

far index string and both strings of the lower index loop (Fig. 178) and draw these strings down to the palm. Withdraw the ring and little fingers of each hand from

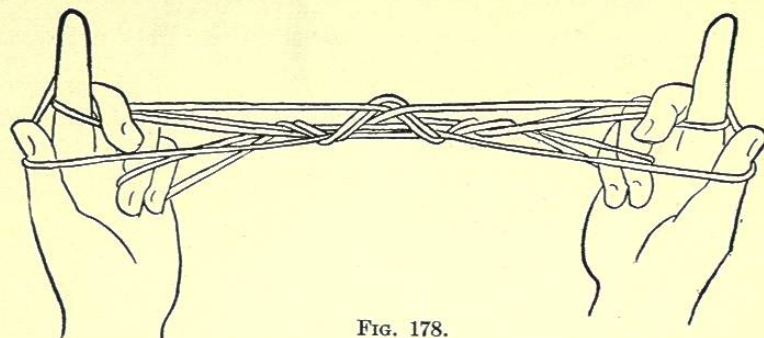


FIG. 178.

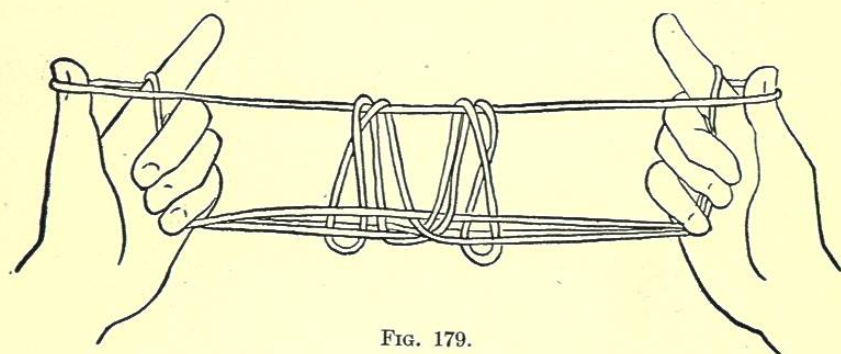


FIG. 179.

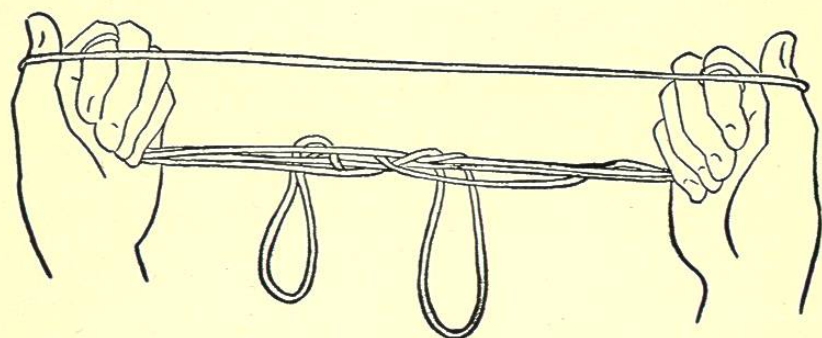


FIG. 180.

the loop which they have been holding and bend them toward you and down over the strings held down by the middle finger.

Eighth: The "Sun" is made to appear by raising each thumb, thus lifting up the near index string which passes across its back (Fig. 179); if raised too high, the sun "sets" (Fig. 180).

CHAPTER IV

FIGURES BEGINNING WITH OPENING A (CONTINUED)—A WELL—FENCE AROUND A WELL—A CRAB—A TRIGGER FISH—RATTLESNAKE AND A BOY—TWO SKUNKS—TWO FOXES—TWO SQUIRRELS—LEASHING OF LOCHELL'S DOGS—TWO HOGANS—A CARIBOO—A CIRCLE—TWO STARS—CASTING THE FISH-SPEAR—AN ARROW—A PORCUPINE.

A WELL

I OBTAINED this figure in August, 1904, from Dr. Haddon, who learned it from a native of Lifu, Loyalty Islands, who happened to be residing in Mabuiag in Torres Straits. (See Rivers and Haddon, p. 149, Fig. 2.) In Lifu it is known as *Tim*, = a Well. It is precisely similar to the Torres Straits figure which in Murray Island, is called *Ti Meta*, = the Nest of the *Ti* bird, and in Mabuiag, *Gul* = a Canoe.

First: Opening A.

Second: Keeping the hands well separated, with the strings quite tight, and turning the palms slightly away from you, pass each index away from you over the far

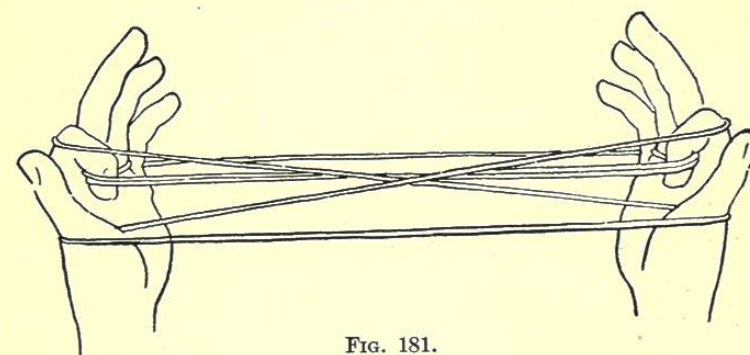


FIG. 181.

index string and the near little finger string and then well down into the little finger loop. Now, turning the palms gradually toward you, bend each index carrying these two strings toward you (with the tips pointed toward each palm), and then up between the near index string and the thumb (which must be kept upright), but not touching the thumb loop (Fig. 181). This movement brings the far index string and the near little finger string up toward you while the near index string slips away from you over the knuckle of the index and entirely off that finger. Now turn each

index completely up, and straighten it (Fig. 182), when it will be seen that the original far index string and the near little finger string have both become far index strings. Release the strings passing around each little finger.

You now have two loops on each index, twisted toward the centre of the figure; and a loop on each thumb (Fig. 183).

Third: Turning the palms toward you, with the middle, ring and little fingers

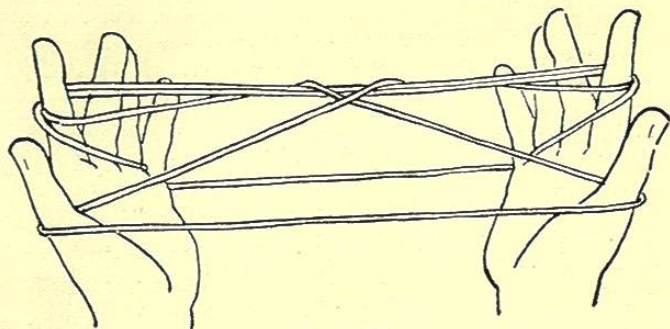


FIG. 182.

of each hand pull straight down, as far as possible, the two far index strings (Fig. 184).

Fourth: Gently withdraw each thumb (Fig. 185, Right hand).

Fifth: Bend each thumb away from you into the former thumb loop (now hanging from the top straight string of the figure), and pick up, with the back of the thumb, the diagonal string passing from the near side of the index down around

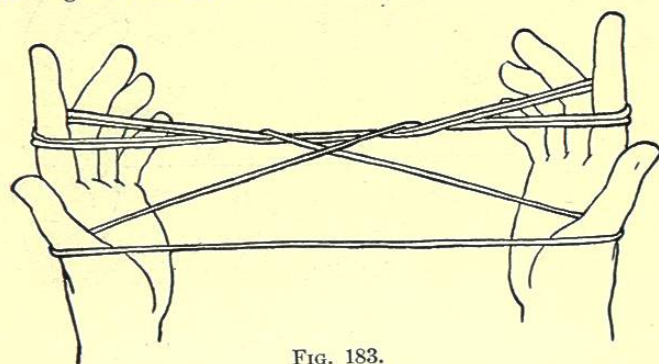
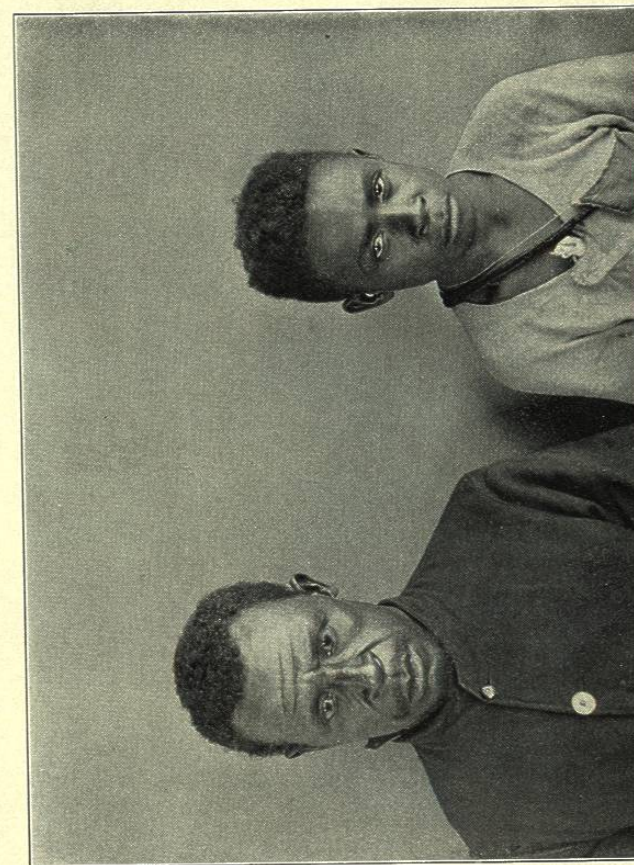


FIG. 183.

the two strings at the bottom of the figure (Fig. 185, Left hand), and pull it toward you through the hanging loop.

Raise the thumbs toward you and the index fingers away from you, and keep the lower strings well down, by bending the middle, ring and little fingers around them, and the finished figure will appear (Fig. 186).



TWO NATIVES OF MURRAY ISLAND. THE YOUNGER IS JAMES.
(Courtesy of Dr. A. C. Haddon.)

The well is said to be "full of water" when the inverted pyramid of the figure is made high, and to be "dry" when the base and apex of the pyramid are brought

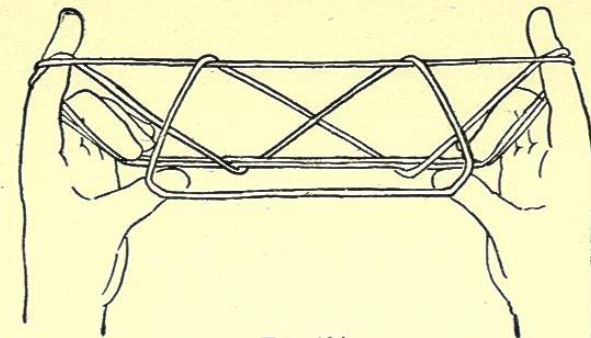


FIG. 184.

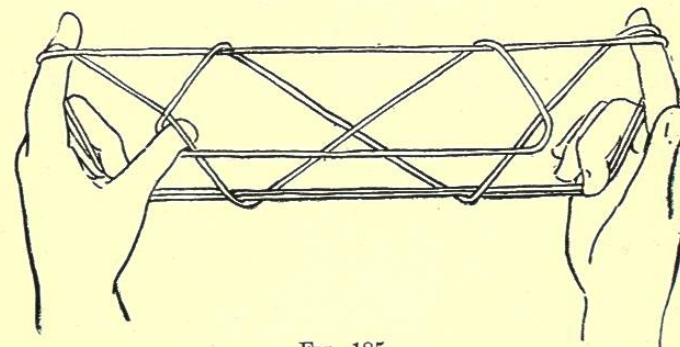


FIG. 185.

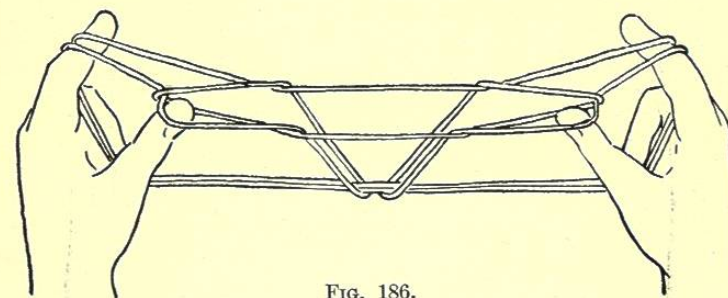


FIG. 186.

to the same level, by letting the lower strings, held down by the fingers, come up to the same plane as the other strings.

The *Second* movement is a new one; its purpose is to put the little finger loop on the index, above the original index loop, and turn it over in the transfer. The original index loop gets, of course, a twist in the process. The *Fifth* movement is the only practicable method of drawing the index string through the thumb loop from above.

FENCE AROUND A WELL

This game is a continuation of "The Well"; it is called *Sihnag*, = "a Fence Around a Well," in Lifu, Loyalty Islands. It was taught Drs. Rivers and Haddon by the same native who taught them "The Well" (p. 149, Fig. 3).

First: Form "The Well."

Second: Pass each thumb away from you and put it up under the two near index strings, close to the index (Fig. 187); then, with the thumb and index of the

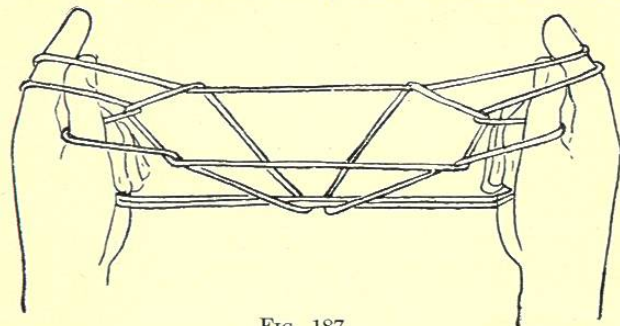


FIG. 187.

right hand, pick up from the back of the left thumb the lower single left thumb loop, and draw it over the upper two loops and off the thumb, and drop it on the palmar side.

With the thumb and index of the left hand, in the same manner, pick up the

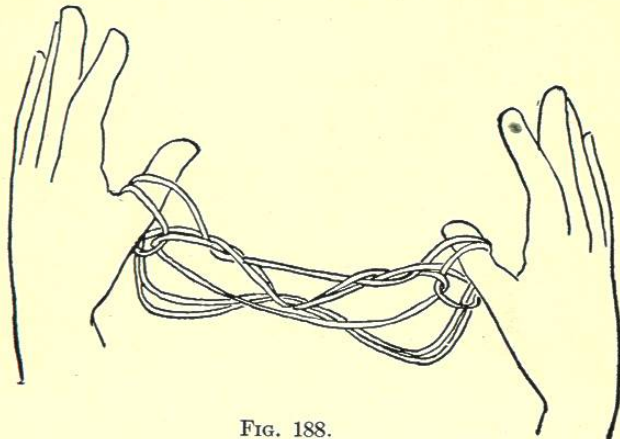


FIG. 188.

lower single right thumb loop, and draw it over the upper two loops, off the thumb, and drop it.

Release the loops from the index fingers.

Third: Take all the fingers of each hand out of the lower loops which they

have been holding, and let the figure hang on the thumbs (Fig. 188). Then put the four fingers of each hand toward you into the ring-like loops held by the thumb;

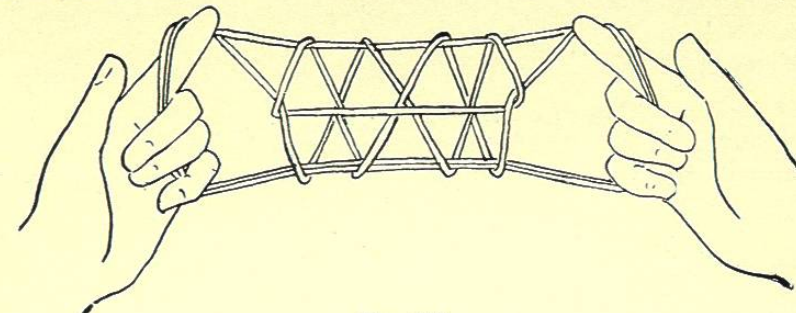


FIG. 189.

remove the thumb; close the middle, ring and little fingers on the palm, and separate the hands (Fig. 189).

There are few string figures in which the final pattern is extended in such a simple manner as in this one.



A CRAB

Dr. Haddon obtained the "Crab" at Saguane, Kiwai Island, near the mouth of the Fly River, British New Guinea, where it is known as *Kokowa*, = a Crab. (See Rivers and Haddon, p. 151, Fig. 8.)

First: Go through the movements necessary to form "The Well."

Second: Turn the palms toward you and slightly upward, and slacken a little the strings held down by the little fingers; then insert each little finger from below into the thumb loop, bend it over the near thumb string, and take the loop off the thumb (Fig. 190, Right hand), and hold it down together with the two lower strings

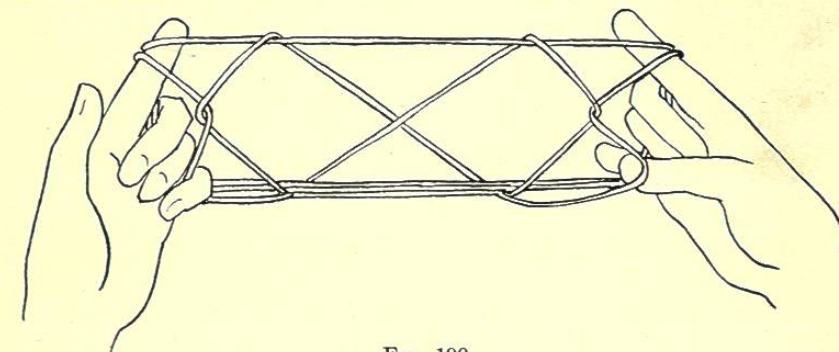


FIG. 190.

of the figure. Separate the hands. The palms now face each other again, and the middle finger and the ring finger of each hand should be slipped out of the

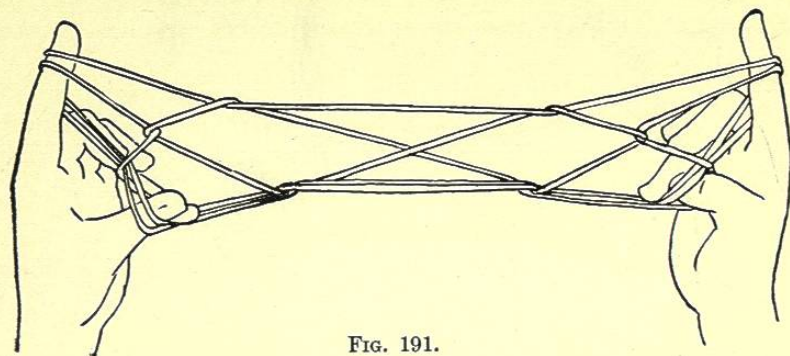


FIG. 191.

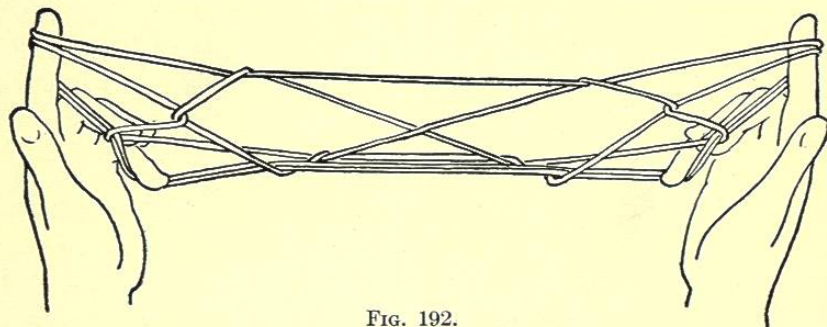


FIG. 192.

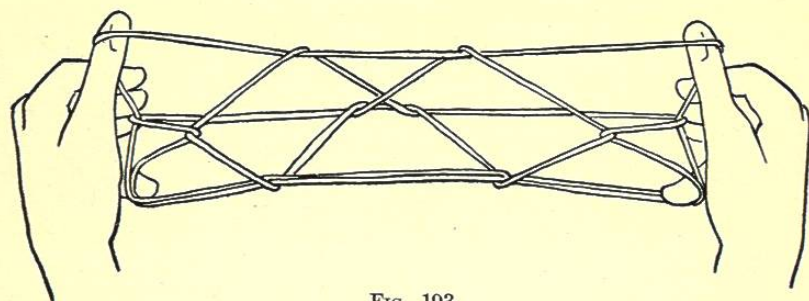


FIG. 193.

triangle close to the hand, and the three lower strings held down by the little finger alone (Fig. 190, Left hand).

Third: Turn the palms away from you, and insert each thumb away from you into the little finger loop, then, turning the palms toward you, draw toward the palm with the bent thumb the diagonal string which runs upward from the little finger and serves to separate the two triangles near the hand. Now, still

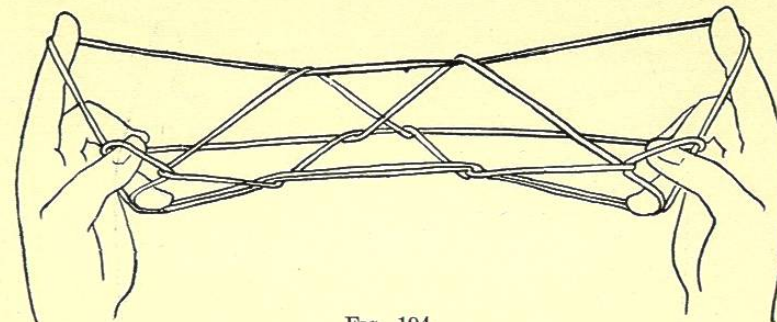


FIG. 194.

holding the string on the thumb, insert the thumb away from you behind the two strings running from the little finger to the far side of the index (Fig. 191, Right hand), and draw these strings toward you with the back of the thumb, withdrawing the little finger (Fig. 191, Left hand).

Fourth: Turn the palms toward you, and insert each little finger toward you into the two thumb loops, and remove the thumb (Fig. 192).

Fifth: Hold the loops well down with each little finger; pick up from below with the back of each thumb the near index string which runs directly from index to index and draw it toward you; remove each index from its loops (Fig. 193).

Sixth: Insert each index toward you into the loop held by the thumb, and with the back of the index pick up the near thumb string; return the index to its position and remove the thumb.

Seventh: Keep the index loop well up on the tip of the finger; pass each thumb away from you, and pick up on the back of the thumb, and draw toward you (Fig. 194) the horizontal string which holds the side lozenge of the central figure to the vertical string running from the little finger to the near side of the index.

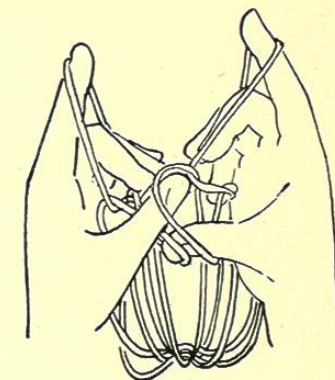


FIG. 195.

Eighth: Bend each middle finger toward you down over all the strings, and hold them down tightly while you exchange the loops on the thumbs, putting the right thumb loop from the right thumb entirely on the left thumb and the left thumb loop from the left thumb entirely on the right thumb (Fig. 195); being careful not to twist the loops or let the loops slip off the

index fingers. Straighten the middle fingers and the index fingers, and separate the hands (Fig. 196).

Ninth: Bend each middle finger toward you over the index loop, and bring it into the thumb loop from below; and take the loop off the thumb by lifting up the

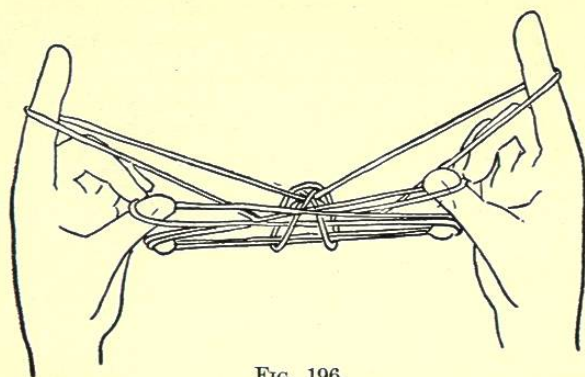


FIG. 196.

far thumb string (Fig. 197), returning the middle finger to its former position, and withdrawing the thumb (Fig. 198). Turn the palms toward you, and bend down each middle finger, and with the back of the thumb, inserted into the middle finger loop from above, take up the far middle finger string, and thus turning the loop over, restore it to the thumb by putting the thumb again in its usual position (Fig. 199, Right hand) and withdrawing the middle finger (Fig. 199, Left hand).

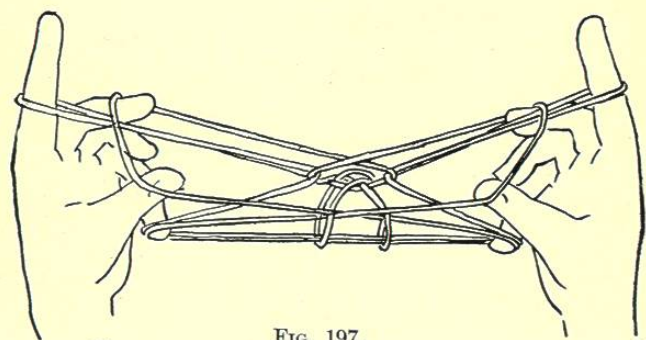


FIG. 197.

Tenth: Insert each thumb from below into the index loop, and with the back of the thumb catch the near index string and draw it down toward you through the thumb loop, and let the thumb loop slip off the thumb (Fig. 200). Release the loops from the index fingers and separate the hands.

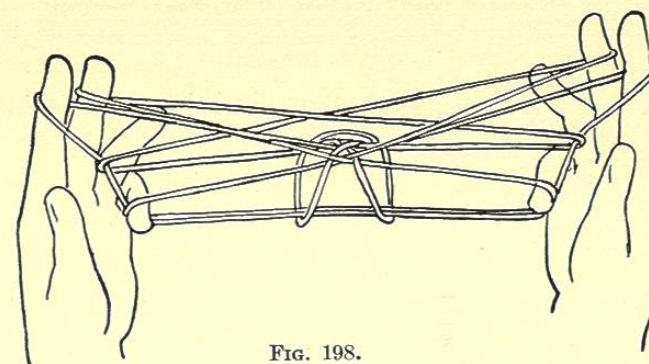


FIG. 198.

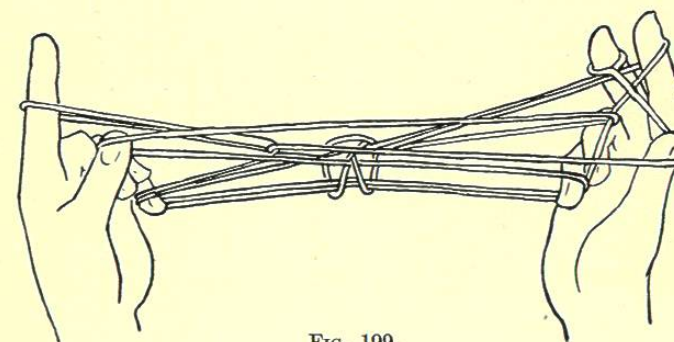


FIG. 199.

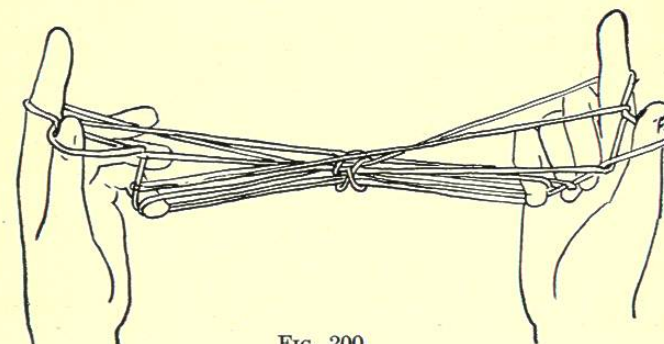


FIG. 200.

Eleventh: Transfer each thumb loop to the index, by putting the index into it from below, removing the thumb, and returning the index to its former position (Fig. 201).

Twelfth: Holding carefully the loops on the index and little fingers, with the back of the thumbs pick up, within the small central triangle of the figure, the crossed

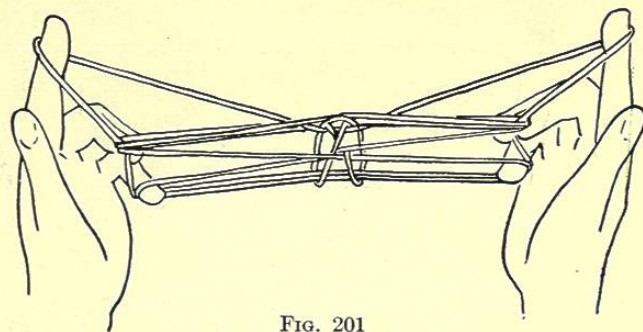


FIG. 201

strings which run from the little finger of one hand to the vertical string passing on the other hand from the little finger to the index (Fig. 202). Be careful to pick up these strings within the small triangle just where they cross, and in doing so keep the backs of the thumbs close together. The hands are then separated and put in their usual positions (Fig. 203).

Thirteenth: Pass each thumb away from you into the index loop from below, and with the back of the thumb draw the near index string toward you (Fig. 204, Left hand), and completely through the two loops already on the thumb; then let these two loops slip entirely off the thumb (Fig. 204, Right hand).

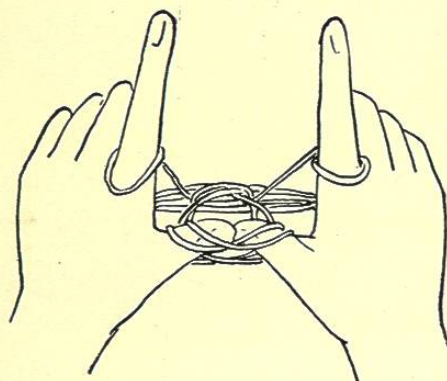


FIG. 202.

closed down on the palms (Fig. 205). The two central lozenges represent the crab's body, the lines radiating therefrom are the legs, and the "pincers" are the small rings passing around the index loops.

Fourteenth: Release the loops from the index fingers and draw the hands apart.

Fifteenth: Transfer each thumb loop to the index finger, by inserting the index into it from below, between the thumb and the small ring which passes around the thumb loop, withdrawing the thumb, and returning the index to its former position.

Extend the figure between the tips of the index fingers and the little fingers

The crab is a long figure, but the movements are not difficult; although it is rather hard to remember the order in which they come. The finished pattern has a

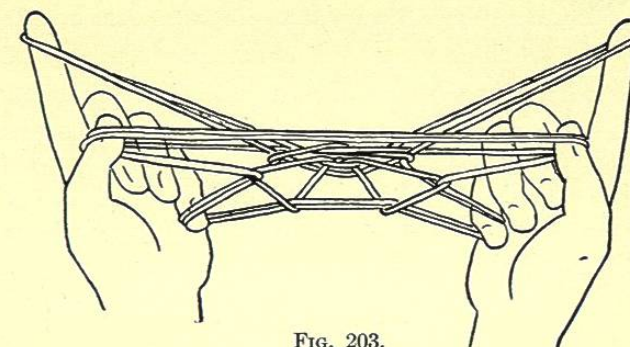


FIG. 203.

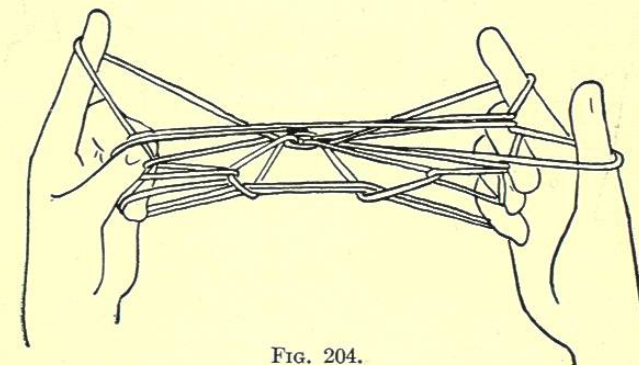


FIG. 204.

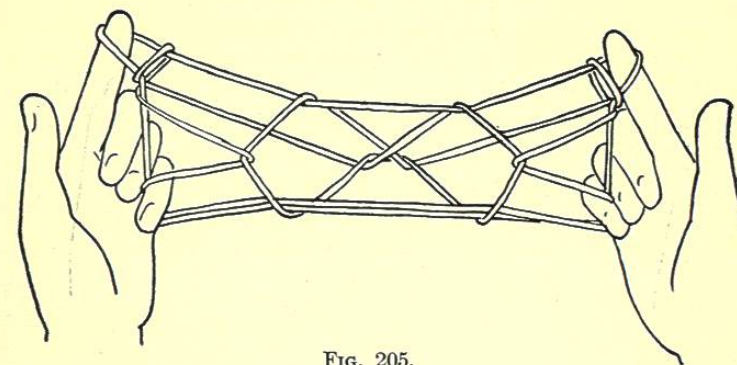


FIG. 205.

greater likeness to the object it is supposed to represent than some of the string figures.



A TRIGGER FISH

Dr. Haddon has kindly given me this unpublished figure which he collected in Torres Straits. The native name is *Nageg*.

First, Second and Third: The same as the first three movements of "The Well."

Fourth: Release the loop from the right thumb and let it hang down in front of the figure. Put the right thumb away from you, under the middle of the upper

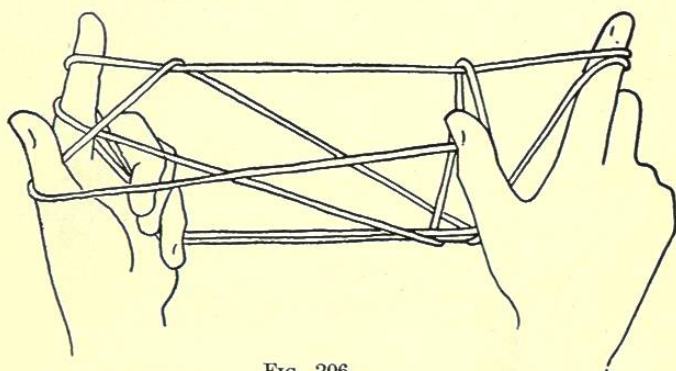


FIG. 206.

string of the figure (Fig. 206), into the upper middle triangle and with the ball of the thumb draw toward the right palm the string forming the right side of the triangle and also the far string of the former right thumb loop (Fig. 207); then

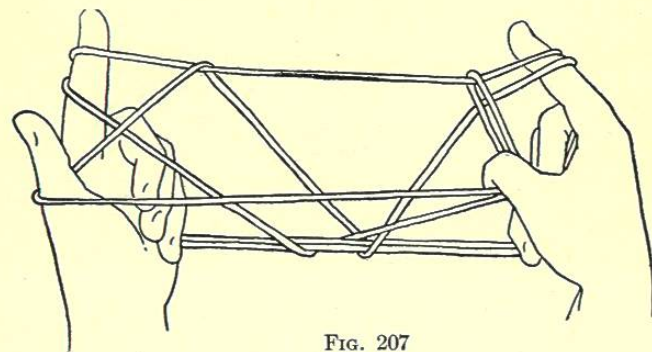


FIG. 207

pick up from the right side on the back of the thumb the right lower near index string (which runs obliquely down to the lower strings of the figure) (Fig. 208) and return the thumb to its position (Fig. 209).

Fifth: Take the right thumb out of the loop and insert it again into the loop, but in the opposite direction away from you. Bend the right thumb down on the right palm and pick up with the back of the thumb the two right far index strings

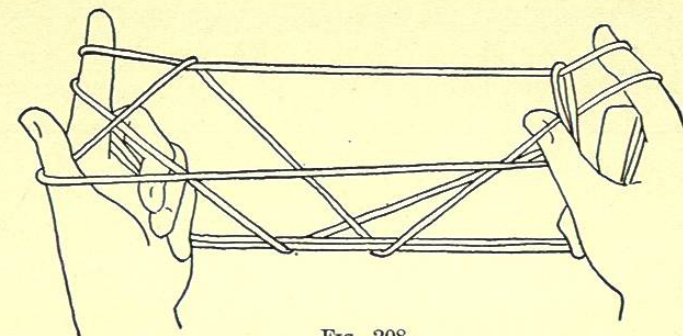


FIG. 208.

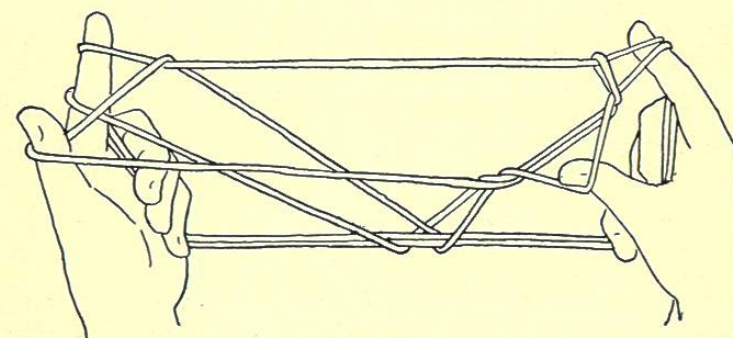


FIG. 209.

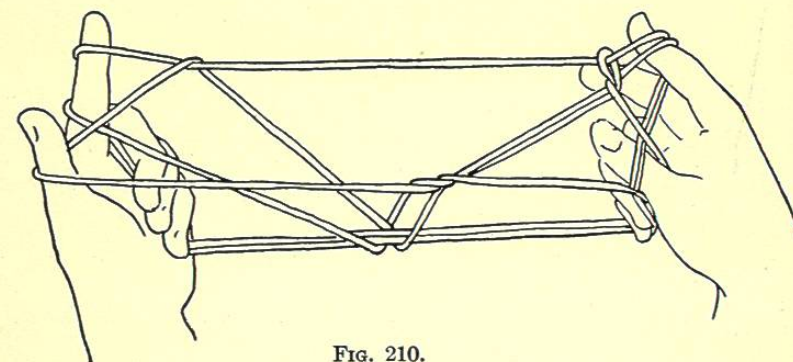


FIG. 210.

(passing from index to little finger) (Fig. 210) and draw them through the thumb loop which you allow to slip off the thumb as you return the thumb to its original