of one-half-inch adhesive tape, and invite committee members from the audience to blindfold you by placing a cotton wad over each eye and taping it in place. The cotton wad is pushed well into the eye socket, and a strip of tape is run on a diagonal from the middle of your forehead, across the cotton onto your cheek. Another strip of tape holds the other wad in place on an opposite diagonal - See Fig. 24. Two more strips of tape are run from your temples to the base of the nose; thus the Wadding is securely held to each eye by an X of tape - See Fig. 25. The more the cotton

bulges out from between the X of tape and around the eye socket the better; for the crux of the entire presentation is to make the blindfolding absolutely convincing.



Now for the blindfold itself. For this use a large white handkerchief, as this looks much more natural and convincing than a length of black or coloured cloth. Further, being white it matches the colour of the cotton and will prove more deceptive for your subsequent moves. Fold the handkerchief in half on the diagonal and then once again so that it gives a long bandage of four thicknesses. Request that the committee members inspect it and place it before their eyes to make certain that it really is sight proof. Then extend your hands and have the bandage laid across your fingers - See Fig. 26.



Now comes the experiment's one vital move. Do not bring the bandage up to your eyes, but rather bend your head to meet your outstretched hands - See Fig. 27. At once you

instruct that the blindfold be tied behind your head tightly, very tightly! In this process it is but the work of a moment for your thumbs to enter under the bottom edge of the blindfold and push aside the cotton a trifle from each eye. This will give you just enough clearance to see freely under the blindfold down the sides of your nose.

You will find that your thumbs resting on top of the cloth as you hold the handkerchief in place across your eyes are in exactly the right position to perform this action. Just let them go up under the edge of the blindfold right along the sides of your nose, and the cotton wadding bunched up over each eye will not only push aside, but will push out the blindfold just enough for easy downward vision, while the blindfold in turn, being tightly tied, will hold up the cotton in the position it is pushed by the thumbs.



The whole action is but the work of an instant and is perfectly covered from the audience by the body of the spectator as he stands in front of you tying the bandage, and from the spectator himself by the back of your neck as you bend your head - See Fig. 28. You will now find that although you appear most decidedly and convincingly blindfolded, you actually have a surprisingly good range of vision from under the blindfold at the points indicated by the arrows in Fig. 29.

You are now ready to demonstrate "Seeing With the Fingertips".

Staging the Act

Request that persons seated on the middle aisle in the audience hold some object outstretched on the palm of their hands, and comment that you will attempt a demonstration of Seeing With Your Fingertips, and that if they will hold their objects about six inches beneath the palm of your outstretched hand, each in turn, as you pass through the audience, you will try to describe their objects.

Have one of the committee members escort you from the stage, down the steps to the centre aisle. Close your eyes as he leads you, so you really stumble about without vision.

Once in the aisle, you commence to slowly walk forward, with your right hand outstretched in front of you, moving your arm from side to side as you walk. As an object is placed beneath your fingertips you describe it for its owner. Make your descriptions rapidly and brief, viz., "It is a comb - a black comb; it's a lipstick; it is a handkerchief - a ladies' handkerchief" etc. Make your movements brisk and jerky, sort of wavering from side to side as you pass up the aisle.

You will find that you can easily sight the objects. Never tilt your head back as you do this; always keep looking straight ahead. In fact, frequently make it a point to sight the object and describe it while your bandaged eyes are actually beyond it; occasionally even while it is behind your back. Since you are walking up a theatre aisle, persons will be holding out objects along both sides, eager for you to try the test with them; so as you describe one object you can actually be sighting another; thus your face need not even turn in the direction of the object as it is placed beneath your fingertips to be described. The idea your showmanship must always impart is that you have the power to sense objects by their vibrations when they are held under your fingers; never that you can see through a blindfold.

Pass completely up the aisle from the front of the theatre to the rear, then cross through the lobby to the right aisle, and work down this aisle back to the front again, describing articles as you do so. Keep the pace of your presentation snappy; never let it drag. Occasionally stumble about, have your shoe bump into a spectator's foot as it protrudes into the aisle. Remember you are blindfolded, so act like a blindfolded man would act; all of these little clumsinesses testify the genuineness of your blindfolding.

Once back to the front of the audience, close your eyes tightly and have the spectator lead you back up the steps to the centre of the stage. Bend your head down into your cupped



hands as you request that the blindfold be untied. As you do this, rest the edge of the bandage on the ball of each palm over each eye - See Fig. 30 - and by pressing in, the gaps in the cotton under each eye are instantly closed, so that when the handkerchief is removed, the cotton wads are tightly pressed into the eye sockets.

Let the committee *members rip off the* tape, removing the wads, and the test is complete.

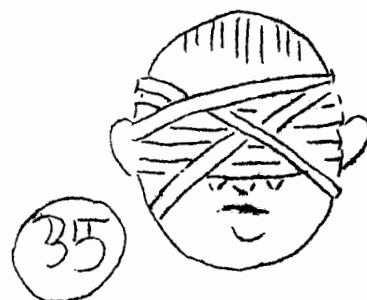
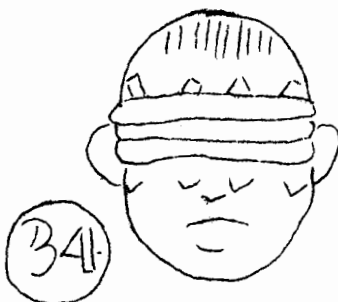
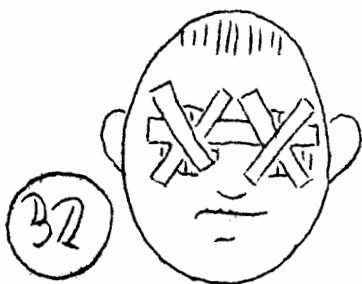
Few feats of Psychic Magic could be more convincing than the one just considered. Yet, even this masterpiece has been given a more modern treatment.

A New Blindfold Method

Invite five or six persons to the stage, borrow two books of paper matches, tear off their covers, and place one cover over each eye. Next a volunteer takes a strip of inch-wide adhesive tape and runs it from the left side of head to the right across the centre of the match book covers, holding securely in position over the eyes - See Fig. 31. Shut your eyes tightly as the covers are being stuck into position, and keep them tightly shut during the entire taping process.



Next a cross of tape is made over each eye - See Fig. 32. From here on in, strips of tape are run across from the right to the left side of your head, from the forehead clear to the very tip of the nose - See Fig. 33. Then pile strip after strip of tape on top of this bandage; pile it on as haphazardly as the committee likes, and the larger the pile, the more effective the blindfolding - See Fig. 34.



Now don't spoil the effect by placing a handkerchief over your taped eyes. The piled up and criss-cross bandage of tape is startling. If ever a blindfolding looked convincing, this is it!

With all this, however, on opening your eyes, you will find, much to your own surprise, that you can readily see under the lower edge of the tape bandage. The match book cover keeps the tape from sticking the eyelids shut, so when you open your eyes, the face muscles will pull up the bundle of tape sufficiently for the vision required in performing this test.

If at any time the tape should happen to be in the way of your vision, you can indetectably clear it by deliberately bending your head into your cupped hands. It looks merely as if you wish to push the tape tighter to your eyes, but actually in the process your thumbs enter under the lower edge of the tape - See Fig. 35 - widening your "vision gap".

You are now ready for the routine.



A Novel Presentation

In performing with this new blindfold method, it might be well to consider a presentation variation in which all of the action takes place on the stage.

First, have your assistant bring out a group of differently coloured handkerchiefs. One by one, different colours are held out by a committeeman, and approaching the handkerchief with your fingertips you successfully name its colour. Nothing could be simpler than to catch a flash of the colour from beneath the blindfold.

A deck of cards is then shuffled and dropped within a hat on the table. You reach in the hat and separate the red cards from the black, naming the colour and dropping the red and black cards in two separate piles on the table. Occasionally you can

even name a card as you hold it to your forehead. The method is obvious, since you are standing directly over the hat and can see into it to note the colour of the cards. Once in a while, also spot the index of a card, and, raising it to your forehead, name it. A very effective test.

Following the experiment with cards, ask the committee members to stand in a row on the stage, and each hold an article outstretched in the palm of their hand. You pass down the row describing the objects held beneath your fingertips. Since they are lined up in a row you can spot the next article as you describe that being held under your fingers. Thus you need not even look in the direction of the object, and for the last feat of this test, you can even pass right by the object and describe it while it is held behind your back.

To climax the demonstration, have the committee members stand in any position on the stage they like, to block your passage from one side of the stage to the other. You start slowly, walking with your hands outstretched before you, and seemingly your fingertips sense the vibration of a person as you come near one of the committee members, so you step around him and walk on, until you successfully pass each obstacle and reach the opposite side of the stage. For variety, on approaching some party, your fingers can gently pass before him as you comment on an article of clothing he is wearing.

The same showmanship applies to this presentation of the X-Ray Eye Act as the one previously described. Always keep your head looking straight forward; never tilt it backward at any time. Move about the stage clumsily as a blindfolded person would actually do, and don't draw the stunt out too long. Once you have demonstrated your miraculous power, bring it to a snappy close. Move to the centre of the stage. Shut your eyes tightly together, and let the committee members rip the tapes from your eyes.

It's baffling Psychic Magic!





THAT ANIMAL MAGNETISM QUESTION

The belief that some humans possess a subtle, emanating force, a sort of body magnetism that can seep out and control the actions of other people has for centuries been held by thousands in every land throughout the globe.

This force, under a variety of names - Animal Magnetism, Odic Force, Psychic Influence, Personal Magnetism - found its most ardent exponent in the person of a Viennese physician, Dr. Frederic Antoine Mesmer - to whose credit the "force" now derives its name - Mesmerism.

Many and devious have been the effects attributed to this mysterious magnetic influence - everything from the "evil eye" to the miraculous "laying on of hands" cures, and usually the magnetic phenomena are said to occur in the form of invisible, yet tangible to a "sensitive", emanations proceeding out of the fingers or eyes of the "magnetizer" into the body of his victim or patient, as the case may be.

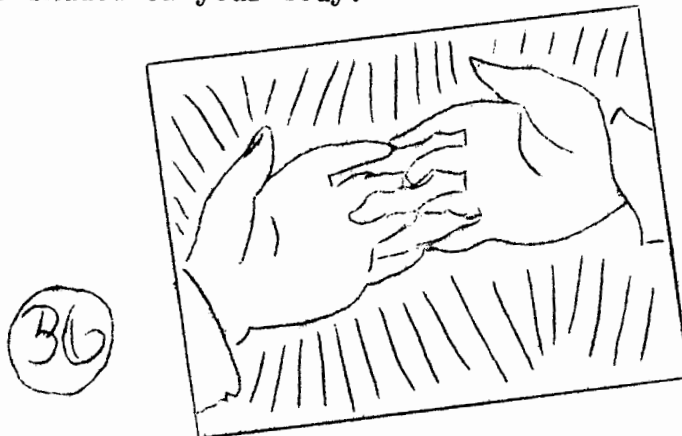
The attitude of Science on the subject of this Animal Magnetism Question has for years been that with the apparent exposure of Mesmer as a charlatan, it became a dead issue, no longer worthy of serious consideration. However, recent research with "brain waves" and other recordable human emanations from the skin has again revived interest in the age-old subject of Animal Magnetism.

But the attitude of Science in its consideration of Animal Magnetism is not so much of interest to us as are the question marks that produce an extremely fertile field for our application of Psychic Magic.

Visible Astral Radiation

First, explain carefully to your observers that you will attempt to show them actual Animal Magnetic or Astral Radiations from between your fingertips. Then describe how these will appear - in the form of intangible, luminous lines of force - and emphasize that they must look sharply and intently, or they will miss this unusual phenomenon.

Then place the tips of your fingers together. Have the palms of your hands facing up, and hold them directly in front of a black cloth - See Fig. 36. - or if more convenient, over your dark trousers. Be sure the light is behind you, so that your fingertips are only dimly illuminated, being hidden partly in the shadow of your body.



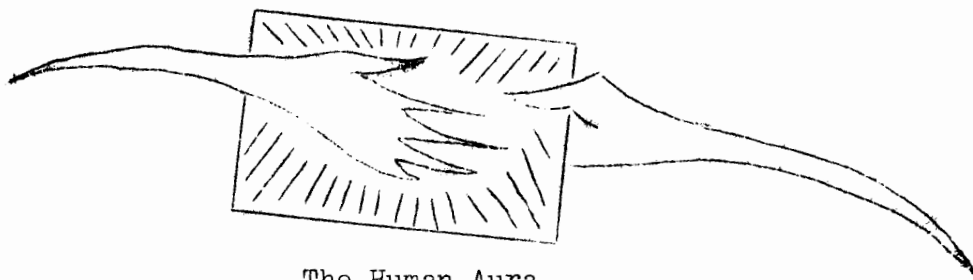
Have all of your observers circle in close, and centre their gaze upon your touching fingertips, and then slowly, very slowly, draw your fingers apart. And there, clearly defined for all to see, are radiating lines of force flowing from hand to hand between the tips of every finger. They appear dimly misty and luminous.

You can then comment that to prove the actual existence of this "flowing force" you will move your fingers back and forth. With your hands still facing your observers, palms up, move your hands slowly back and forth about an inch each way; the lines of misty radiation seem indeed to follow the motion; still flowing eerily between your fingertips. Then suddenly snap your fingers, separate your hands widely, and the experiment is complete.

This demonstration is based upon a most striking optical illusion. In the dim light, with attention centred on the whiteness of your touching fingertips contrasting strongly against the dark background, when those fingertips are separated slowly, an illusion is produced of decidedly visible white lines flowing between the fingers. So persistent is the image that even when the fingers are moved back and forth,

the lines still seem to flow and follow the movement.

The illusion is so striking that it takes very little expectancy on the part of the observers to easily be convinced that they are actually witnessing astral radiations. In fact, some investigators claim that such is exactly what they are witnessing, and that those flowing misty lines are far more than optical illusion.



The Human Aura

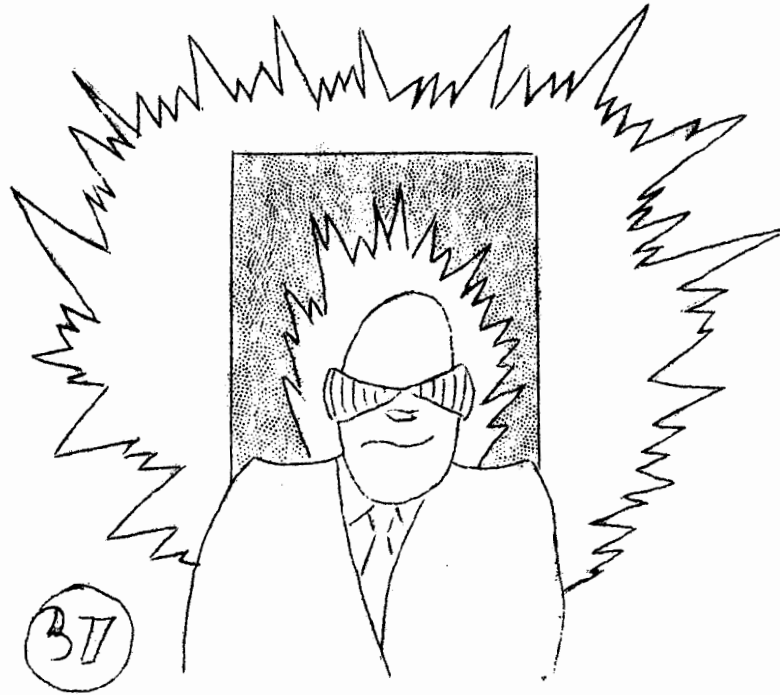
This makes an ideal demonstration with which to follow the preceding effect. Offer now to carry the experiment a step further and show a spectator his own radiation, or as it is termed in psychic circles - The Aura.

Explain that this Aura usually appears in the form of a misty, luminous outline around the contours of the body, being particularly noticeable around the hands, fingers, and over the head. You further amplify this explanation by stating that, in some cases, the Aura frequently proves most vivid and can even be seen in a variety of colours, which colours bear certain occult meanings relating to the personality of the individual.

Get a volunteer to hold a black piece of cardboard, about two feet square, in front of a strong electric light. This naturally produces an intensely black square in an area of brilliant illumination around the sides.

Then request another person, who is to function as a subject for the test, to place his two hands, palms down, up against the blackboard, and, sure enough, there, clearly observable, is an Aura of different coloured rays coming from and about his hands. It seems very much like a luminous glove as it hugs the outlines of his hands and fingers.

The subject next stands with the back of his head against the blackboard, and again can be seen clearly defined in the area of blackness - "The Human Aura" about the head of the volunteer - See Fig. 37.



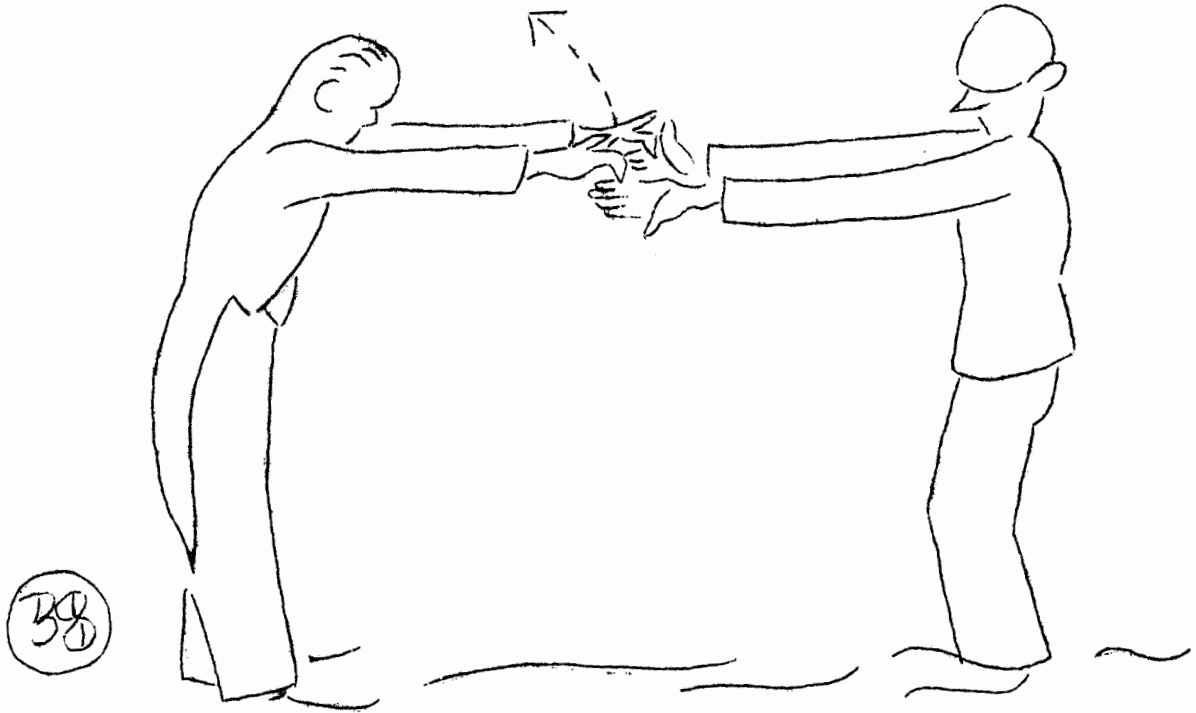
Again the experiment is accounted for on the basis of an optical illusion. The contrast of the subject against the blackboard, with illumination behind, thus coming indirectly into the eyes of the observers, produces a perfect illusion of an Aura in a vivid array of colours.

Here is seemingly convincing "visible evidence" for the actual existence of the human emanation of Animal Magnetism.

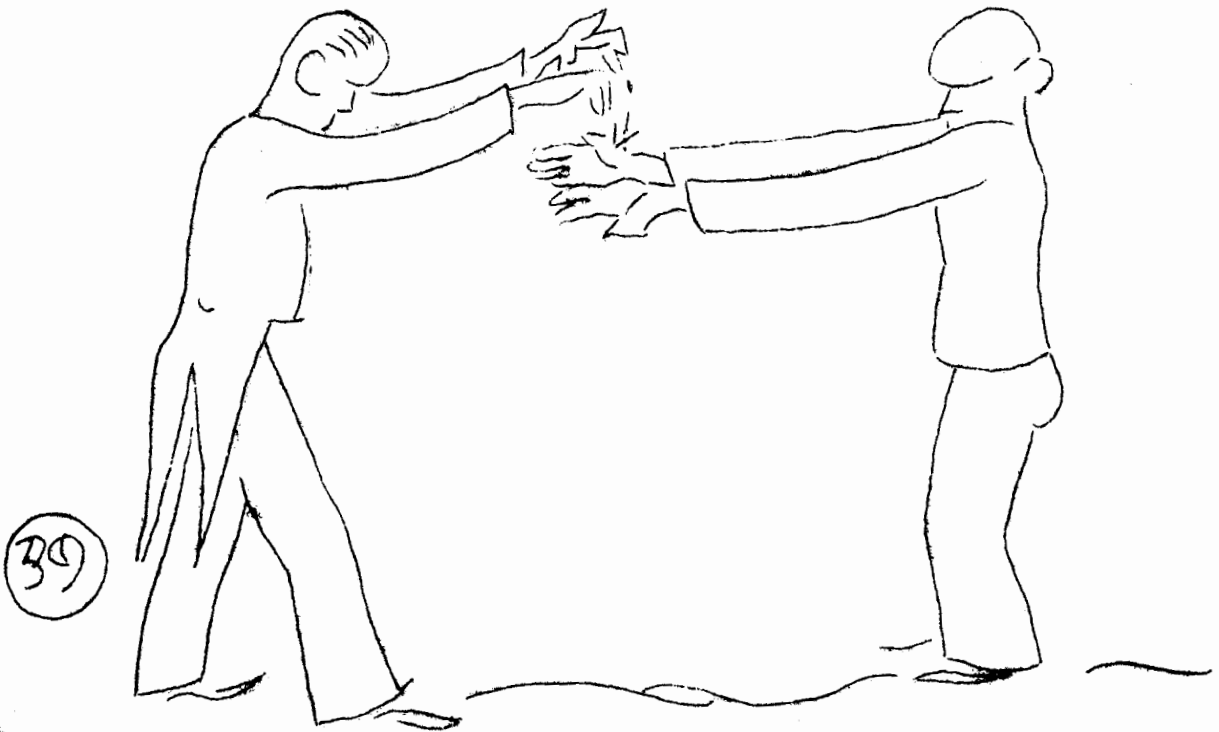
Distant Magnetic Force

We come now to a test that is decidedly effective Psychic Magic. Explain to your audience that the Animal Magnetic influence can frequently be "felt" in the form of electric-like tingles, or a slight chilly, breeze-like sensation.

Then ask for a volunteer, have him stand facing you, and extend his hands on a level with his shoulders - palms up. Next, you, standing directly in front of him, extend your own hands and let the tips of your fingers rest lightly in the centre of his palms, as you explain that you are attempting to gather enough Animal Magnetism that he may be able to feel it - See Fig. 38. Suddenly lift your hands from off his - sort of flip your hands upward as you do this to a point about a foot above his hands, and now slowly let your hands descend with the fingers pointing directly at your volunteer's palms until your fingertips are within an inch of his



palms - See Fig. 39. Just a moment later he will experience an icy breeze which seems to come directly from your fingertips.



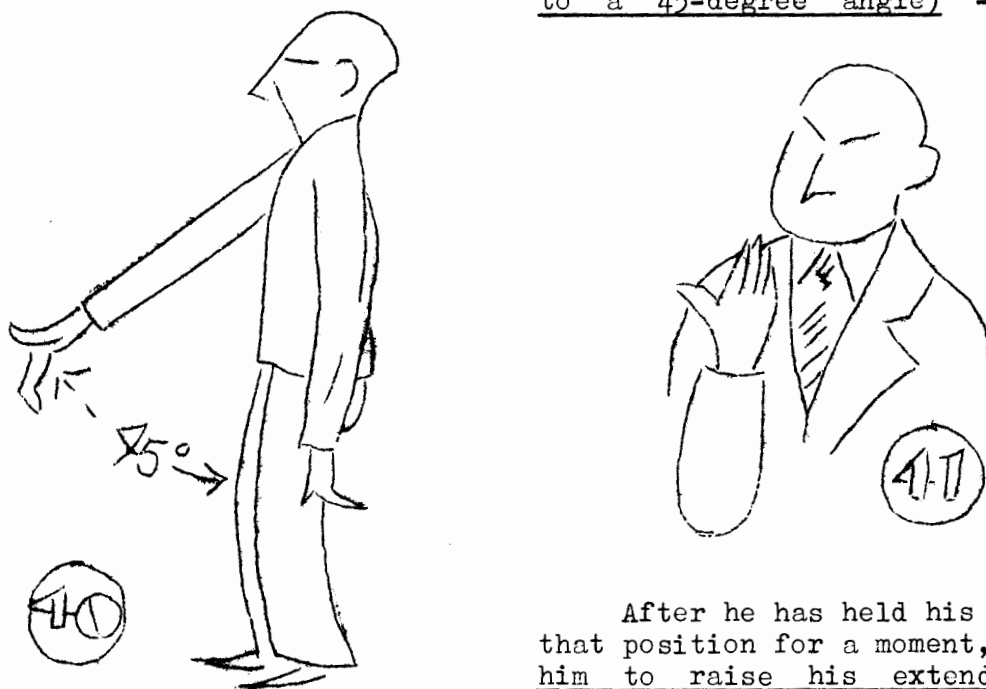
Again you repeat the experiment, and the effect is just as startling as before - the spectator feeling very definite "Magnetic Sensations".

This demonstration functions, due to the downward motion of your descending hands disturbing the air, thus causing a slight breeze or draft. In presenting the test, be sure your volunteer's hands are held out rigid with all his fingers close together, and that your hands are held in the same position - in direct line with his.

And remember, after flipping your hands upward, in bringing them down again toward the spectator, do so very slowly. Fast movement would tend to give away the modus operandi. Practice the effect several times by swinging your own right hand toward your left palm until you have learned the slowest possible speed you can use.

The movement of your hands disturbs the air currents which move along with the hand, and then go out over the fingertips. Thus the spectator feels the breeze (you call it "magnetic radiation") AFTER your hands have stopped their movement, which gives the impression that the breeze really did come from out of your fingertips.

You now further develop the experiment. Request your volunteer to stand at the opposite side of the room, and have him extend his right arm out toward you - out at an angle (downward from the shoulder to a 45-degree angle) - See Fig.40.



After he has held his arm in that position for a moment, request him to raise his extended hand

and hold it pressed lightly against the lapel of his coat - See Fig. 41.

As he does this, explain to him that you are attempting to render him sensitive enough so he'll be able to actually feel your "magnetic emanations" even at this great distance.

Now raise your right hand toward the ceiling, and ask the spectator to again drop his arm to its first position so it will be out from his body at the 45-degree angle as in Fig. 40.

As he does this, you, at the same time, lower your right arm and point your fingers directly at his, as you instruct him to note carefully that he may "feel" the magnetic rays coming from out of your fingertips. And amazingly true, he does indeed experience sensations of "Animal Magnetism", even though you're standing at a distance of some thirty feet from him. The cause, however, is naturally not magnetic influence, but rather that the lowering of his arm resulted in a change in the blood flow in that arm, and it is the beating of the pulse that causes the sensations of warmth and coldness.

So all you have to do is to suggest that he will experience magnetic sensations and he will, as you keep making circular motions with your fingertips, apparently throwing out your mesmeric radiations.

Try to time these motions of your hand with the approximate rate of his pulse beats, and the effect will prove most startling.

Animal Magnetic Presentation

Evidence for mesmeric emanations, aside from its results, i.e., entrancement and healing, are said to be observable in tactile, electric-like sensations (very similar to those experienced when the nerves in one's hand go to sleep), or else in breeze-like feelings of coldness. Usually these sensations are noted most strongly in and from the fingertips.

In presenting all of these Animal Magnetism tricks, it is well that you hold firmly in mind the idea that you are actually capable of thus projecting such a Magnetic Force. In fact, try this experiment.

Ask your observer to close his eyes, and to see if he can detect any sensation of "magnetic tingles" proceeding

from out of your fingers. Then slowly, with your fingers tense and extended, make passes down both sides of his face and over the forehead. Many persons will find they are able to sense a decided tingling sensation, and even with their eyes closed, tell you exactly where your fingertips are pointing as they pass over their faces.

Next, take the hands of the observer in yours, so that the inside of your thumbs meet the inside of his - See Fig. 42. - and visualize that a magnetic flow of "force" is passing down your arms, out of your fingertips into his hands and up his arms. Many persons claim they can very definitely feel "the force flowing". In fact, you, as operator, in making these magnetic passes, will often note the "electric-like sensations", as though a "force" were, in actuality, passing out of your fingers into those of your observer.



These Animal Magnetism secrets are a most interesting rarity, and they work so well that many a performer will begin to wonder if some subtle "force" doesn't actually exist; or is it just the action of anticipation and expectancy. The answer doesn't concern us, but if it is anticipation and expectancy - that kind of expectancy is the type we most highly desire for the creation of the greatest achievements in PSYCHIC MAGIC.

