

THE BREASTBONE AND RIBS



I learned this figure from the same Eskimo, Chief Zaroff, who showed me the "Mouth." The native name is *Grut* = the Breastbone and Ribs.

First: Lace the string between the fingers of each hand, so that it passes behind the thumb, the middle finger and the little finger and across the palmar surface of

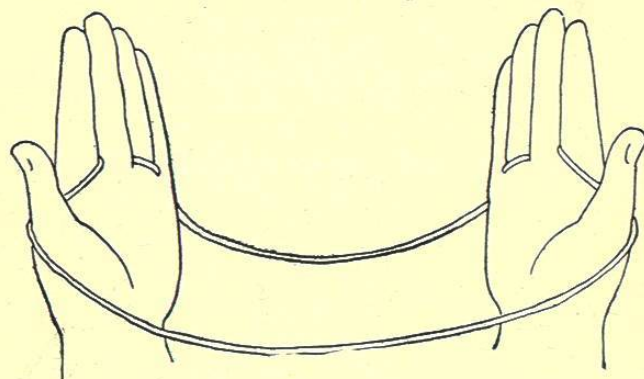


FIG. 703.



FIG. 704.

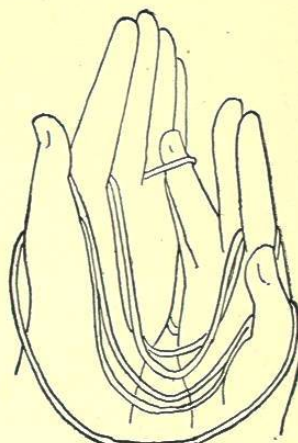


FIG. 705.

the index finger and of the ring finger. The near thumb string and the far little finger string pass straight from hand to hand (Fig. 703).

Second: With the right index take up, from below, the string on the palmar surface of the left index (Fig. 704) and separate the hands. With the left index

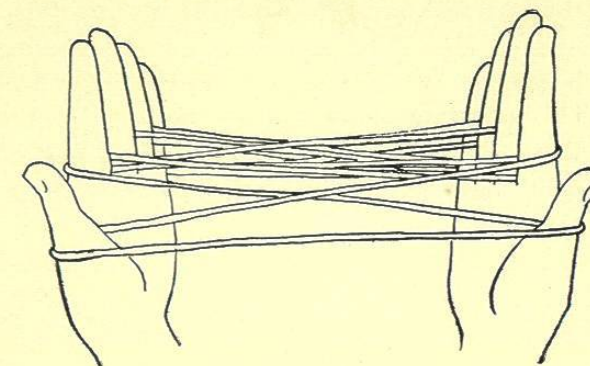


FIG. 706.

take up from below, between the strings of the right index loop, the string on the palmar surface of the right index and separate the hands.

Third: With the right ring finger take up, from below, the string on the palmar surface of the left ring finger (Fig. 705) and separate the hands. With the left

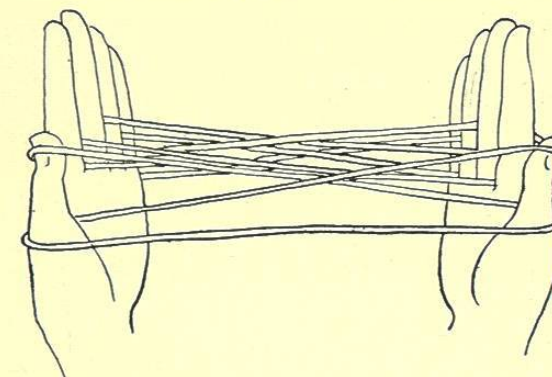


FIG. 707.

ring finger take up, from below, between the strings of the right ring finger loop, the string on the palmar surface of the right ring finger and separate the hands. There is now a loop on every finger of each hand (Fig. 706).

Fourth: Put each thumb from below into the index loop, and separate the thumb from the index (Fig. 707). With the teeth draw the original thumb loop, of each

hand in turn, up over the loop passing around both thumb and index, and, slipping it entirely off the thumb, let it drop on the palmar side (Fig. 708).

Fifth: Pass each thumb away from you over the far thumb string and both strings of the index loop, and take up from below, on the back of the thumb, the

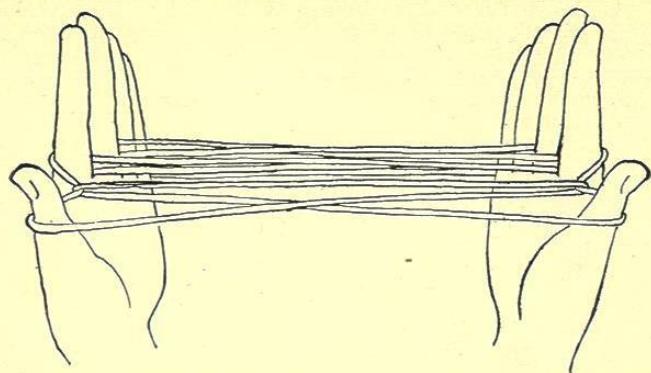


FIG. 708.

near middle finger string and return the thumb to its position (Fig. 709). With the teeth draw the lower thumb loop, of each hand in turn, up over the loop just taken on the thumb, and, slipping it off the thumb, drop it on the palmar side (Fig. 710).

Sixth: Pass each thumb away from you over the thumb, index and middle finger loops, and take up from below on the back of the thumb the near ring finger

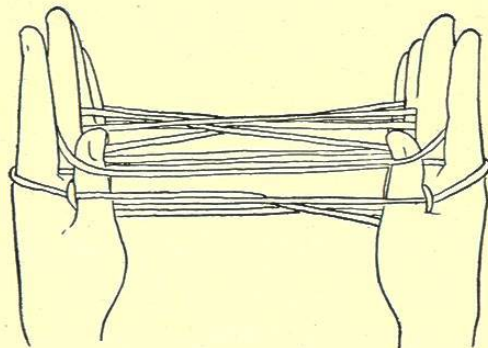


FIG. 709.

string, and return the thumb to its position (Fig. 711). With the teeth draw the lower thumb loop, of each hand in turn, up over the upper thumb loop (the loop you have just taken on the thumb), and, slipping it off the thumb, drop it on the palmar side (Fig. 712).

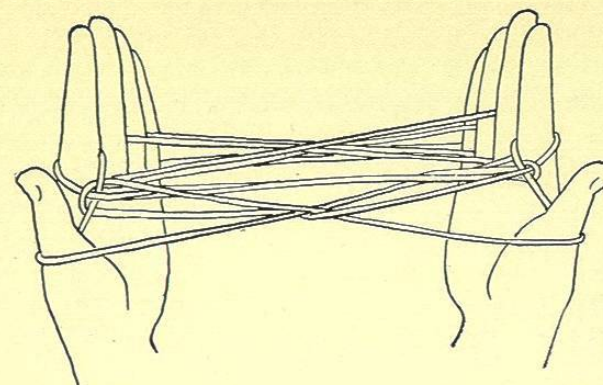


FIG. 710.

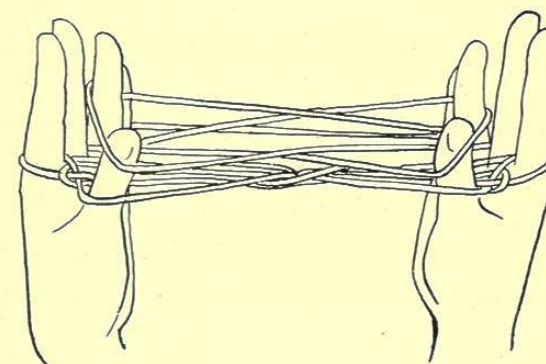


FIG. 711.

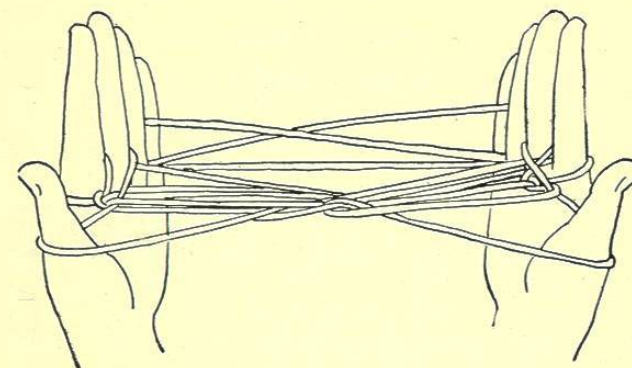


FIG. 712

Seventh: Pass each thumb away from you over the thumb, index, middle finger and ring finger loops, and take up from below, on the back of the thumb, the near little finger string and return the thumb to its position (Fig. 713). With the teeth draw the lower thumb loop, of each hand in turn, up over the upper

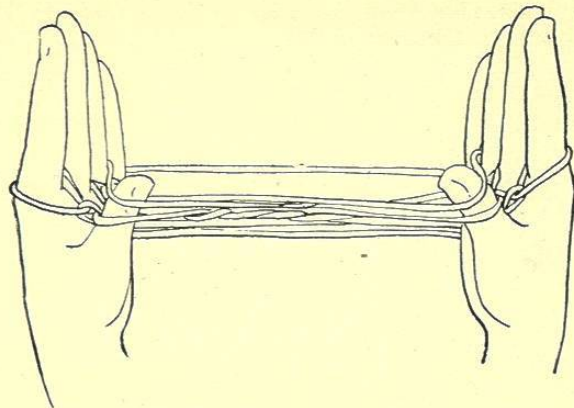


FIG. 713.

thumb loop (the loop you have just taken on the thumb), and slipping it off the thumb drop it on the palmar side (Fig. 714).

Eighth: Pass each thumb away from you over all the strings except the far little finger string, and pick up on the back of the thumb this far little finger string and return the thumb to its position (Fig. 715). With the teeth draw the lower

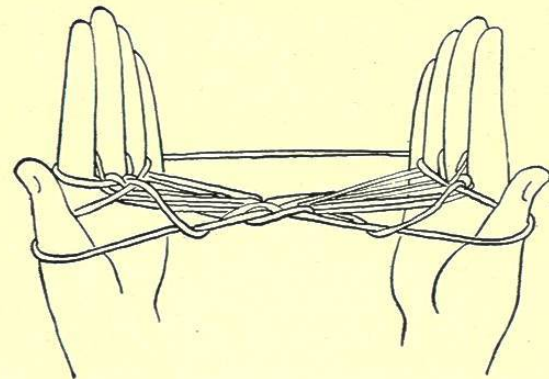


FIG. 714.

thumb loop, of each hand in turn, up over the upper thumb loop (the loop you have just taken on the thumb), and slipping it off the thumb drop it on the palmar side (Fig. 716).

Ninth: Transfer the thumb loops to the little fingers, by bending each little finger toward you and putting it from above down into the thumb loop; and then,

picking up on the back of the finger the near thumb string (Fig. 717, Right hand) return the little finger to its position as you withdraw the thumb (Fig. 717, Left hand).

Tenth: Pick up with the teeth the middle of the nearest straight string which runs from hand to hand (it usually hangs down, and is the lower of the two strings

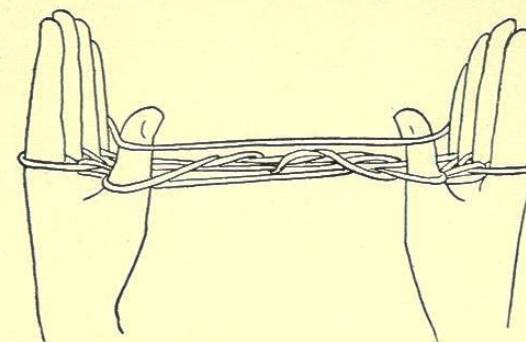


FIG. 715.

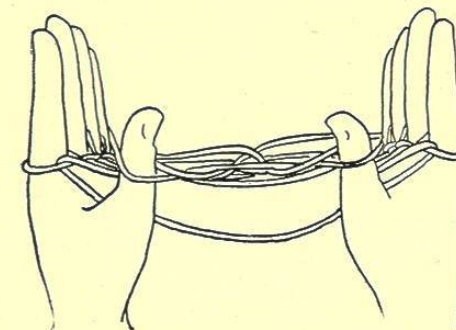


FIG. 716.

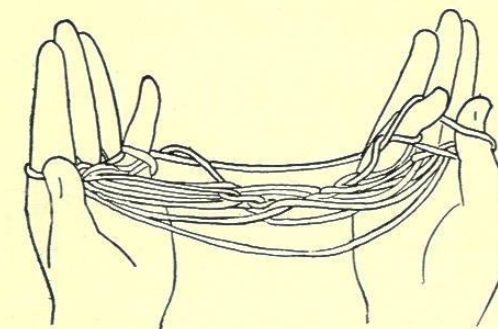


FIG. 717

which, on each side, form a loop around the near index string). Draw this string toward you, and still keeping the loop between the teeth, extend the figure by drawing the hands away from you, with their palms toward each other and the fingers directed away from you.

I have found it more convenient, after the figure has been extended, to release the loop held by the teeth and hold it between the tips of the extended thumbs (Fig. 718).

In this Eskimo figure, the movement which we have regarded as the most characteristic "Navaho movement" (slipping a lower loop over an upper loop and

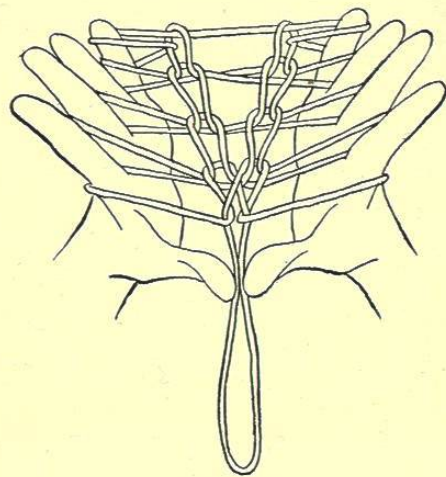


FIG. 718.

then off the finger) reaches its maximum development; indeed there is little else in this figure than a constant repetition of this movement.

To take the string off the hands without tangling it, release the loop held by the teeth, remove the upper loop from each little finger, and draw the hands forcibly apart. The simple loop can then be dropped from the fingers.

A BIRD'S NEST

This figure was shown me by the two Navaho girls from Gallup, New Mexico.

First: Arrange the loop of string in the "First Position" on the left hand, and as a single, uncrossed loop around the little finger of the right hand. Draw the strings tight (Fig. 719).

Second: Put the thumb and index of the right hand, from above, behind the string crossing the left palm, and draw the loop out to the right (Fig. 720), at the same time by widely separating the right thumb and index, and turning the hand up to its usual position, you put a crossed loop on each of these fingers (Fig. 721).

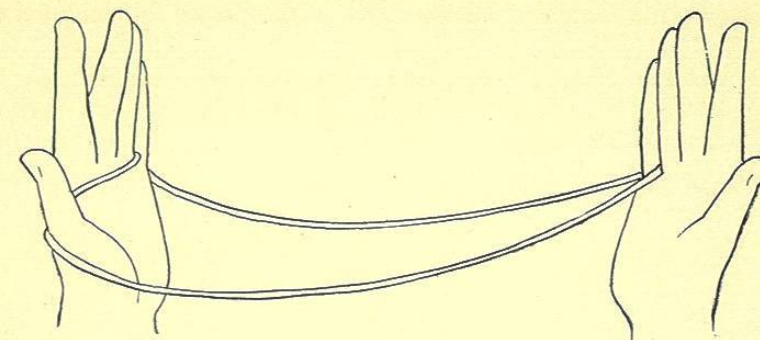


FIG. 719.

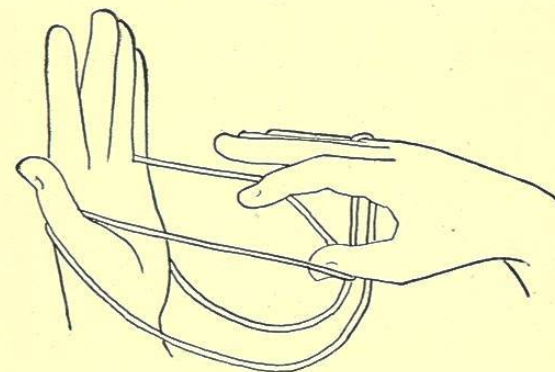


FIG. 720.

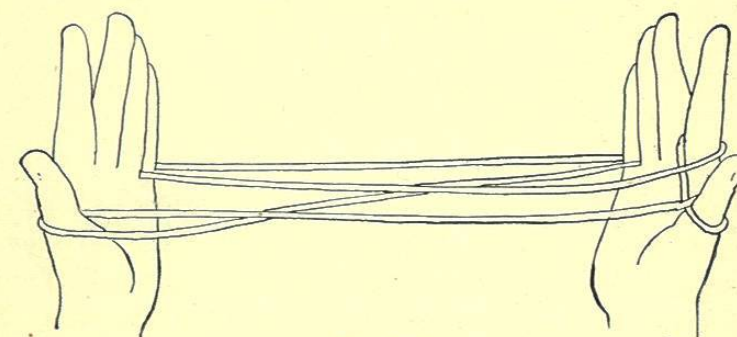


FIG. 721.

Third: With the left index pick up from the right index, from below and on the far side of the right near index string, the right far index string (which passes to the near side of the right thumb) (Fig. 722), and separate the hands.

Fourth: Bend each thumb away from you over the far thumb string and over

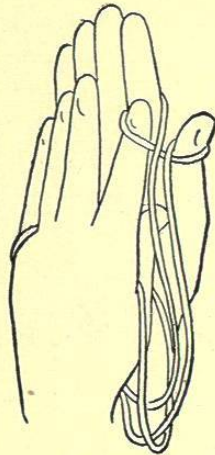


FIG. 722.

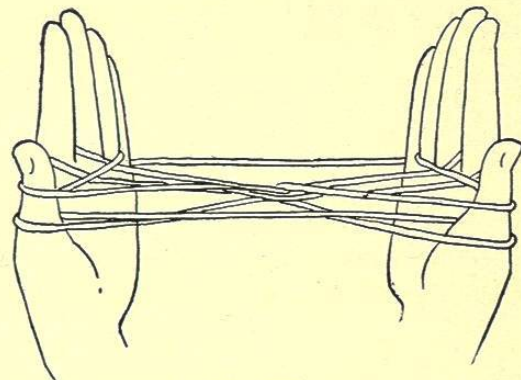


FIG. 723.

the index loop, and pick up from below, on the back of the thumb, the near little finger string, and return the thumb to its original position (Fig. 723).

Fifth: Bend each middle finger toward you over the index loop and the string

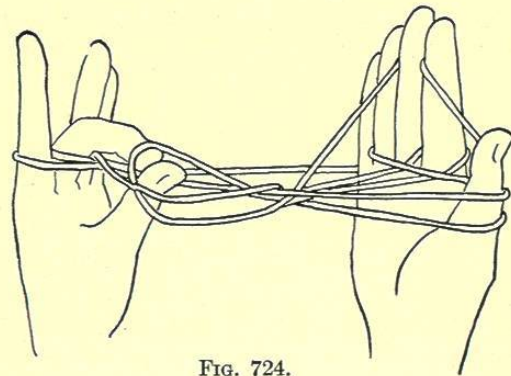


FIG. 724.

which crosses the palm, and take up, from below, on the back of the middle finger, the far thumb string (*not* the palmar string) (Fig. 724, Left hand), and return the middle finger to its position (Fig. 724, Right hand).

Sixth: Release the loops from the thumbs and little fingers, and extend the figure by keeping the middle finger loops up on the tips of those fingers, and by

pulling each far index string down to the palm with the ring and little fingers, at the same time drawing each near index string toward you with the thumb (Fig. 725).

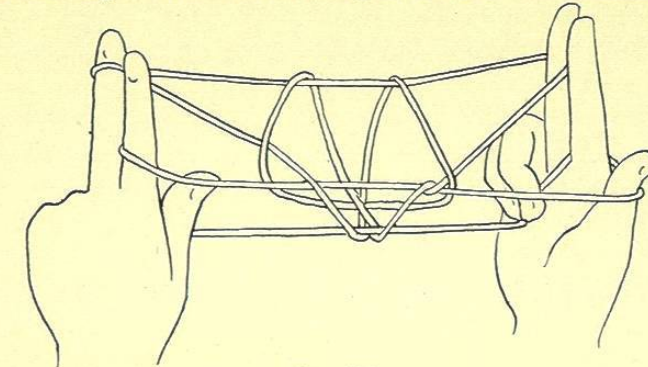


FIG. 725.

The first three movements of this figure are new, and do not occur in any other figure; of these the *Second* is particularly interesting.

TWO BOYS FIGHTING FOR AN ARROW



The Klamath Indian, Emma Jackson, who taught Mr. John L. Cox the other figures, also showed him this one.

First: Put each hand completely through the untwisted loop. Bend each little finger down toward you, and pick up from below on its back the near wrist string, and return the little finger to its position (Fig. 726). Bend each thumb away from

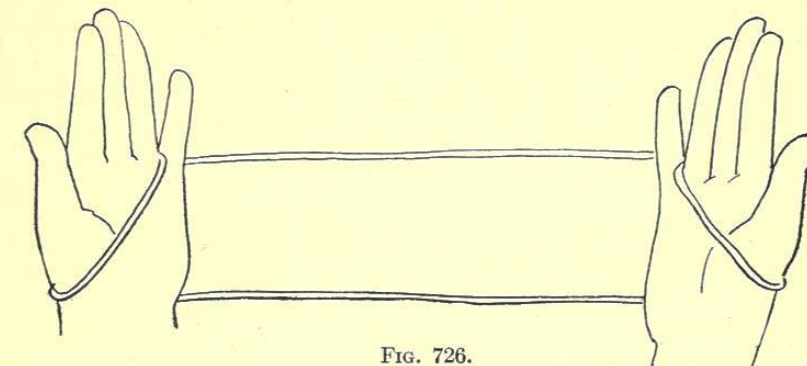


FIG. 726.

you, and pick up from below on its back the far wrist string, and return the thumb to its position (Fig. 727). With the right index pick up, from below, both strings

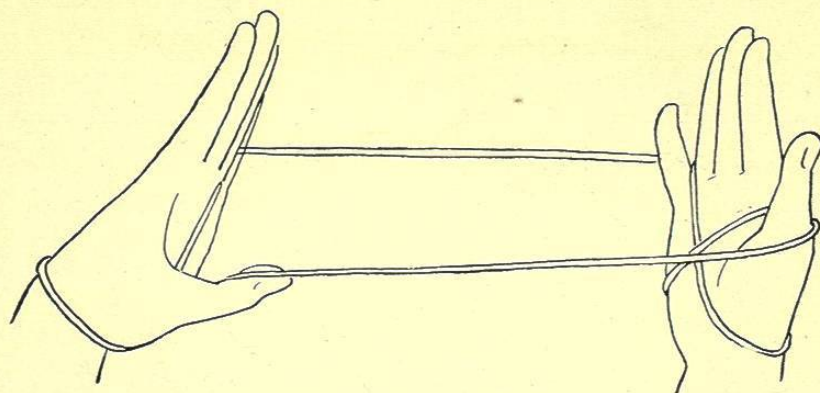


FIG. 727.

on the left palm just where they cross (Fig. 728), and separate the hands; with the left index pick up, from below, both strings on the right palm just where they cross, and separate the hands (Fig. 729).



FIG. 728.

Second: With the right thumb and index pick up the string on the back of the left wrist, lift it over the tips of all the left fingers, and let it drop on the palmar side. With the left thumb and index pick up the string on the back of the right wrist, lift it over the tips of all the right fingers, and let it drop on the palmar side.

Third: Draw the hands slightly apart to separate the two strings which cross over the figure parallel with the palms (Fig. 730). Bend each index down over the cross string of the same side, and draw the string toward the palm in the bend of the finger; allowing the two index loops to slip over the knuckles and off the finger (Fig. 731).

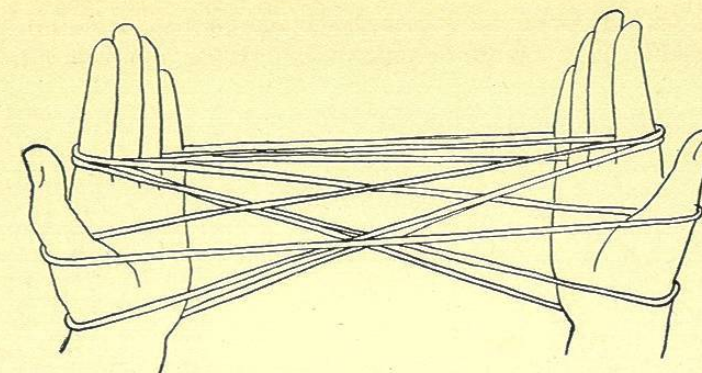


FIG. 729.

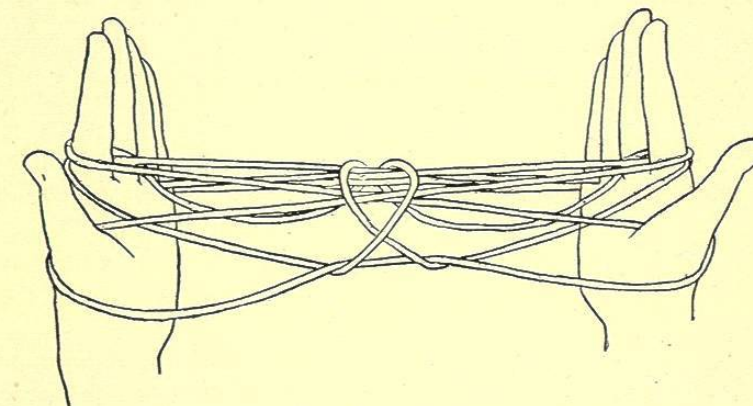


FIG. 730.

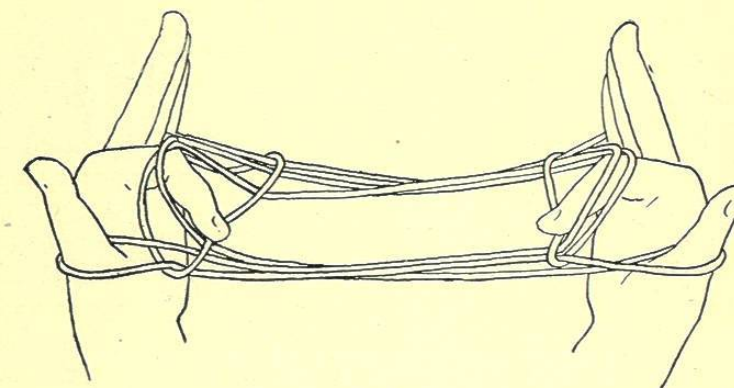


FIG. 731.

Fourth: A second person now holds lightly a small piece of stick (a match for example) down into the centre of the figure (Fig. 732); if you now quickly let go

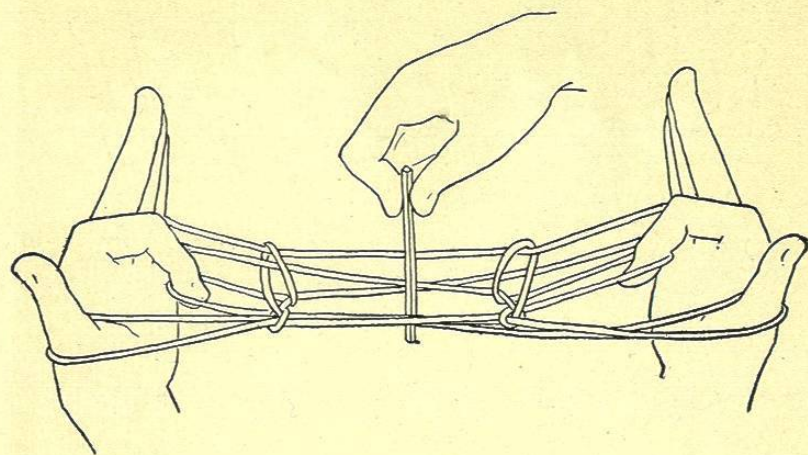


FIG. 732.

the loops held by the index fingers, which represent the "boys," the stick, or "arrow," may be caught or snapped away.

This figure is interesting because of the opening movement, a modification of Opening A, which does not occur in any of the other figures.

FLINT AND STEEL

In the Caroline Islands this figure is called *Nifi* = Flint and Steel. Dr. Furness obtained it from a Uap boy named "Gumaun."

First: First Position, with the loop doubled and used throughout as a double string.

Second: Put the right thumb, from above, behind the strings on the left palm (Fig. 733), and separate the hands, turning the right thumb toward you, and up-right (Fig. 734).

Third: Pass the left thumb away from you, and pick up from below on its back the near little finger strings, and return the thumb to its position (Fig. 735).

Fourth: Bend each index down, and pick up from below the far thumb strings (not the palmar strings), and hold them up on the back of the last joint of the index (Fig. 736).



TWO UAP BOYS. THE ELDER IS GUMAUN.
(Courtesy of Dr. William Henry Furness, 3rd.)

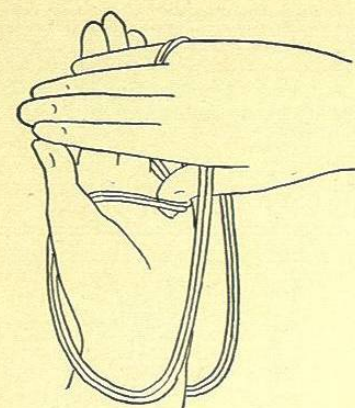


FIG. 733.

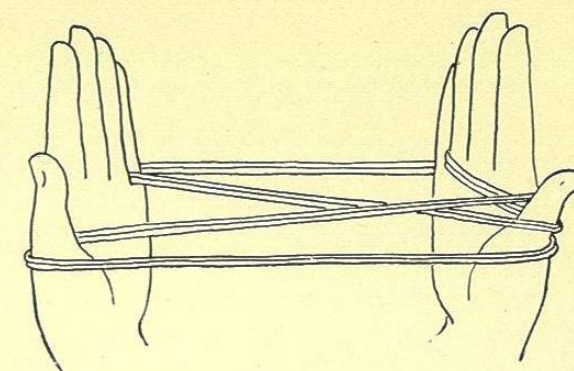


FIG. 734.

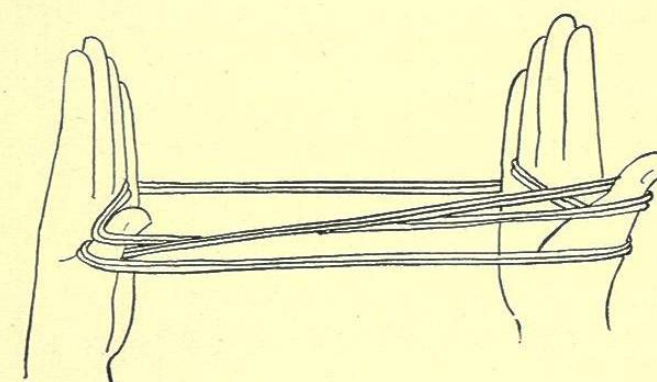


FIG. 735.

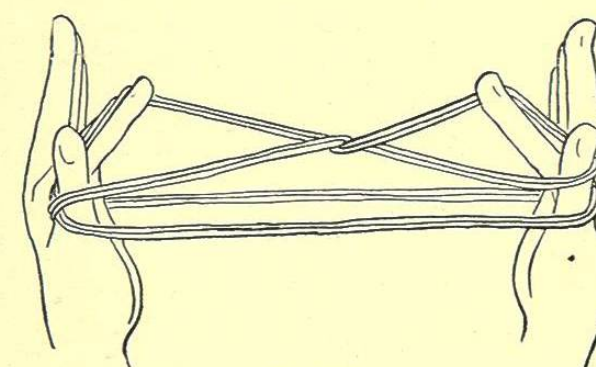


FIG. 736.

Fifth: Turn each thumb down toward the opposite thumb, and then toward you, under the straight strings passing from thumb to thumb, and back to its former position (Fig. 737).

Release the loops from the little fingers, and draw the strings tight (Fig. 738).

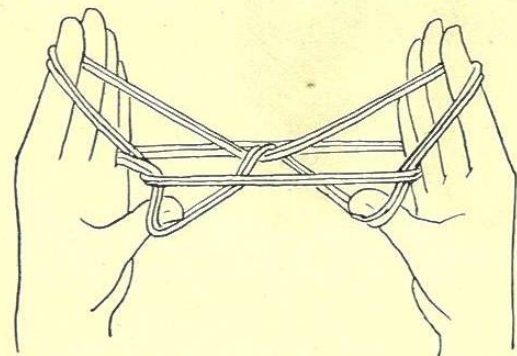


FIG. 737.

The hands are now in their usual positions; the thumbs, separated from the index fingers, are directed toward you.

Sixth: Keeping the loops securely on the fingers, turn the right hand so that the right thumb passes under the figure; the palm is directed away from you, the fingers pointing upward; now turn the left hand with the palm away from you,

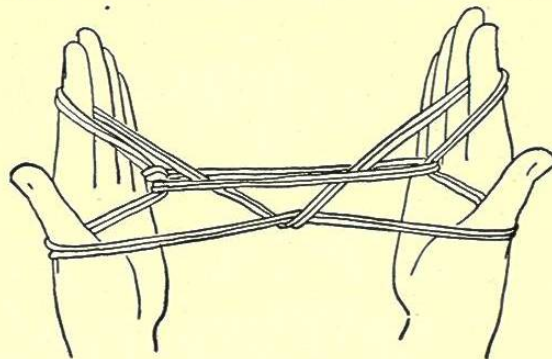


FIG. 738.

and move it so that the finger tips sweep away from you, down (Fig. 739), and then under the figure toward you and upward. Carry the left hand to the right as far as possible, without moving the right hand, crossing the left wrist over the right wrist: draw the strings tight with the hands having their backs directed toward each other (Fig. 740), the right palm directed to the left, the left palm directed to the right, and the thumbs pointing upward. This movement should be done quickly.

The "fire" is supposed to lie between the thumb and index of the left hand. If a native were doing the figure, he would tell you to blow out the fire, and when you did so, bringing your head near his left hand, he would bring the thumb and index of each hand together quickly; the fire would surely be out, but your nose would be in—between his left thumb and index.

In this figure we have a new opening and a new method of extension. The finished pattern closely resembles the pattern of the "Osage Two Diamonds"; there are slight differences, however, in the crossing of the strings.

In the fifth volume of the Reports of the Cambridge Anthropological Expedition to Torres Straits, page 17, Dr. Haddon gives a legend which is of interest in connection with this game.

"THE ORIGIN OF FIRE"

"Eguon, described as a large bat, is fabled to have introduced fire to Mawata. A legend goes that a tribe once inhabited Nalgi (Double Island), one of whose members showed fire to come from the left hand, between the thumb and forefinger, whereupon dissension arose and the people were all transformed into animals, birds, reptiles, fish

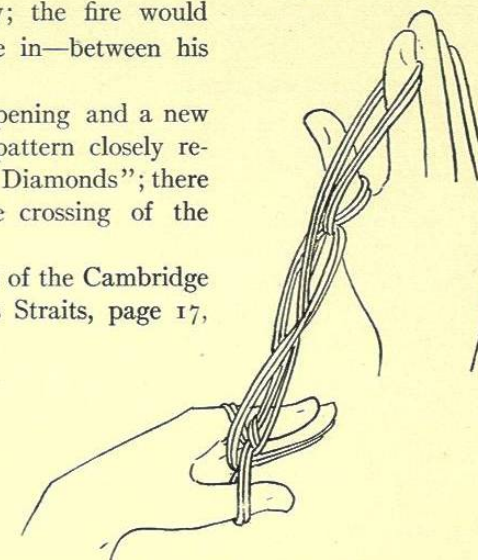


FIG. 739.

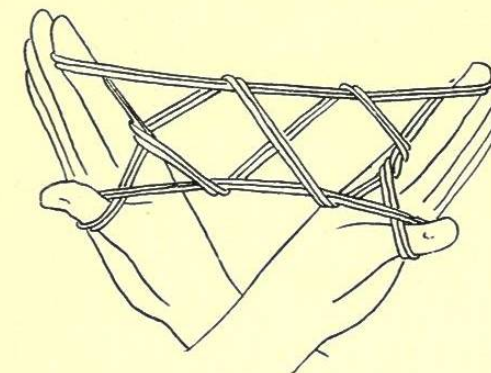


FIG. 740.

(including dugong and turtle). Eguon found his way to Mawata, the others to different places in the Straits and New Guinea. There appears to have been some friendly arrangement among the snakes whereby some took to the