To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, Gus Rogees and Nicholas E. Polytis, subjects of the King of Greece, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Apparatus for Producing Stage Illusions, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to theatrical devices and one of the objects is to provide a device in which by shifting the lighting of a plurality of objects, any desired one may be caused to show or the blending of the forms of two objects may be shown.

Another object is to position a glass partition with relation to the objects to be shown, that one subject upon being properly illuminated will be seen directly through said partition, whereas another subject upon being properly illuminated will have its reflection projected by said partition as from a mirror.

A further object is to provide means for turning off the illumination of one subject and concomitantly turning on the illumination of another subject.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

All of these objects are attained by mechanism shown in the accompanying drawings consisting of one sheet in which:

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic sectional plan view of the device.

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the light controlling mechanism.

Like characters of reference refer to like parts in both views.

This invention contemplates the providing of means whereby an optical illusion may be created by the proper relative lighting of two subjects so that one may be made to dissolve and another to appear in its place.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, 1 represents a wall structure which may be made of any suitable material and which defines a space comprising a central box 2 having communicating box-like structures 3 and 4 and an open side 5 provided with a funnel shape mouth 6 which may be termed a viewing frame or proscenium.

The entire interior of the boxes 2, 3 and 4 is either painted black or covered with some dull black material.

A plate of glass 7 is set diagonally in the box 2 for a purpose to be presently set forth.

Box 3 is provided with a door 8, and box 4 is provided with a door 9 through which the subjects may be moved into and out of the boxes 3 and 4.

Box 3 is also provided with apertures 10 and 11 communicating with light pockets 12 and 13 respectively, in each of which pockets is a light conventionally shown at 14 and 15. Light excluding slides 16 and 17 are mounted in the pockets and adapted to be raised to open, or lowered to close apertures 10 and 11 by means to be presently described. Shutters or guards 18 and 19 are located at the mouth of box 3 for the purpose of preventing light from apertures 10 and 11 being conveyed directly to the eye of the spectator. Similarly box 4 is provided with apertures 20 and 21, light pockets 22 and 23; lights 24 and 25, slides 26 and 27, and shutters 28 and 29.

x and y represent the positions in boxes 3 and 4 of subjects of observation and z represents the position of the observer.

In Fig. 2 it will be seen that 30 represents a wheel around which a cord or cable 31 is given one or more turns. One end of cord 31 is connected by two branches 32 and 33 to slides 16 and 17, while its other end is connected by branches 34 and 35 with slides 26 and 27. Pull strings 36 and 37 are provided and connected as shown in Fig. 2. It will be seen that the cord 36 in a direction indicated by the arrow, slides 16 and 17 will be permitted to drop into light obstructing position and at the same time slides 26 and 27 will be raised to open their apertures. By pulling a cord 37 in the direction of its arrow, slides 16 and 17 will be raised and slides 26 and 27 lowered. The operation of the device is as follows:

Subjects for observation such for instance as a vase of flowers and a bowl of gold fish are placed in boxes 3 and 4 at points x and y respectively, the slides 16 and 17 being up and slides 26 and 27 being down. The four lights 14, 15, 24 and 25 are then turned on and the subject at x may be seen by the observer at z through the glass partition 7 as represented by dotted line zz. Cord 36 is then pulled which gradually closes off the lights on the subject at x by lowering the slides 16 and 17 and brings up the lights on the subject at y by raising slides 26 and 27. As the interior of box 3 is black the glass 7 acts as a mirror to
reflect the subject at y and the subjects x and y are accurately located so the reflection of y will be thrown along the line xy from screens 7 to the spectator. When all of the 5 lights are partly opened the two images will be visible to the spectator and he will appear to see fish swimming among the flowers in the instance taken. As slides 16 and 17 are completely closed the subject at x becomes entirely obliterated and the spectator sees only the reflection of that at y. Door 8 may then be opened and a new subject placed at x after which by pulling cord 37 the subject at y will be obliterated and the new one at x will be shown.

While what is deemed to be the most desirable embodiment of the invention has been described, it is obvious that many of the details may be varied without departing from the spirit of the invention; and it is not intended that the invention shall be limited to the exact details of construction herein set forth nor to anything less than the whole of the invention limited only by the appended claims.

What is claimed as new is:—

1. In a device of the class described, the combination of a pair of chambers arranged at right angles to each other and in each of which an object for observation may be located, a sheet of glass interposed diagonally at the mouths of said chambers, separate lighting means for each of said chambers, separate shutters for each of said lighting means, and means for concomitantly operating said shutters to effect the darkening of one of said chambers and the lighting of the other of said chambers whereby the objects in said chambers may appear to blend and dissolve into each other.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination of a pair of chambers arranged at right angles to each other and in each of which an object for observation may be located, a sheet of glass interposed diagonally at the mouths of said chambers, separate lighting means for each of said chambers, separate shutters for each of said lighting means, and inter-connected lines connected to for concomitantly operating said shutters to effect the darkening of one of said chambers and the lighting of the other of said chambers whereby the objects in said chambers may appear to blend and dissolve into each other.

In testimony whereof we have affixed our signatures.

GUS ROGEES.

NICHOLAS E. POLYTES.