

hands apart, and separating the thumbs widely from the index fingers, he takes the figure from "A's" hands (Fig. 758).

When the figure is held vertically it is supposed to represent a tall clock.

The "Real Cat's-cradle" is capable of some variation: The Philippine Linao Moros at the St. Louis Exposition always passed from the (6) "Cat's Eye" back to the (4) "Manger" without any intervening steps, as follows: The "Cat's Eye" is on "A's" hands. "B" picks up in the bend of his right little finger the string

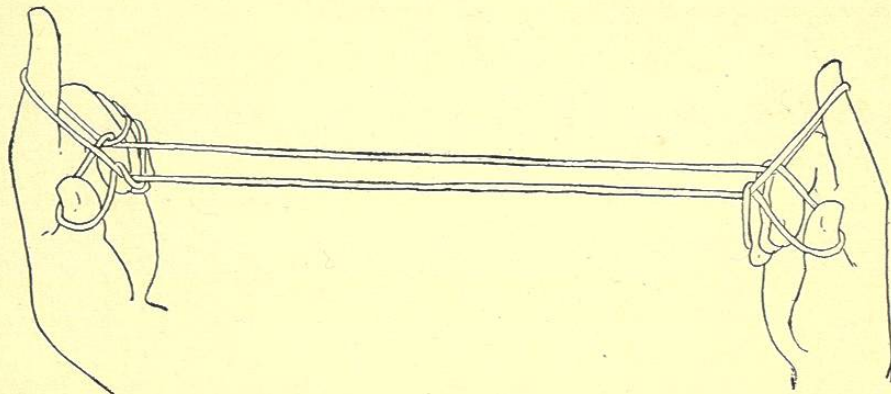


FIG. 758.

which passes between "A's" left thumb and index, and lifts that string off "A's" left index only; in like manner he picks up in the bend of his left little finger the string which passes between "A's" right thumb and index, and lifts that string off "A's" right thumb only; then, still holding each string in the bend of the little finger, "B" puts his right thumb and index (held close together) down into the figure, near "A's" left hand, and then up into the central lozenge, and thus picks up from below on these fingers the crossed strings of that side; in the same way "B" puts his left thumb and index down near "A's" right hand and then up into the central lozenge, and thus picks up from below on these fingers the crossed strings of that side. The figure is now taken off "A's" hands and extended as the "Manger." This may be the way that the Koreans, according to Dr. Weir, pass from the (6) "Cat's Eye" to the (3) "Candles." Apparently the Japanese and Koreans pass from the (3) "Candles" to the (6) "Cat's Eye" (see Culin, 2, p. 30), but I do not know how it can be done without an intervening figure. It is possible to jump from the (1) "Cradle" to the (3) "Candles" by picking up the crossed strings as if for the "Soldier's Bed," but putting the fingers down into the figure, and separating the hands; then the "Candles" are held of course with the fingers pointing downward. We can pass directly from the (2) "Soldier's Bed" to the (6) "Cat's Eye" by picking up the crossed strings from below, bringing them around the side strings and down into the centre of the figure, and then separating the hands.

CHAPTER VIII

TRICKS AND CATCHES—A TORRES STRAITS LIZARD—HANGING—THE MOUSE—A DRAVIDIAN TRICK—A FINGER CATCH—A FLY ON THE NOSE—A THUMB CATCH—WILL YOU HAVE A YAM?—THREADING A CLOSED LOOP—A SAW-MILL.

A TORRES STRAITS LIZARD

THIS trick I got from Dr. Haddon, who has published a description of it (see Rivers and Haddon, p. 152). In Murray Island, Torres Straits, it is known as *Monan* = a Lizard; in Mabuiag as *Maita* = Intestines of a Turtle. It was shown to Dr. Furness in the Caroline Islands by the Uap boy, who showed him "Carrying Money."

First: Hold the left hand high with the palm down and the fingers pointing away from you, and with the right hand place the loop of string over the back of the left hand, and let it hang down in front of you.

Pass the right hand away from you through the hanging loop, with the fingers pointing downward (Fig. 759); then turn the right hand around the right hanging string, by pointing the fingers to the right, then toward you, and finally upward (Fig. 760). Now pass the right hand to the left, between the hanging strings and

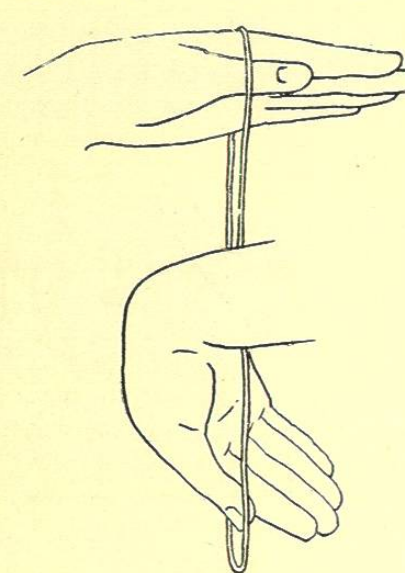


FIG. 759.

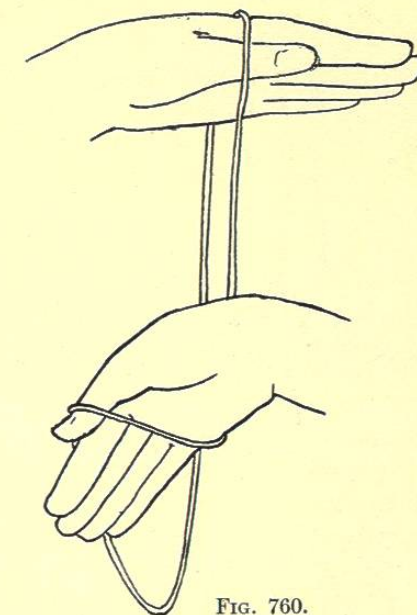


FIG. 760.

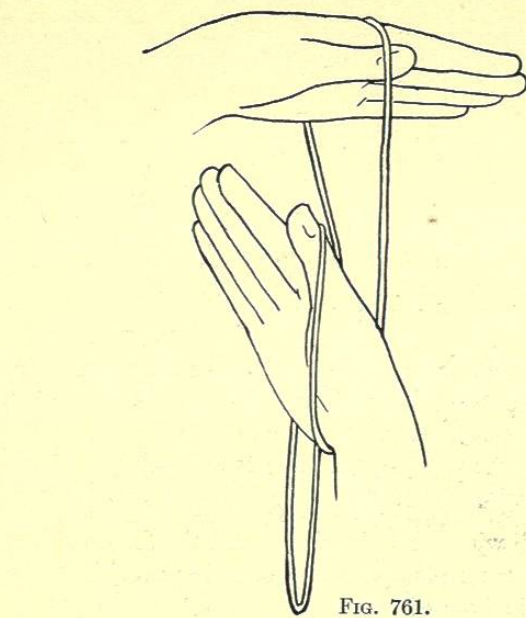


FIG. 761.

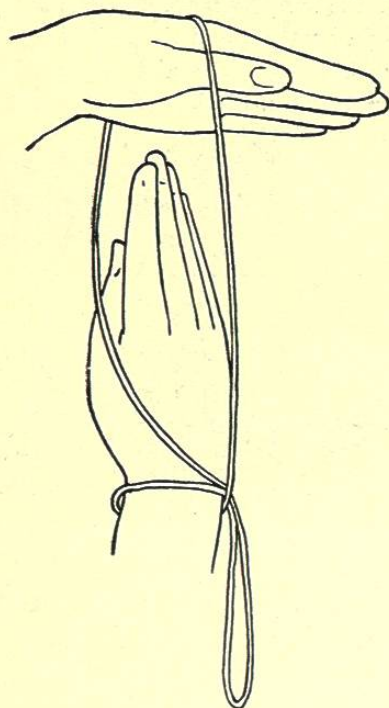


FIG. 762.

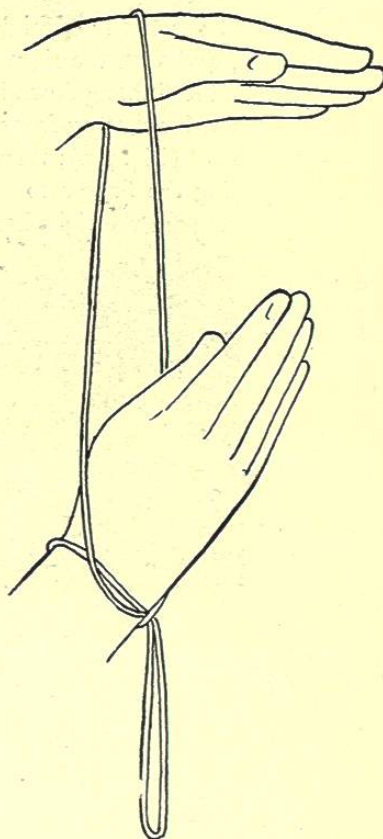
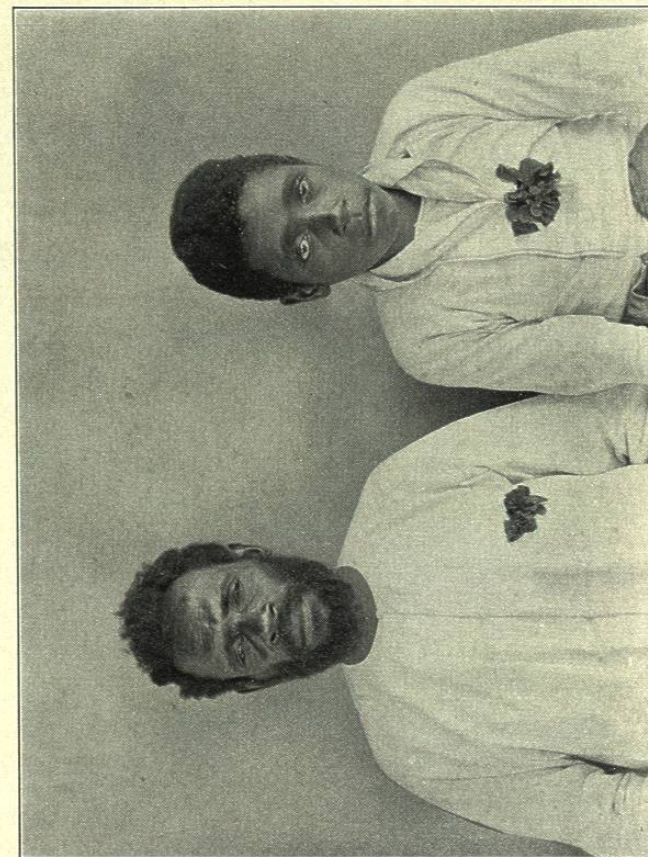


FIG. 763.



TWO NATIVES OF MURRAY ISLAND. THE YOUNGER IS JIMMIE RICE.
 See Haddon's *Hand Hunters: Black, White and Brown*.
 (Courtesy of Dr. A. C. Haddon.)

your body, beyond the left hanging string (Fig. 761), then away from you, then to the right around the left string (Fig. 762), and finally toward you back through the hanging loop (Fig. 763).

Draw the right hand down and to the right, and it will come free from the noose around the wrist.

This trick is rather hard to learn and it can be done only in the one way I have described. Of course you will observe that you take your right hand out of the loop when you finally bring it toward you apparently through the loop.

HANGING

I call this trick with the string "Hanging" merely because it is done around the neck. I saw it done by the Filipinos of the Linao Moro and Negrito tribes. Dr. Furness was shown it in the Caroline Islands by the girl "Dakofel."

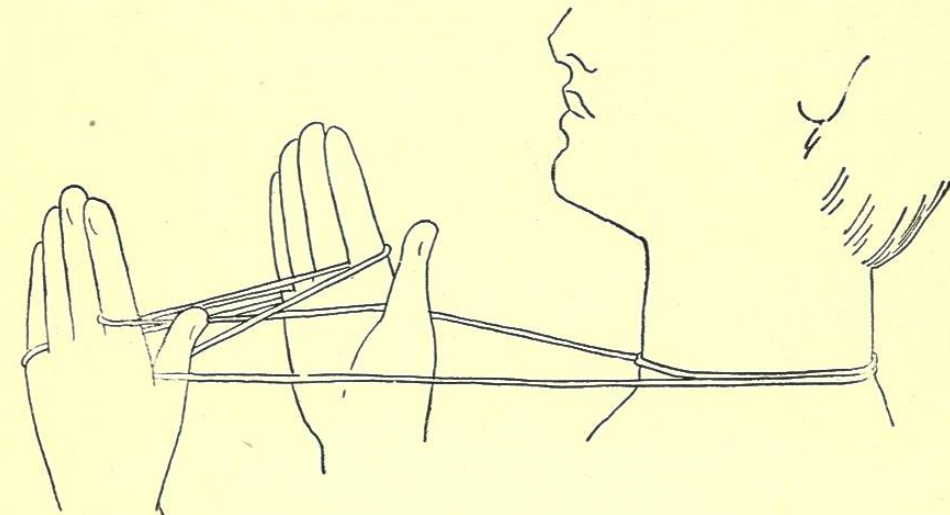


FIG. 764.

First: Put your head through the loop of string, and let the rest of the loop hang down in front of you.

Second: Pass the right string around the neck from the left side, draw the loop tight, and let it hang down in front of you.

Third: Put the hanging loop on the hands and form Opening A, taking up the left palmar string first (Fig. 764).

Fourth: Pass the index loops over the head (Fig. 765) (you may release the loops from the little fingers to increase the size of the index loops), and remove the hands from the other loops.

Fifth: A loop now hangs down in front of you, and if you pull on it, or on either string of it, all the strings will come off the neck.

The reason for the strings coming off the neck, after you have apparently

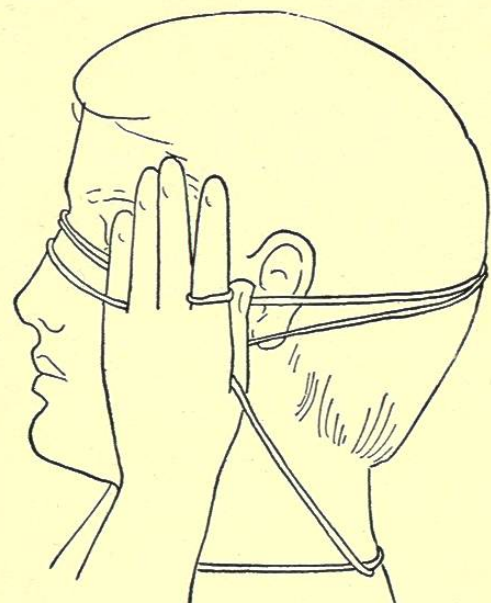


FIG. 765.

wound them on securely, is because when you put the index loops over the head you reverse the direction of the strings already on the neck and they are no longer wound around on it.

THE MOUSE



This figure is probably the most widely distributed of all the string figures. I have seen it done by the African Batwa Pygmies, the Philippine Negritos and Linao Moros, and American Indians of the Chippewa, Osage, Navaho and Apache tribes. Dr. Haddon gives it as an Omaha string trick (5, p. 218) and says it is

known to the Japanese. I have been told that it is well known in Ireland. Dr. Haddon also met with it in Torres Straits; in Murray Island it is known as *Kebe Mokeis* = the Mouse (Rivers and Haddon, p. 152); quite recently it has been reported from the Wajiji in British East Africa, and from the Alaskan Eskimos.

First: Hold the left hand with the palm facing the right and the fingers pointing away from you. With the right hand place the loop of string over the edge of the left thumb, and let it hang down over the palm and back of the left hand (Fig. 766).

Second: Pass the right index on the near side of the left palmar string, between the left thumb and index, and catch the string on the back of the left hand (Fig. 767), and pull it to the right between the left thumb and index and on the near side of the hanging string (Fig. 768). Do not pull the loop entirely out, but with the

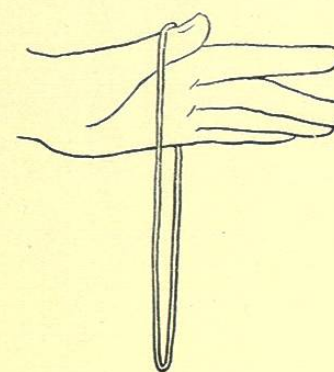


FIG. 766.

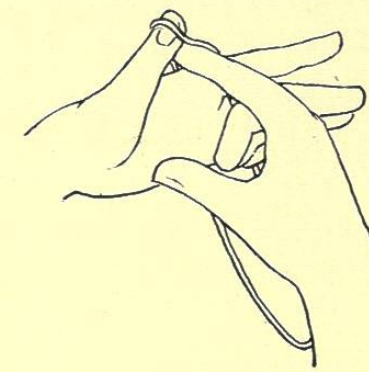


FIG. 767.

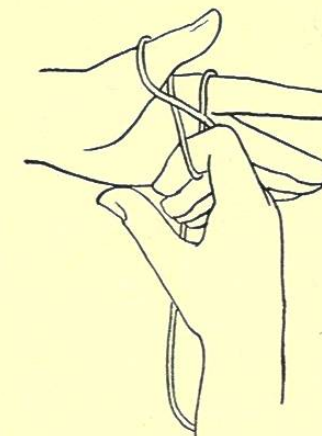


FIG. 768.

right index give it one twist away from you (Fig. 769), and put it on the left index (Fig. 770).

Pull down the two hanging strings, in order to hold tight the loops on the thumb and index.

Third: In the same way pass the right index on the near side of the hanging string (Fig. 771), between the index and middle finger, catch the string on the back of the hand, and draw it through between the index and middle finger, on the near side of the hanging string (Fig. 772). Give the loop one twist away from you (Fig. 773), put it on the middle finger (Fig. 774), and pull the hanging strings tight.

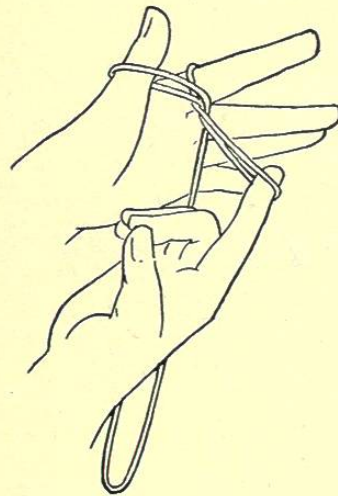


FIG. 769.

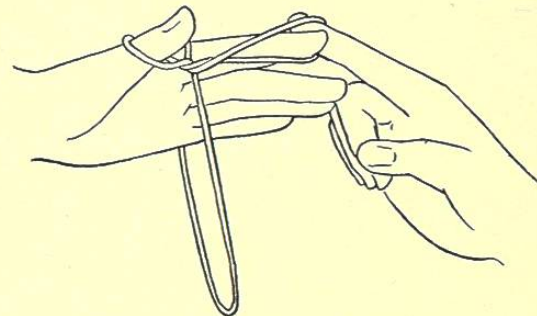


FIG. 770.

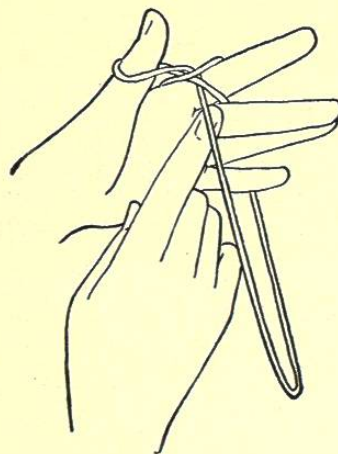


FIG. 771.

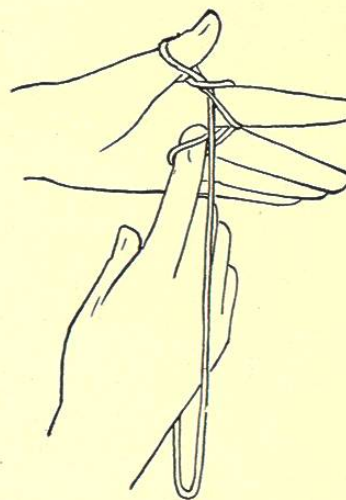


FIG. 772.

Fourth: In the same way put a loop on the ring finger.

Fifth: In the same way put a loop on the little finger (Fig. 775).

Sixth: With the right thumb and index take the loop off the left thumb, and place it between the tips of the left thumb and index (Fig. 776), which should now hold it lightly. With the right hand pull down the string which hangs from the palmar side of the left hand, letting go the loop held

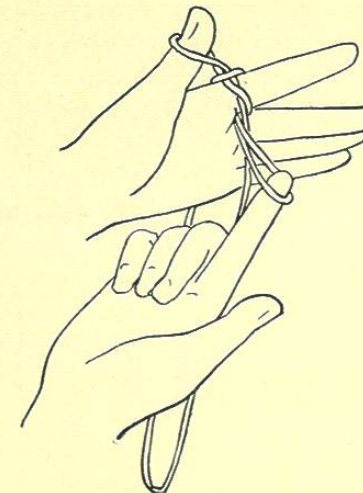


FIG. 773.

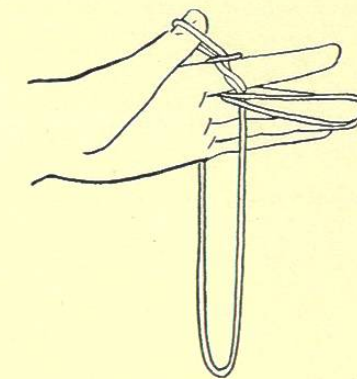


FIG. 774.

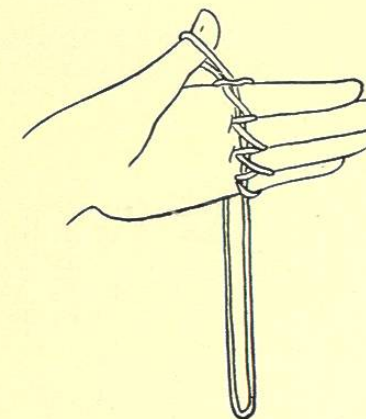


FIG. 775.

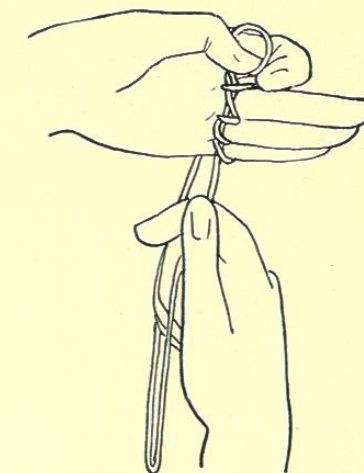


FIG. 776.

by the left thumb and index, and the entire string will come off the hand; make a squeaking noise as "the mouse (the thumb loop) escapes from the cat."