

*The Chinese "Miser's Dream"*

The Celestials perform the Aerial Treasury in quite a novel way. Of course, they do not borrow a silk hat, as such things to them are quite unknown. They use either a tin can or a china pot, about the same size as a hat. The falling of the money into either receptacle can be heard so plainly that European magicians have given the idea of placing inside the hat a china or metal plate.

The Oriental conjurer shows either of the receptacles to be empty and, holding it with his left hand, he proceeds to catch several coins from the air. As each one is caught, it is unmistakably dropped into the can, and the right hand shown empty, both back and front, with fingers spread wide apart.

The method of working this ingenious effect relies for its success upon the conjurer's old friend, a black silk thread. One end of this is fastened to the left wrist, and the thread then led up that sleeve, across the back, and down the right sleeve, the coin being made fast to this end, and palmed. Now, after the coin is produced, both arms must be brought closer to the sides, thus giving a little slack to the thread, which allows the coin to be dropped into the can. The right hand must now be shown quite empty, and after this has been done, let the thread come over the hand between the thumb and first finger; place the right hand to the edge of can and then extend both, which draws the thread tight and the coin up into the right hand again, ready for the next production, when the same operation is again executed.

