



Figure 12. An illustration showing some of the behind-the-scenes functionality of a particular “magnetic epicyclic disk.” Each sphere was filled with clear oil and water, which would not mix, allowing for objects therein to appear suspended, when they were actually floating. Magnets, thin silk threads, and a hidden pulley system rotated the balls, suggesting certain arrangements of planets and constellations, which was not entirely accurate. The combination of orientations would also be taken as a horoscope—with the same fun attitude that one has when interacting with a magic 8 ball, a Ouija board, or a mood ring. Here the objects “seem to move of their own accord but are in fact controlled by concealed magnets.”