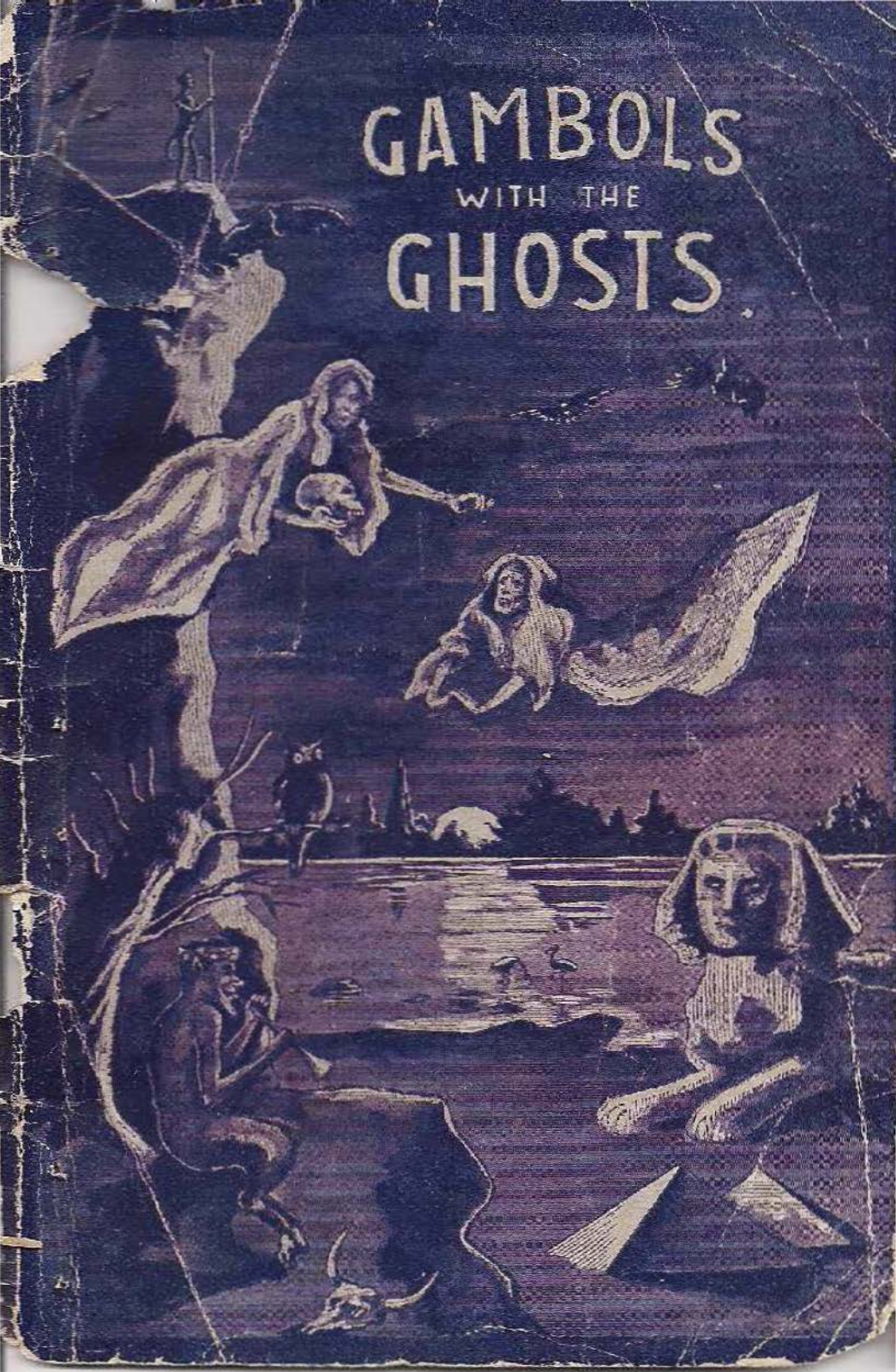


# GAMBOLS WITH THE GHOSTS.





*Mind Reading,  
Spiritualistic Effects,  
Mental and Psychical  
Phenomena  
and  
Horoscopy*

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*RALPH E. SYLVESTRE & CO.  
25 Ashland Boulevard,  
Chicago, U. S. A.*

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ESTABLISHED 1870.  
CATALOGUE NO. 16.  
(Copyrighted 1901)

## INTRODUCTION.

Your attention is respectfully called to the following excerpt from the editorial pages of "Suggestion," that well known magazine edited by Dr. Herbert A. Parkyn, of Chicago, issue of June 1, 1901. "The enterprising firm, Sylvestre & Co., have been in this business for many years. Their effects have found favor in the eyes of the leading prestidigitators, and, this on the quiet, many celebrated mediums of this country and foreign lands. Their appliances have 'made the ghost walk' in nearly every city of the land. With their aid one can operate a seance for his own amusement and that of his friends."

The following is from the "Journal of Magnetism," Chicago, June issue, 1901:

"Very few persons have had such opportunities for travel and research in all these branches of the Occult as has Mr. Sylvestre. He has passed many years in foreign study and travel, and is well acquainted with the leaders of advanced thought at home and abroad. A true cosmopolitan, he is as much at home in Chicago as in San Francisco or Paris, Constantinople or London."

The following is from the editorial columns of "Suggestion," issue of December 1, 1901:

"The editor of 'Suggestion' and a few friends recently paid a visit to the establishment of the Sylvestre Co., where they were entertained for a whole evening by the genial managers and their ghostly effects. \* \* \* Not only does the visitor see these appliances, but he can purchase them, and the spirits will come and do his bidding as cheerfully as if he were the seventh son of a seventh daughter. \* \* \* These seances established, beyond peradventure, the efficacy of the Sylvestre equipments, and also that any well-behaved person who invests in them may entertain his friends with spirits in the most astonishing way."



## *To Our Friends and Patrons....*

In presenting you with the sixteenth edition (illustrated) of our catalogue, your kind attention is invited to the following facts. Our experience during the past thirty years in supplying mediums and others with the peculiar effects in this line enable us to place before you only those which are practical and of use, nothing that you have to experiment with. Please note the large number of absolutely new and original tests that have been added, and in considering all, remember that we guarantee everything just as represented. We have no agents or representatives, and do not sell on commission to any person. Our prices are net, except where quite a number of effects are ordered at once, when we allow a certain amount, according to agreement. All of our effects are equally suitable for ladies or gentlemen except where mentioned.

We wish you to thoroughly appreciate that, while we do not, for obvious reasons, mention the names of our clients and their work (they being kept in strict confidence, the same as a physician treats his patients), we can furnish you with the explanation and, where necessary, the materials for the production of any known public "tests" or "phenomena" not mentioned in this, our latest list.

You are aware that our effects are being used by nearly all prominent mediums, entertainers and others of the entire world, and you

can, therefore, be assured of receiving fraternal and honest treatment in all transactions. To those who have not dealt with us would call your attention to the fact that in listing many effects the word "Spirit" is used in describing them. It should be borne in mind that this is only the customary name used to explain the effect, as "Spirits" in the general acceptance of the name, are not a factor in their presentation, although, "for the good of the cause," that impression has been fostered by many. There are, as you are aware, sporadic attempts at exposure of mediums, and of slurs in the press at the same and at ourselves. We do not countenance or support the former and utterly ignore the latter

In our mental feats are found much to ponder over, and prove the truth of the immortal Goerne's history of the friendly philosophers in his wonderful work on "Electoral Affinities," while in our mechanical appliances the work is absolutely faultless.

**TERMS.**—Remittance to accompany all orders of \$10.00 or less. Large orders, one-half with same; balance collected on delivery. Prices net. Please remit by Express or Post Office Money Order or Registered Mail.

Soliciting your further patronage, which will have the same careful consideration as in the past, we are, cordially yours,

*Ralph E. Sylvestre & Co.*

*25 Ashland Boulevard,  
CHICAGO, U. S. A.*



### 101. Excelsior Slate Writing.

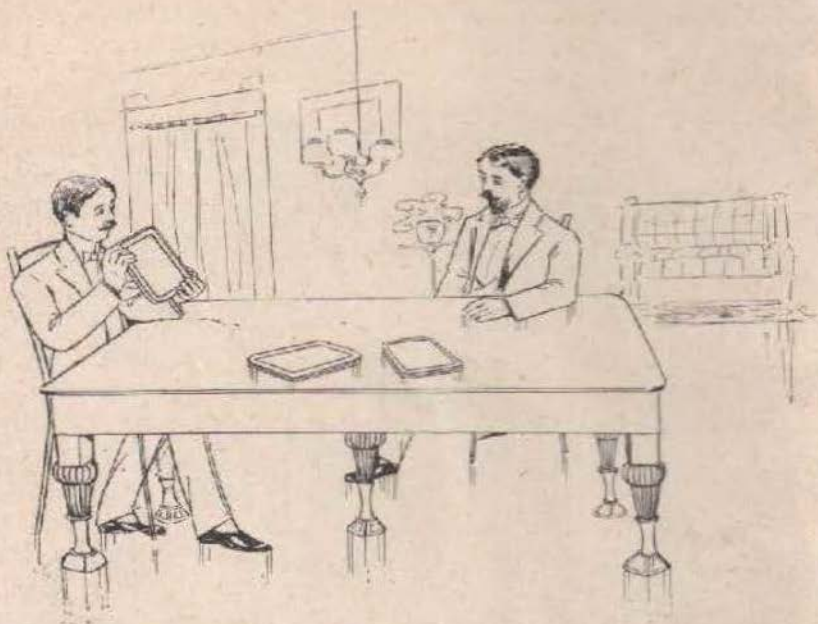
Any ordinary single or double slate is examined, thoroughly washed and either held by sitter or hung to chandelier for a few moments,



when opened a message is found thereon. Can be done anywhere and is exceedingly effective. Skill not required. Our instructions are all that is necessary. Price.....\$1.00

### 102. New Spirit Slate Writing.

This is a first-class slate writing feat for close circles. Any ordinary slates used and answers to questions asked by investigators



appear on one of the slates. In small circles this is one of the best slate writing feats extant. Price for full instructions, which are all that is necessary.....\$1.50

#### 103. Clairvoyant Book and Slate Mystery.

Of excellent effect. A slate is first shown clear of writing, and any page, line, verse or chapter selected in any book by any person is caused to appear on the slate. Price, complete, delivery charges prepaid throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.....\$1.50

#### 104. Instantaneous Spirit Writing.

This excellent effect is the recent invention of a prominent English medium, and produces a marked impression. The medium asks for a visiting card of anyone present, and holds it up in full view in one hand, and while waving the card about slowly he asks for the name of any celebrity or person, living or dead. On same being pronounced, he at once hands card for



inspection and the selected name is found written thereon. This can be produced at any time. Price, complete, delivery charges prepaid throughout United States, Canada and Mexico .....\$1.50

#### 105. The Latest Slate Mystery.

This is the original slate test that convinced so many of the English nobility of the presence of spirits, and is an excellent one for



all occasions. Price, including slates, complete, delivery charges prepaid throughout United States, Canada and Mexico.....\$2.50

#### 106. Our Original Slate Writing.

An improved method of introducing or working the system generally used, with any slate. Is very effective and can be easily introduced. Price, including slates, complete, delivery charges prepaid throughout United States, Canada and Mexico.....\$2.50



#### 107. Spirit Messages on Paper Between Slates.

This is a manner of producing a message or writing on a blank sheet of paper, placed between two slates, that is very striking and effective. Any ordinary writing paper used, and slates bear examination. Requires only moderate skill or practice. Price, complete, delivery charges prepaid throughout United States, Canada and Mexico.....\$2.50

#### 109. Slate Writing on Marked Slates.

Two slates are used, thoroughly cleaned in presence of sitter, who puts his marks or initials on one. Slates are placed together and held by sitter or medium. When opened a message is found on the marked slate. Very original. Price, including slates, complete, delivery charges prepaid throughout United States, Canada and Mexico.....\$3.00

#### 110. New and Mysterious Slate Writing.

With this you can write on any slate at any time and place, and even while the end of slate is being held by investigator. Requires some skill; most suitable for male mediums. Price, complete, delivery charges prepaid throughout United States, Canada and Mexico.  
.....\$5.00

#### 111. Our Unexcelled Spirit Slate Writing.

This excellent manner of producing a message on an ordinary slate that can be thoroughly examined and cleaned, is one of the very best in existence. Slates are closely inspected and then held underneath any ordinary table by both operator and the sitter, or the sitter alone, and upon replacing them on table a message is found thereon, as full and complete as the operator desires. It can be easily produced in any room, at any time, by either lady or gentleman, and even in the presence



of several sitters. Slate or slates can be taken away and kept by the sitter if desired. Price, complete .....\$10.00

#### 112. Dark Seance Slate Writing.

For canopy or cabinet work only, under test conditions. Two slates are examined, any question is written on paper by "sitter," sealed and sewed in an envelope, which is placed between the slates; these are then tied and sealed together. In a short time when reopened an answer to the question is found written on inside of slates and envelope is undisturbed. Price.....\$10.00

#### 113. Non Plus Ultra Slate Writing Test.

In this remarkably fine test, a finely finished small box is used, this box is of a size to hold the slate, and is securely closed with



lock and key. Any slate can be used that is not too large to fit in box, which is  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and 2 inches deep. Both box and slate are thoroughly examined and the sitter himself places slate in box and locks same, retaining the key, and sealing the key-hole and hinges of the box if desired. Slate is then taken by medium into his canopy or cabinet, or behind a screen, or into a sack with him (see Spirit Sack No. 144), or the lights are turned down, and when he again makes his appearance, the box is thoroughly examined, it, not being disturbed in any manner whatever, yet when opened a message or answer to a question is found written on the slate. This is certainly one of the best slate writing feats extant. Price, complete...\$10.00

#### 114. Slates.

For the convenience of our patrons, who sometimes find it awkward to purchase slates, would say we carry in stock the following sizes:  $4\frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{3}{4}$  inches, 6x9 inches and 7x11 inches, and on receipt of order will send them at once, securely packed, by express.

Six slates, size $4\frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{3}{4}$ , cloth bound only.	\$ .60
Twelve slates, size 4x6, cloth bound only.	1.00
Six slates, size 6x9 inches.....	.75
Twelve slates, size 6x9 inches.....	1.00
Six slates, size 7x11 inches.....	1.00
Twelve slates, size 7x11 inches.....	1.25

#### 115. Telescopic Reaching Rod.

A very useful article for mediums working in the dark. They go in pocket and extend from four to six feet, fine workmanship, will pick up or bring to you any ordinary small object, float a guitar, etc. Any size to order. Medium size closed  $8\frac{1}{4}$  inches, extends three feet when open. Price.....\$4.00

### 116. Holding Test.

This is a leading feature in nearly all seances, especially wherever there is physical contact with the medium and he or she is to be held. It is a small pocket apparatus that is easily concealed in the hand when placed on or around a person's arm, remaining there, and giving the perfect feeling as though being held by the medium's hand. This allows the medium free use of his own arm and hand, which he can replace at any time and remove the holder. Many of our friends appreciate what a useful little thing this is judging from the number sold. Price, complete, delivery charges prepaid throughout United States, Canada and Mexico.....\$2.00

### 117. The Spirit Pitcher.

From an ordinary glass pitcher, containing water you can pour into empty glasses, wine or water, as you wish, or all wine or all water. Price for secret and instructions only,  
.....\$1.00

Complete without pitcher or glasses, delivery charges prepaid throughout United States, Canada and Mexico.....\$1.50

### 118. Spirit Pitcher.—A.

Similar to above. About a quart of water is first poured into a clear glass pitcher, and then from same you can pour into empty and previously examined glasses any wine, liquor or cordial asked for and serve to your audience, who find the same perfectly genuine. This is exceedingly satisfactory and always well received. Price, complete, with the exception of glass pitcher and glasses, delivery charges prepaid throughout United States, Canada and Mexico.....\$5.00



### 119. Davenport Brother's Rope Tie.

Full description of their famous rope tying test, so any person can easily work it. Our instructions are all that is necessary. Price,  
.....\$1.00

### 120. Spirit Pull Test.

So called, because five or ten men can be used on each side to pull the rope tight around medium's wrists and knees, yet he frees himself at any moment without disturbing knots, which can be sealed. Excellent and very striking. For gentlemen only. Our instructions are all that is necessary. Price,  
.....\$1.00

### 121. The Medium's Tie.

This is certainly the best rope tie extant. Medium is thoroughly and securely tied around both wrists, then to chair, and all knots sealed. All usual manifestations occur and medium can get in or out of tie at any time without disturbing knots or seals. This was perfected by a famous medium who died a few years ago and of whom we secured it. It has never been made public and can be obtained only of us. There are only two or three mediums who know this, as the price has always been held at \$50.00. Our instructions are all that is necessary. Price.....\$5.00

### 122. Vest Turning, or Matter Through Matter.

Any gentleman has his arms tied behind his back and is seated with medium. In a moment the vest of sitter is found turned inside out without his coat being removed. Easily done in light or dark. Sitter can not tell how it is done. No special garments of



any kind required. Anyone can perform this satisfactorily in a few minutes. Our instructions are all that is necessary. Price....\$2.00

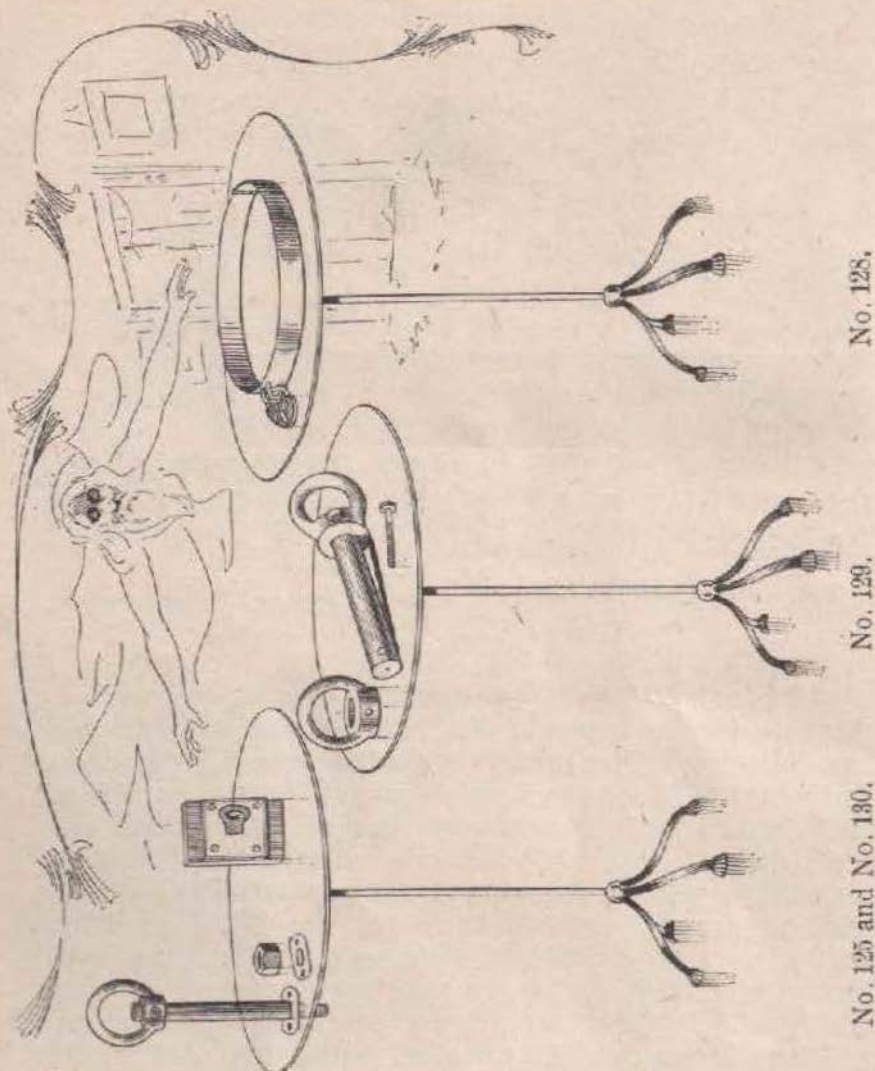
### 123. Vest Turning, or Matter Through Matter.—A.

This is a test for dark seances, somewhat similar to the above, but under more stringent conditions. The ends of a strong cord or small rope are tied around each wrist of the medium, and his hands securely fastened about two feet apart. The knots are sewed and sealed together, yet in almost a minute the medium's vest is found on him turned inside out, without his coat or the knots being in the least disturbed. There is no special costume or vest used. This test is being used in the rooms of the famous "Magnetic Society," of Paris, which is noted for having received a large bequest from the celebrated Allan Kardec. Our instructions are all that is necessary. Price,  
.....\$2.00

### 124. Spirit Padlocks.

These are finely finished brass padlocks that can be used for attaching to anything, or locking up the medium to any desired object, Bear minute examination, keyhole can be





sealed, yet medium can open lock at any moment desired, without the key. Price....\$3.00

### 125. Spirit Staples.

In effect similar to Spirit Bolts. These staples can be attached to any post, door, upright, or box; then any lock, collar or tie can be used to fasten medium to same, yet he frees himself whenever desired. Mechanism absolutely impossible to detect. Price, each .....\$4.00

**126. Handcuffs.**

For use same as locks and collars..\$7.00

**127. Shackles.**

For use same as locks and collars..\$10.00

**128. Spirit Collars.**

For use same as padlocks, to secure medium around neck to any post or staple. Brass, nickel plated, bear minute examination by any person. Any lock can be used with them and sealed, yet medium opens collar whenever desired and thorough examination can take place at any time. Price.....\$15.00

**129. New Double Spirit Bolt.**

Medium is securely bound, sewed and sealed by any cord, rope, thread or cloth to a bolt solidly screwed up in a post by audience, still all the usual manifestations occur. Bolt bears minute examination by any committee or person from audience, and we wish to impress upon you that it is of a construction never made or offered before. The greatest expert cannot detect the mechanism or how it is operated, while to the initiated it is simplicity itself. It should be in the hands of everyone interested. Price.....\$9.00

**130. Spirit Bolts for Wire Test.**

These are magnificent bolts, highly polished or plated, bear minute examination and can be bolted to any seat. Medium is tightly secured to the bolts by wire or rope, yet instantly frees himself at any moment. Price, per pair.....\$15.00

**131. Spirit Bench for Rope Test.**

This is a finely finished small portable bench to which the medium is securely bound by wire, rope or tape, yet can release himself at any moment. Price.....\$25.00



## 132. Spirit Table and Chair Lifting. Unexcelled.

By placing hand in center of top of table, chair, stand, box or barrel, you can lift same up and carry it around clinging to palm of hand. Done anywhere, in light or dark and if desired can have sleeves rolled up. Borrow



any gentleman's stiff hat, place palm of hand over it and it will cling to your hand, owner of hat can remove same from your hand, without being able to detect how you do this. Both methods as described above, complete, delivery charges prepaid to any address for  
.....\$1.00

Fine ornamental Japanese bamboo tables, especially suited for Table Lifting feat, as above. A beautiful ornament for any room. Price, each, only.....\$2.50

### 133. Spirit Table Lifting.

Same effect as above. Larger table used, and when started to move two or three persons cannot hold the table down. Requires operator and one assistant, suitable for gentlemen only.



Can be done anywhere with sleeves rolled up. Price.....\$12.50

### 134. Spirit Talking Glass Bell.

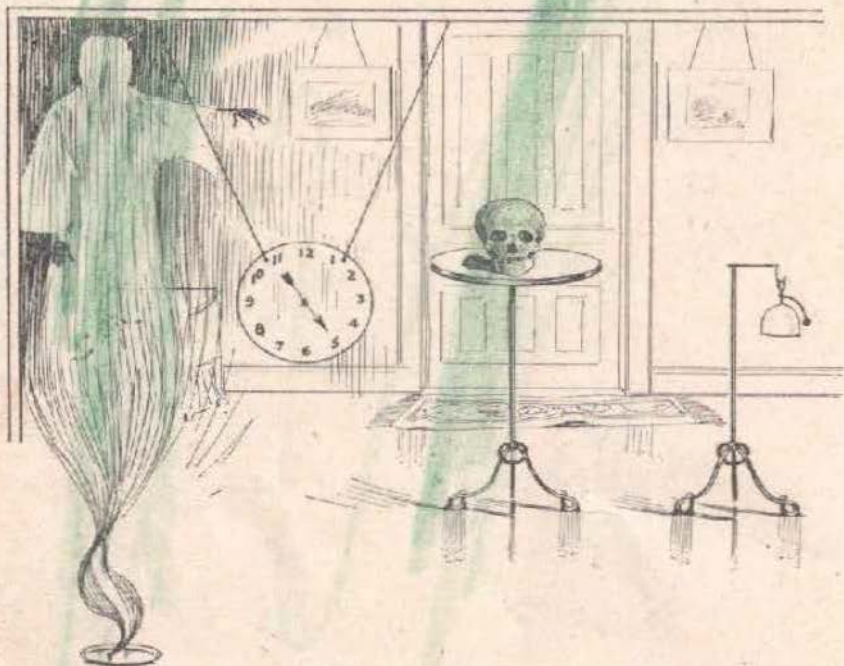
This is a fine clear cut glass bell, which can be examined minutely, and then placed on a wand, held in medium's hand when it commences to ring exactly as desired, tolling any number required, thus answering any question asked of it. Can be used anywhere at any time. Will also ring when placed on a skeleton stand. Complete, including bell, skeleton stand and wand.....\$15.00

### 135. New Spirit Glass Clock.

Polished plate glass clock dial, with handsome ornamental brass pointer. Gold num-



bers on dial which is suspended by cords or held in hand. Pointer or hand revolves and stops at any number desired. Can be taken off, replaced and revolved by any spectator,



No. 135.

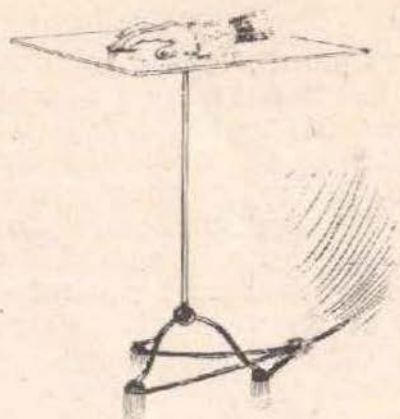
No. 137.

No. 134.

yet it will stop at any number desired. Extraordinary effect and puzzles any audience. Can be used anywhere at any time. Price, complete .....\$15.00

### 136. Spirit Rapping and Writing Hand.

This is an excellent model of a lady's hand and forearm, with lace cuff and sleeve. Bears minute examination. When placed on table or sheet of glass, it at once raps out any numbers or answers desired. Including full instructions how to cause hand to write answers to questions propounded by audience. No experience required. Easily performed. Price,



complete, delivery charges prepaid throughout United States, Canada and Mexico.....\$2.50

### 137. Spirit Skull of Althotas.

A perfect model of a human skull is closely examined. Placed on sheet of glass or any table, it will answer any question by working lower jaw or moving right or left. Necessary instructions included. A very sensational and striking feat. Excellent when used in connection with the Rapping Hand. Price, complete, delivery charges prepaid throughout United States, Canada and Mexico.....\$5.00

### 138. Raps! Here!! There!! Everywhere!!!

For a number of years we have not listed any effect for spirit rapping, leaving the production of such phenomena to our clients that have strongly developed psychic powers in the line of such tests as used by D. D. Home and others. Of late, however, we have had so many inquiries that we have decided to list same. With this you can produce raps at any time while standing or sitting, in light or dark, and in any room or circle, as often as you like. It is the only perfect means of its kind for this effect. No inconvenience in using it. You know what you can achieve with it. Price,  
.....\$18.00



### 139. Spirit Rapping Table.

This is particularly for mediums who have their own apartments, yet is easily used in any room where the table can be placed. In appearance it is an ordinary finely finished library table, bears minute examination, and is portable. When circle is formed around table it emits raps as desired. Can be used at any time, no previous preparation necessary. Infalible in every respect. Price.....\$50.00



### 140. The 20th Century Rapping Hand.

This creation is certainly the most wonderful effect of its kind; the equal of it has never yet been devised. A fine model of a

lady's hand is shown and then placed on a sheet of glass which can be held suspended by four persons as shown in illustration. On command of the operator the hand raps visibly and distinctly, answering questions and giving numbers of raps desired. It does its work wherever placed, on a table, stand, china plate, or sheet of glass. Can be used anywhere and at any time, in light or dark, on stage or in parlor, or in circle.

There is absolutely no connection of any kind whatever between the hand and the operator or any person during the test. It is always ready, no preparation or special arrangements needed. Price, complete, with glass and fine case.....\$100.00

This was first produced with unparalleled success by the renowned Frederick Eugene Powell, so well known on both continents as to need no further introduction.

#### 141. "Zairgeh," or Egyptian Diviner.

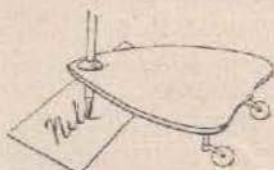
It has been known for centuries that the Egyptians were the most learned of ancient nations, and have been famous for their powers of divination and astrological calculations, as well as possessing great skill in casting horoscopes. It is known to all students of the occult that the modern, as well as the ancient Egyptians always consult an oracle or diviner before undertaking any important move or project. This fact is one deeply rooted in the minds of all the mystic people of the Orient, and is one that should be studied more than it is. During a recent visit of our Mr. Ralph E. Sylvestre to Egypt and the Holy Lands, he became intimately acquainted with one of the patriarchs of the Coptic faith, and as a special mark of their appreciation was presented with an original "Zairgeh," or divining table. This "Zairgeh" or divining board answers any questions asked of it, and should be in the posses-



sion of every one having any inclination towards a belief in the phenomena of the supernatural. It can be consulted on all questions and invariably, though mysteriously, renders its answer.



The great advantage of the "Zairgeh" is that it affords no information to the uninitiated, only the one possessing the key can consult it and receive the auguration sought for and contained in this mysterious "Zairgeh." Price, complete, delivery charges prepaid to any address.....\$1.00



#### 142. Planchette.

This wonderful instrument is so well known to all interested that a description of it or what it does is scarcely necessary. Suf-

fice to say that it still retains its popularity.  
 You know it has been called: "The despair  
 of science." Price, complete, delivery charges  
 prepaid throughout United States, Canada and  
 Mexico .....\$1.00

### 143. Ouija.

What is it? "Ouija" prophesies, forewarns  
 and advises, as well as prefigures one's destiny.  
 "Ouija's" revelation of what was, what is, and  
 what is to come, rival the Delphic Oracles.  
 The curtain is lifted, revealing the secrets of  
 that debatable land between matter and spirit,  
 and nature's laws have no control over this  
 marvelous instrument. The Unknown Land  
 seems almost within our grasp, and the sci-  
 entific mind strives to comprehend just where  
 this borderland lies.



The "Ouija" is without doubt the most  
 interesting, remarkable and mysterious pro-  
 duction of the 20th century. Its operations  
 are always interesting and frequently invalu-  
 able, answering, as it does, questions concern-  
 ing the past, present and future, with mar-  
 velous accuracy. The English Journal, "Light,"  
 says: "It certainly seems a readier method  
 of communication than Planchette." Price,  
 .....\$1.50

### 144. The Spirit Sack.

There are several methods of putting a  
 person in a large sack that has been examined,



and fastening same securely, yet the individual can get out or release himself when desired. We have decided to call your attention to the best method only. A large, well made sack of ordinary muslin can be thoroughly examined, and the person gets in it, it is then drawn up around and over his head, tied with a cord and sealed, yet the person can get out of the sack almost instantly, and without disturbing any of the knots or seals. Price, complete, delivery charges prepaid throughout United States, Canada and Mexico.....\$3.50

#### 145. The Mysterious Trunks and Sack.

For some time we have furnished these to our clients without listing them in our catalogue. Having recently received so many inquiries for same we add them to the present list. In effect it consists of showing two large, well made trunks, fitting one inside the other. The artist's assistant is securely fastened in a large sack, or is handcuffed, and thus bound is placed in the smallest trunk which is securely locked, this trunk is then placed inside the largest trunk which is also locked, corded and sealed. Both trunks are then placed in a canopy or behind any screen, and a lady assistant stands beside them. In a few seconds these two are found to have changed places, the lady being securely inside the sack inside of the two trunks, and the assistant is outside of same, without locks, knots, seals, sack or trunks being disturbed in any manner.

Every part of the apparatus can be closely examined by anybody without detecting the modus operandi. Price, complete, with one trunk, \$50.00; with two trunks.....\$85.00

#### 146. Luminous Materializing Hands and Faces.

A striking feature in dark or semi-dark seances. For all materializing mediums, the production of luminous hands or faces is a

sine qua non for their success. We furnish you complete and explicit directions for the making and production of same, or furnish them complete and ready for use as desired. Also draperies, head-dresses and ornaments of the finest quality known. Explanations, from which you can make them, \$5.00 Price, complete, ready for use, from \$5.00 to \$25.00, depending on scope and capacity required.

#### 147. Luminous Materialistic Ghosts and Forms.

We furnish these of all kinds and sizes. Full luminous female form and dress (with face that convinces), which can be produced in ordinary room or circle, appears gradually, floats about room and disappears. Nothing superior. Price.....\$50.00

For those who wish to have full secret, sketch and manner of working this before purchasing, we make a price of \$5.00 for same, this amount to apply on purchase price if ordered.

#### 148. Bells.

Finest quality, usual size used in seance and cabinet work, each.....\$ .75

#### 149. Tambourines.

Fine quality, each.....\$ .75

#### 150. Trumpets.

Unsurpassed aluminum trumpets, made in three sections, telescopic. When open measures one yard, closed about twelve inches. Weight only five ounces. Price.....\$2.00

#### 151. Guitars.

Fine quality, good tone, including handsome and durable case, each only.....\$4.00



### 152. Self Playing Guitars.

Indispensable for mediums. Finely finished Guitars. In dark seances they play without medium's hands touching them. Price,  
.....\$25.00

### 153. Balmain's Luminous Paint.

The only perfect luminous paint made, can be applied to most everything for illuminating articles used in dark seances. Price for jar with instructions.....\$1.50

### 154. Modern Sealed Letter Reading.

Sealed letters, or questions in them, easily read without seal or envelope being disturbed. This is one of medium's favorites. Very striking and convincing and easily worked. Can be done in presence of investigator. Price.....\$1.00



### 155. Washington Irving Bishop's Sealed Letter Reading.

His original manner of reading sealed letters in presence of the audience. Our instructions are all that is necessary. Price....\$1.00

### 156. The Winged Numbers.

Any person writes any number he pleases on a slip of paper, seals it in an envelope which operator holds in flame of candle until consumed, then loads the ashes in his pistol and shoots at a white handkerchief held by another person and the same number appears in center of the handkerchief. Our instructions are all that is necessary. A startling effect. Price.....\$2.00

### 157. The Celebrated Bank Note Test.

A splendid sensational effect. To write on a blackboard the number of a bank note brought by a perfect stranger and sealed in an envelope by him. Performer does not see note. Our instructions are all that is necessary. Price.....\$2.00



### 158. Reading Cards Blindfolded.

A sure method of reading any pack of cards, one after the other, although completely blindfolded. Cards may be brought by any



one, and can be examined and shuffled at any time and as much as desired. Very easily performed. Not suitable for persons wearing glasses. Our instructions are all that is necessary. Price.....\$1.00

**159. Folded Paper Reading with Blood Writing on Arm.**

This famous feat of reading folded papers, combined with blood writing on the arm, has made many converts and is suitable for all circles. Suitable for gentlemen only. Our instructions are all that is necessary. Price, .....\$1.00

**160. The Unexcelled Ballot Reading Test.**

For private sittings this is the only first-class ballot reading test. On the table are several small sheets of paper and pencil. The sitter is requested to write several names or questions, one each on a slip of paper, fold them up and lay them on table. Medium picks each one up singly and holds it against his forehead for a moment then replaces it on table. He can then write the name, question and answer, as he sees fit. This is suitable for lady or gentleman and can be done at any time and place. There are several systems, but as this is certainly the best, and much superior to Foster's methods, it is the only one we recommend. Our instructions are all that is necessary. Price.....\$2.00

**161. The Spirit Telephone.**

An experiment in Telepathy. Unquestionably the best and most original book mystery ever introduced. With very entertaining lecture. First, a large blank slip of paper is placed in an envelope, sealed and handed to one of audience to hold. From several volumes of prose or poetry one is selected at random by any person, and any verse or page selected by any one of audience is at once

read aloud by your lady assistant or medium, who is on the stage or platform blindfolded, and while book is in hands of audience. Envelope opened and the blank is found to contain the entire verse or page written out, or



it can be found on a slate previously shown clear of all writing. Excellent. No prepared books and no confederates. Can be done anywhere. Price.....\$5.00

#### 162. Silent Transmission of Thought.

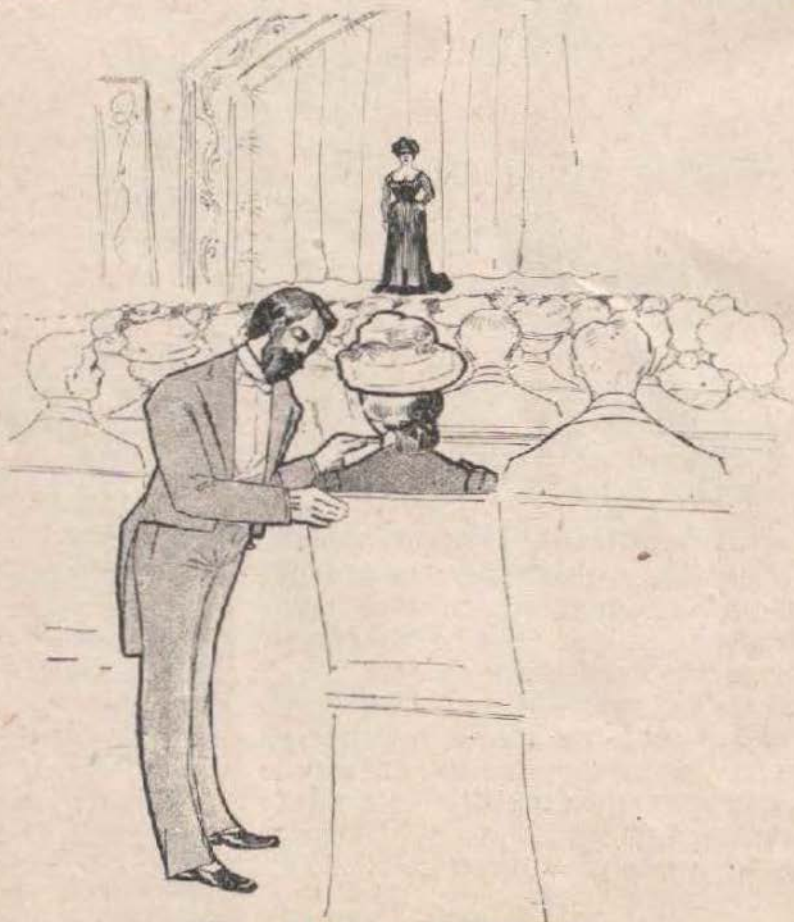
A lady assistant is introduced and blindfolded if desired. Upon any number being written on a slip of paper and handed to operator or whispered in his ear, it is written on slate by lady without operator speaking a word. Can be done in any parlor and entire words communicated although not a word is spoken. Cannot be detected. For lady and gentleman only. Our instructions are all that is necessary. Price.....\$5.00

#### 163. Mind and Thought Reading.

This is the original and only system of genuine mind reading, and contains all the



work and methods as first used by J. Randall Brown, then Washington Irving Bishop, Stuart Cumberland, Paul Alexander Johnstone, Maud Lankester and others. It is not at all difficult to acquire and is equally suitable for lady or gentleman. It should be borne in mind that we first introduced this and have developed it to a degree not attained by others. We furnish a complete series of experiments, something never offered before, besides giving you all the scientific and practical there is in it. Price .....\$10.00



#### 164. Modern Telepathy.

This \*is the most brilliant and striking

effect ever produced and commands marked attention and flattering comments wherever shown. For lady and gentleman. Lady is on stage or platform and blindfolded. Gentleman walks about among the audience. Any request whispered in his ear for the lady to do, she at once executes fully and perfectly, without the gentleman speaking a single word. There is no limit in communicating wishes of audience to her. No mechanism whatever. Something very clever for clever people. Price,  
 .....\$10.00

### 165. Hypnotism.

Complete instructions for professional use, as practiced by leaders who have achieved renown. Including all sensational effects, and the real piercing of arms with borrowed breast pins. This is an entirely new mesmeric exhibition for intelligent people and the finest audiences. Price.....\$10.00

### 166. "The Mysterious Divination."

This wonderful feat of divination and the mysterious production in writing of a selected word, has created a most extraordinary effect wherever introduced. It is of recent conception and known to but few. As we furnish it complete ready for instant use, no particular practice or skill is required. It can be produced at any time or place. The operator hands for examination several copies of Webster's Dictionary, one of which is selected. One of the spectators selects a page in same, and another selects a number, to denote the word on the page. Meantime the operator bares his arm to the elbow, showing that it is free from writing. He then informs the spectators that he is about to invite "the Spirits" to write the selected word upon his arm. Upon the word being made known by the holder of the dictionary, the operator at



once shows his forearm upon which is seen in blood-red letters the chosen word, whatever it may be. A striking effect, and can be produced as often as desired. Price, complete, as above mentioned.....\$15.00

#### 167. Clairvoyant and Psychic Readings for Private Sitzings.

In view of the fact that nearly all of the old time methods employed by mediums for producing various phases of psychic phenomena in private sittings or readings have been more or less "written up" by the press, many letters of inquiry have been coming to us from mediums in all parts of the world asking if we could not supply them with a method of obtaining communications which would be impossible of detection, and could be produced, or rather obtained, under the severest conditions. Several very clever professional mediums who have been in the profession for twenty years or more have recently told us that in many of the best sections of the country it is fast becoming impossible to use the old methods, and that even those now in use among some of the most successful readers in the profession are fast becoming worthless. This request having come to us so strongly we have devised and can now offer you absolutely the best method of obtaining communications for use in private readings ever brought out or even thought of. The sitter enters the medium's parlor and is seated anywhere. He is requested to write his questions on an ordinary piece of paper, and keep same in his possession, the medium is not necessarily present during the writings, yet he, in a few seconds, is in full knowledge of what was written, although he does not handle or touch the paper on which questions were written. It is certainly the most wonderful effect of its kind ever produced and simply startles all skeptics

alike. There are a few mediums who have been using this method during the past year with phenomenal success, and the closest investigation by the most clever people in the country fails to solve the mystery. There is no particular skill or preparation required. We wish to impress upon you that in this there is nothing used that has been made use of in somewhat similar effects in times past. This is absolutely new and reliable. Those now in possession of it would not sell except at a fabulous price. We offer same to you under certain written conditions only, and cannot recommend it too highly. Price.....\$25.00

168. Sylvestre's "Mens Revelo"—(Mind Unveiling).

Many of our patrons are no doubt familiar with or have heard of the wonderful "Works" or "Tests" introduced by Anna Eva Fay and the Baldwins in their acts called "Somnom-



ancy" and "Somnolency." To overcome certain objectionable features we can offer you a most decided improvement over same. In effect it is as follows: Several slips of ordinary paper are handed to persons in audience



with request to write any question they desire, fold the paper as they see fit, and place same in their own pocket, the operator not touching paper at all, they can use their own paper if desired. At end of proper interval the operator or his lady assistant or medium can give an answer to the question together with the correct description of the question written. This is something entirely new and totally different from any former systems, there being no cardboard, pads or blocks used, and it has never been offered before (except to a few of our regular clients). We cannot commend it too highly. Would call your special attention to a testimonial regarding this effect, from one of our patrons, a prominent and well-known medium in one of our largest eastern cities, which speaks for itself. Price, complete .....\$25.00

The following testimonial regarding our "Men's Revelo" (Mind Unveiling) is the one referred to above:

September, 1901.

"Dear Mr. Sylvestre:—During the month of August I took a vacation, and was delayed answering your letter. I assure you that your "Mens Revelo," for the stage or parlor, or even one person in a parlor, for one or two questions or names, is without an equal. I consider it the greatest invention of any time. From my experience it simply staggers people. I assure you I have the worth of my money. If this opinion is of any value to you, you are welcome to use same; you will withhold my name of course. Your things are of such sterling worth and merit that whatever I buy now and in the future will be bought from you and you alone. (Signed.) ———."

Chicago, Nov. 5, 1901.

To whom it may concern: This is to certify that I have seen the original commu-

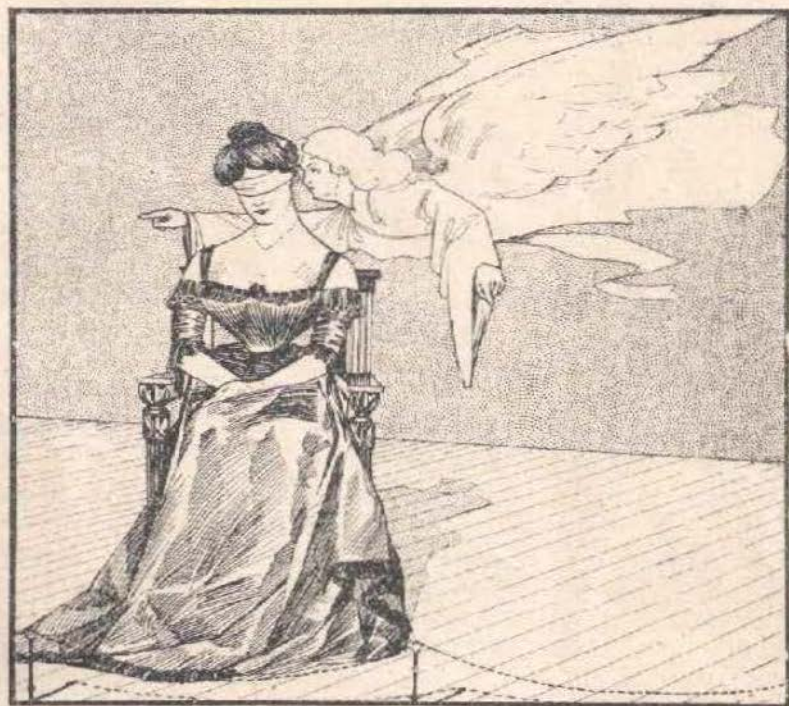
nication of which the above is an extract and same is correct. I also take pleasure in recommending Messrs. Ralph E. Sylvestre & Co. to the public, as I personally know this firm to be reliable and adepts in their line.

(Signed) Albert F. O'Neil,  
Notary Public.

1521 W. Adams St., Chicago, Ill.

### 169. Second Sight and Psychonotism.

This marvelous performance is called by many telepathy, clairvoyance or mind reading, its proper appellation being as above given.



It can be used by any two persons but is generally introduced by a gentleman and a lady, the gentleman being known as the operator, and the lady the medium. The lady can be blindfolded or not, and can either face the



operator or sit with her back toward him. It can be produced anywhere, in any company, in any room, on any platform, or in the open air, with people all around or about you. The lady accurately describes anything whatever that is handed or shown to the operator, although she does not see it. She gives dates, description and numbers of coins, banknotes, watches, reads cards, inscriptions, a page or sentence in book selected by one of audience, in fact there is absolutely nothing that can be offered the operator which she cannot describe or explain, although no apparent communication about same passes between her and the operator. In conclusion the lady is hypnotised by the operator, and then proceeds to carry out any reasonable request merely whispered in his ear, and executes same without the operator speaking a single word.

This system is now being used by the leading artists in this line and is for intelligent people and audiences. Price.....\$25.00

#### **170. Clairvoyance, Psychometry and Platform Tests.**

There is at all times a good demand for a clever and intellectual lecturer or medium who can give good and genuine tests from the platform. Nearly every issue of the Spiritualistic journals contain inquiries for just such mediums. We can furnish you the only reliable system, complete in every detail, which will enable you to at once take up this interesting and remunerative branch of the profession. With this you can satisfy the most captious audience, and all the tests are genuine.

This method is boundless in its scope, and is the only one you can rely on. It is suitable for either lady or gentleman and is being constantly used by many of our most successful mediums. We have, for many years, supplied this to our clients, to whom it has given per-

fect satisfaction. It is so perfect that at a few days' notice you can fill satisfactory engagements in any ordinary-sized town in any part of the country. Our former price was \$100.00. We now offer it to you for \$25.00. For those who desire a special lecture suitable to use with it, we furnish an excellent one for \$25.00 additional. It is the usual custom to occupy about an hour for the lecture and forty to fifty minutes for the tests, though longer or shorter time can be used as desired.

**171. A Complete Spiritualistic Seance.**

A combination outfit for spirit work. For parties who wish a first-class collection at a reasonable price for giving a fine seance in small halls or parlors, we recommend the following collection:

No. 102, "New Spirit Slate Writing"; No. 117, "The Spirit Pitcher"; No. 122, "Vest Turning, or Matter Through Matter"; No. 129, "New Double Spirit Bolt"; No. 132, "Spirit Table and Chair Lifting, Unexcelled"; No. 136, "Spirit Rapping and Writing Hand"; No. 137, "Spirit Skull of Althotas"; No. 154, "Modern Sealed Letter Reading"; No. 155, "Washington Irving Bishop's Sealed Letter Reading"; No. 158, "Reading Cards Blindfolded"; No. 161, "The Spirit Telephone," and the "Medium's Fire Test," which enables you to handle heated lamp chimneys with bare hands, hold fingers, handkerchiefs and neckties in blaze of a lamp without injury to yourself or the articles. All of above complete, with special and explicit directions for every effect, express charges prepaid throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico for the very low price of.....\$25.00



We take pleasure in calling your attention to the following testimonials. The first is from the well-known poet, author, and journalist, Colonel William Lightfoot Visscher; the



popular and renowned author of international reputation, Mr. Opie Read, and Mr. W. M. Knox, ex-president of the Press Club of Chicago.

Press Club of Chicago,  
106 Madison street.

November 20, 1901.

To whom it may concern:—It has afforded me pleasure and satisfaction to witness many exhibitions of Ralph E. Sylvestre's Spiritualistic Phenomena. I am intimately acquainted with him, and have been for many years, and I know him to be thoroughly reliable, and a remarkable expert in the demonstration of all the phenomena mentioned. He is expert, astonishing and interesting in this work, and I am glad to say so. Sincerely,

(Signed) Wm. L. Visscher.

I cheerfully endorse the foregoing.

(Signed) Opie Read.

(Signed) W. M. Knox.

The following is from the well known journalist, Mr. W. H. Freeman, president of the Press Club of Chicago:

Press Club of Chicago,  
106 Madison street.

September 18, 1901.

To whom it may concern:—This is to certify that I have long known Mr. Ralph E. Sylvestre, and I have no hesitation in recommending him as a reliable gentleman.

He has made a study of natural phenomena, and has become expert in the production of manifestations known under the name of Spiritualism. On several occasions he has given evidences of his skill before the members of the Press Club, always to their gratification.

Respectfully,

(Signed) W. H. Freeman,  
President Press Club of Chicago.

From the celebrated and original mind  
reader and telepathist, Prof. J. Randall Brown:

Chicago, Dec. 9, 1886.

Mr. Ralph E. Sylvestre.

Dear Sir:—Allow me to express my satisfaction of the manner in which our business relations have resulted concerning the knowledge obtained from you pertaining to certain peculiar phases of spiritual phenomena, which have been of inestimable value to me in connection with my original program.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) J. Randall Brown.

From Mr. Henry Willio, famous throughout Mexico and South America as an exponent of spiritualistic phenomena.

Santiago, Chile, S. A.

June 19, 1887.

Dear Mr. Sylvestre:

Your favor of a month ago just received on my arrival here. I have had a most successful tour and again must express my satisfaction and appreciation of the effects you furnished me just previous to my departure. I have had the best of success with the Spirit Hand, the Cabinet and Trunks with Sack. I would not be without them at any price. I expect to remain here for some months and will write you further as soon as definitely settled.

Hoping you are well and with kind regards, I am,

Yours thankfully,

(Signed) Henry Willio.

Many of our clients are no doubt aware that one of the leading clubs or social organizations of Chicago, is called the "Booster" Club. This club consists of an association of prominent and leading business and professional men of the city, associated together to



push and uphold worthy fellow-men, to encourage everything public spirited, praiseworthy and laudable, its main object being to discourage unkind criticism. It is called the "Booster" Club because the meaning of the word "boost" is to "elevate" or "lift up," in contra-distinction to the word "knock," now so commonly used. In other words, every "knock" is considered a "boost." We take pleasure in calling your attention to the following:

Chicago, Oct. 31, 1901.

To whom it may concern:—I take pleasure in stating that for the past ten years I have been intimately acquainted with Mr. Ralph E. Sylvestre and know him to be a reliable gentleman and thoroughly expert in his profession of demonstrating spiritualistic and mind reading phenomena. His knowledge of same is unquestioned, and his effects as introduced before the Booster Club and other associations of which I am a member have been highly appreciated and caused more than one of us to ponder and exclaim: "Can such things be?"

Respectfully,

(Signed) James S. Keller,  
Sec'y Booster Club.

Excerpt from the Chicago Daily News,  
September 25, 1885.

"There is residing in this city an old master of necromancy—old in experience, not in years. This is Mr. Ralph E. Sylvestre, a gentleman widely traveled and with the manners and tongue of the true cosmopolitan. He is quite a linguist being proficient in the four principal languages of the world. There is probably no one better able to lift the mystic veil shrouding the facts underlying all so-called phenomena."

