



FIG. 777.



FIG. 778.

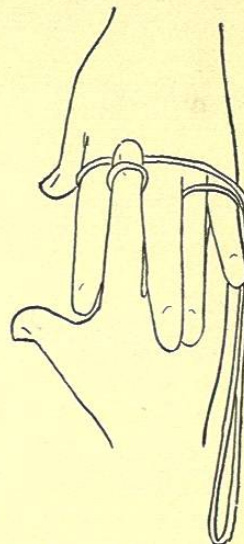


FIG. 779.

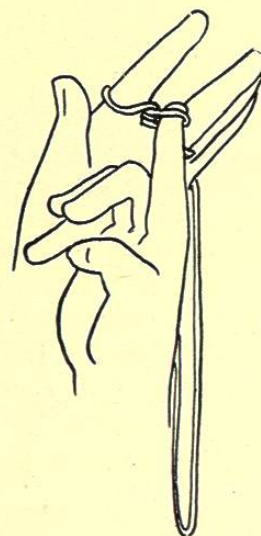


FIG. 780.

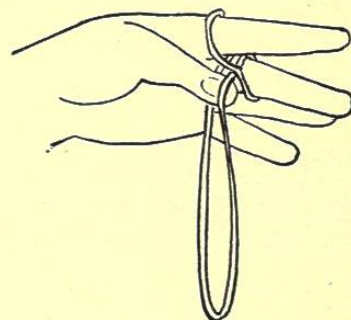


FIG. 781.

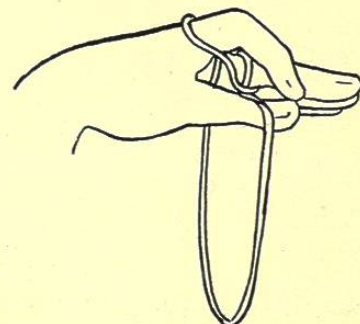


FIG. 782

A DRAVIDIAN TRICK

I obtained this trick from Dr. Haddon, in August, 1904. It was shown him by Dr. S. Levinstein, who learnt it in Leipzig from a travelling troupe of Dravidians.

First: Hold the left hand up with the palm to the right, and with the right hand put the loop over the left index and middle finger, so that there is a short palmar string across these fingers and two strings hanging down on the back of the left hand. (Fig. 777.)

Second: Put the right index up under the string on the left palm (Fig. 778), push it between the index and middle finger, and catch the near hanging string (Fig. 779), and draw it all the way out to the right between the left index and middle finger and under the left palmar string (Fig. 780). Let the two strings of the loop, formed by drawing out the string, hang down on the left palm. One of these strings, the nearer, is an index string and the other a middle finger string. Arrange them in order side by side.

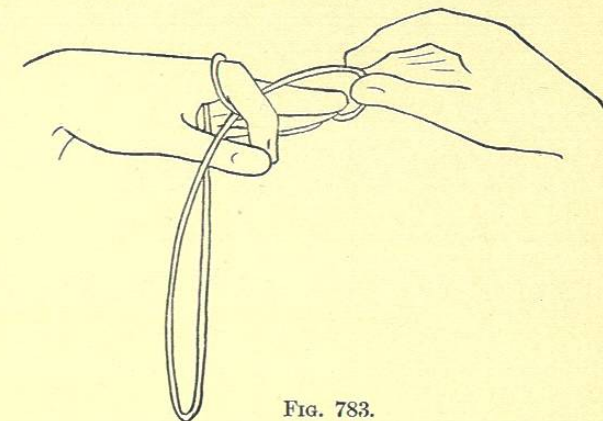


FIG. 783.

Third: Turn the left hand with the palm down and the fingers directed to the right. Bend the left thumb away from you over the hanging index string, and take up on the back of the thumb the hanging middle finger string (Fig. 781). Now put the tips of the left thumb and index together (Fig. 782), and with the right thumb and index remove the loop from the left middle finger (Fig. 783), and let it drop. Without separating the left thumb and index, the loop may be dropped off the left hand by a slight jerk, or pulled off by picking up with the right thumb and index the string which passes over the left index, and pulling it to the right (Fig. 784). This trick is interesting largely because it comes from India, where as yet the field is unexplored.

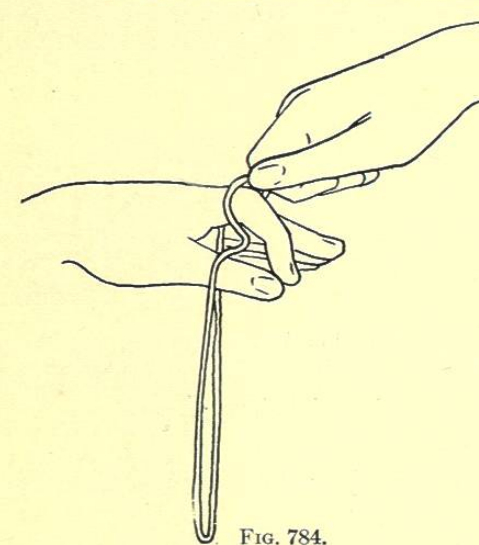


FIG. 784.

A FINGER CATCH

A Chippewa Chief showed me this catch at the St. Louis Exposition. Dr. Furness saw it done by the Uap boy who taught him "Carrying Money."

Two persons (A and B) and one loop of string are required for this figure.

First: "B" puts the loop around "A's" index finger and holds it, about

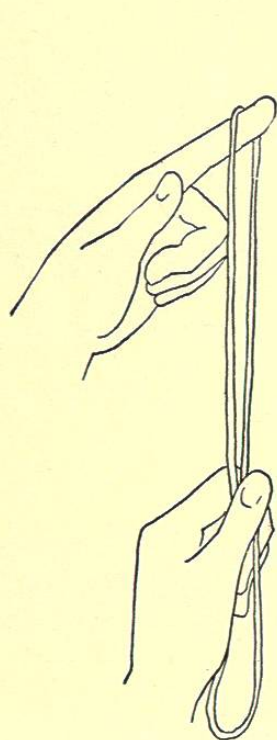


FIG. 785.

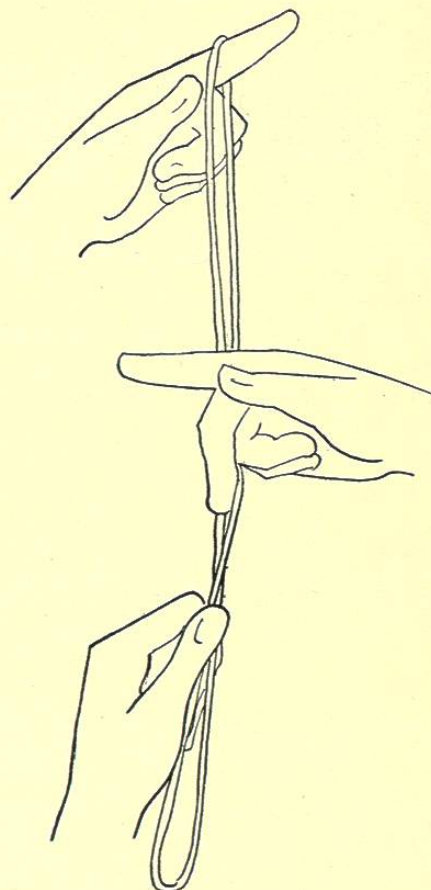


FIG. 786.

twelve inches from "A's" finger, with his left thumb and index, being careful to keep the two strings uncrossed and parallel (Fig. 785).

Second: "B" then passes his right hand palm down to the left of the strings (about six inches from "A's" finger) and, catching with the right middle finger the left hand string, draws it to the right past the right hand string (Fig. 786), and then

A FINGER CATCH

puts the middle finger down between the two strings. Then turning the hand with the palm up, he puts his index finger from below between the strings close to "A's" finger, where they are uncrossed (Fig. 787). Now turning the palm down again, he places the tip of his middle finger on the tip of "A's" index (Fig. 788) and removes his index finger from the loop around it.

Third: If "B" now pulls the strings he has been holding with his left hand, the strings will come off "A's" index and "B's" middle finger held tip to tip.

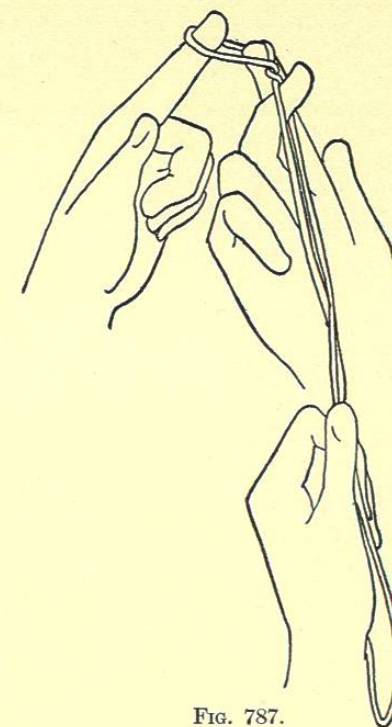


FIG. 787.

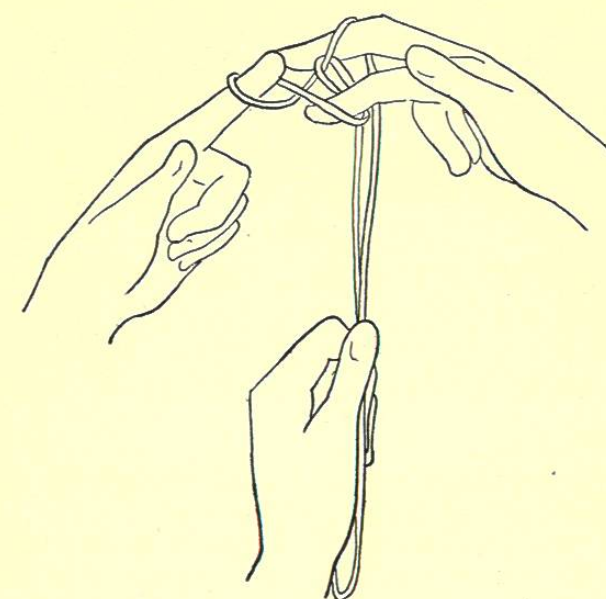


FIG. 788.

A FLY ON THE NOSE

This is an unpublished Torres Straits catch, kindly given me by Dr. Haddon. The native name is *Buli*.

First: Hold one string of the loop between the tips of the thumb and index of each hand so that about six inches of the string passes from hand to hand and

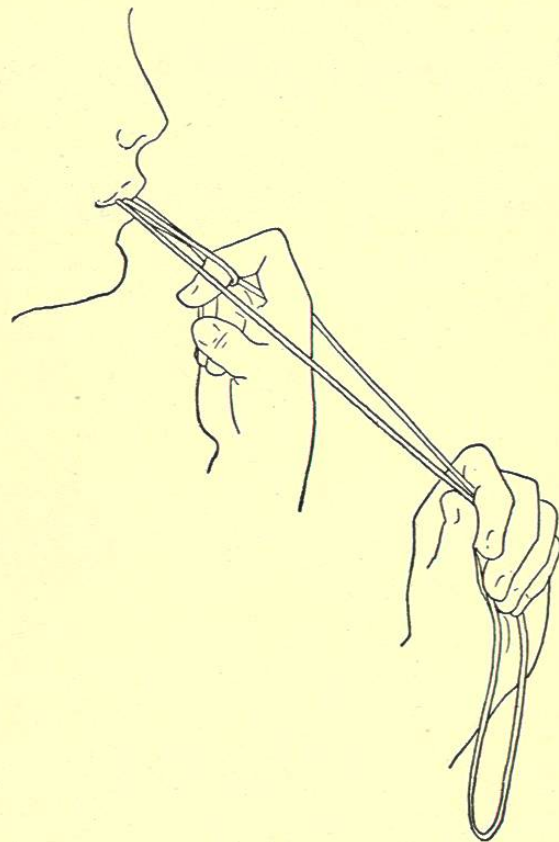


FIG. 789.

a long loop hangs down. Then in the short piece between the hands make a small ring hanging down, by passing the right hand toward you and to the left and placing the string it has been holding, between the tips of the thumb and index of the left hand, on the near side of the string already held by these fingers.

Second: Hold the ring thus formed between the teeth where the strings cross, the original right hand string crossing below the original left hand string. Hold the long loop straight down with the left hand.

Third: Pass the right index away from you through the long hanging loop, with the palmar surface facing you; then bend the finger toward you and hook it over the lower hanging string of the small ring held in the mouth (Fig. 789). Move

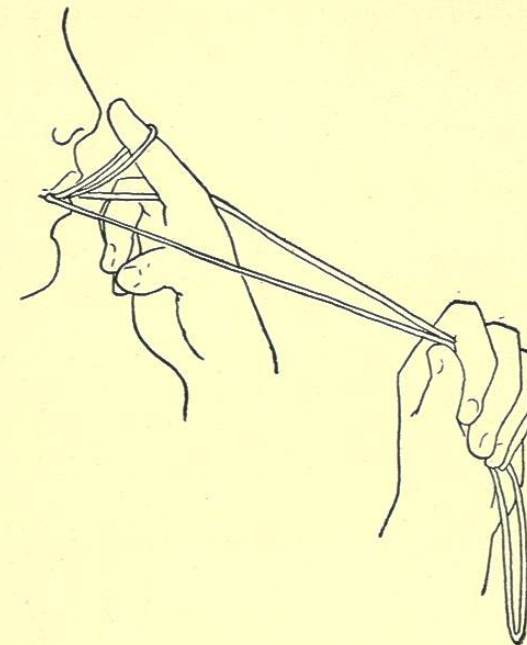


FIG. 790.

the right hand to the right on the near side of the right hanging string of the long loop, and put a twist on the loop held by the right index, by turning the finger to the right and up so that the palmar surface faces you.

Fourth: Move the right hand to the left, and put the right index (with its back from you) away from you through the long hanging loop; then place its tip on the tip of the nose (Fig. 790); release the loop held by the teeth, at the same time pulling down the end of the long hanging loop and protruding the tongue. The string should then come free from the right index.

It is very evident that the twist you put in the right index loop (in the *Fourth* movement) untwists the cross in the ring held by the teeth.

A THUMB CATCH

I learned this catch from the same Osage Indian who taught me the Osage "Diamonds." I am told that it is also known in England.

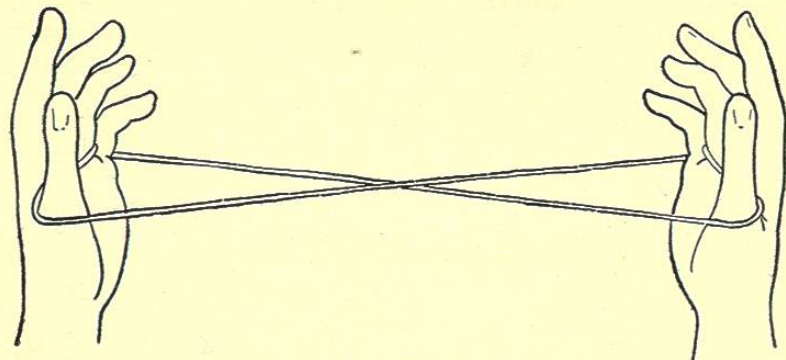


FIG. 791.

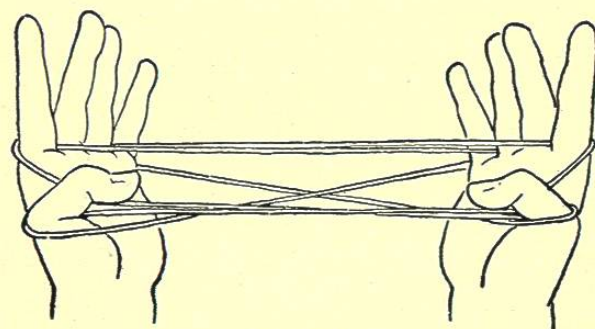


FIG. 792.

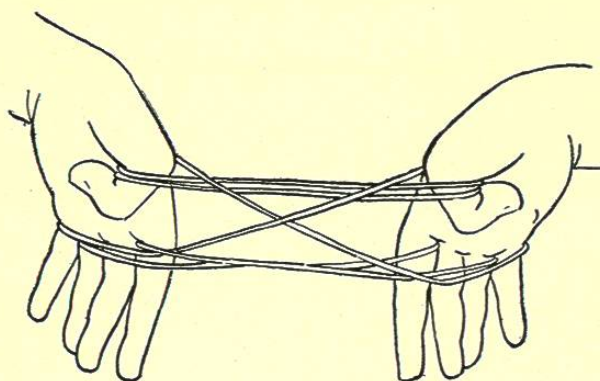


FIG. 793.

A THUMB CATCH

First: First Position, with the strings between the hands crossed; the left near string passing over the right near string (Fig. 791).

Second: Opening A, taking up the left palmar string first.

Third: Turn each thumb away from you down into the loop on the index finger, and, holding securely in the bend of the thumb the far thumb string and the

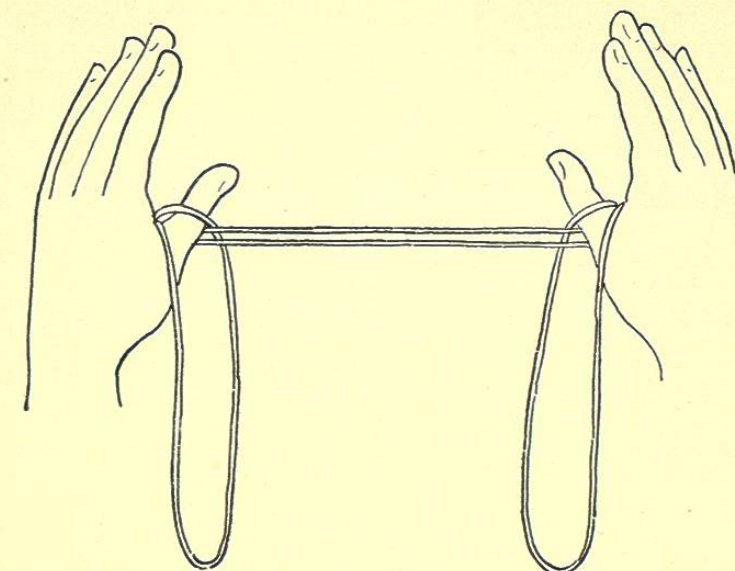


FIG. 794.

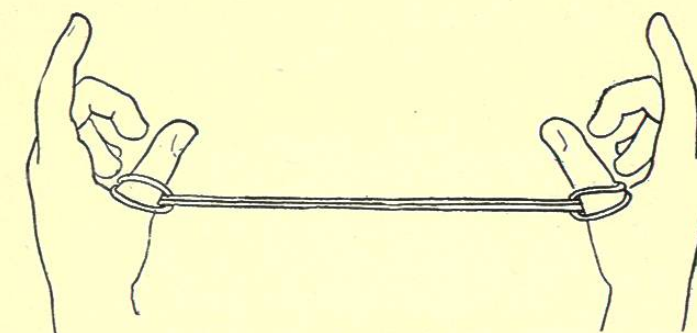


FIG. 795.

near index string (Fig. 792), turn the hands with the fingers pointing downward (Fig. 793), and drop from the hands all the strings except those held by the thumbs.

Fourth: Turn the hands with the fingers pointing upward (Fig. 794). Separate the hands (Fig. 795).

By reason of the cross in the string in the First Position when you release the loops in the *Third* movement and draw the hands apart, each little finger loop becomes a slip noose around the opposite thumb. If the cross in the First Position be formed by the right thumb string passing over the left thumb string, you must take up the *right* palmar string first in forming Opening A.

WILL YOU HAVE A YAM?

Dr. Haddon has kindly given me this unpublished Torres Straits catch. The native name is *Lewer* = Food.

First: First Position.

Second: Pass each index away from you over the little finger string and to the far side of it, then draw the string toward you in the bend of the index (Fig. 796,

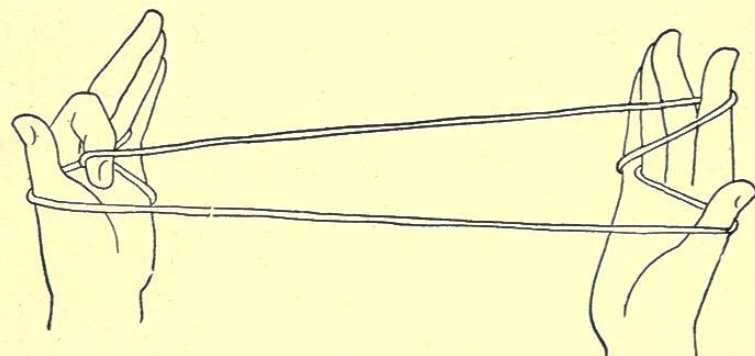


FIG. 796.

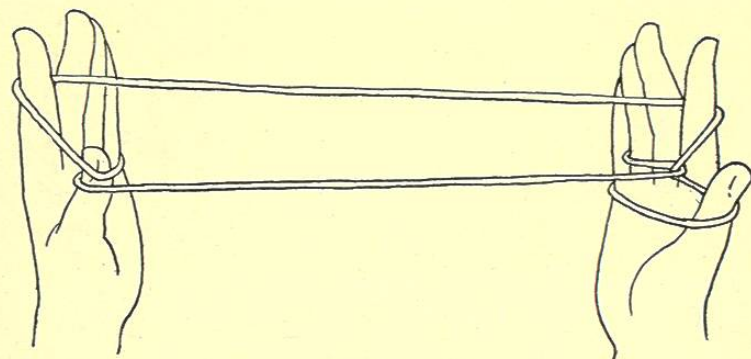


FIG. 797.

Left hand); turn the index up toward you in its usual position, thus turning the string around the tip of the finger (Fig. 796, Right hand).

Third: Pass each thumb away from you under the far index string, and pick up from below on the back of the thumb the near index string (Fig. 797, Left hand),

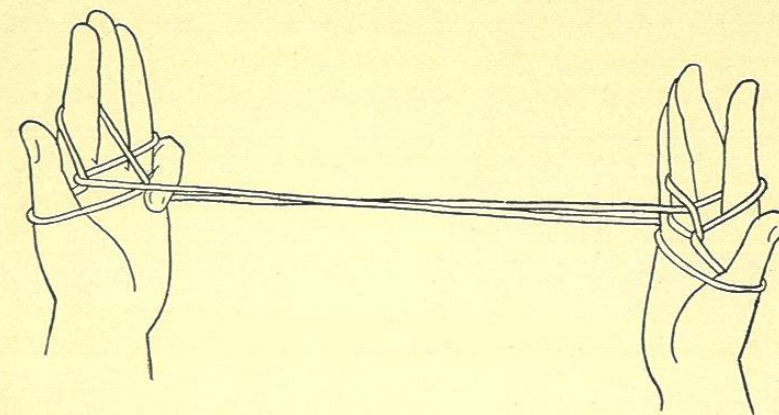


FIG. 798.

which crosses the palm obliquely, and return the thumb under the near thumb string to its position (Fig. 797, Right hand).

Fourth: Pass each little finger toward you over the far index string, and pick up from below on the back of the little finger the near string, which passes directly

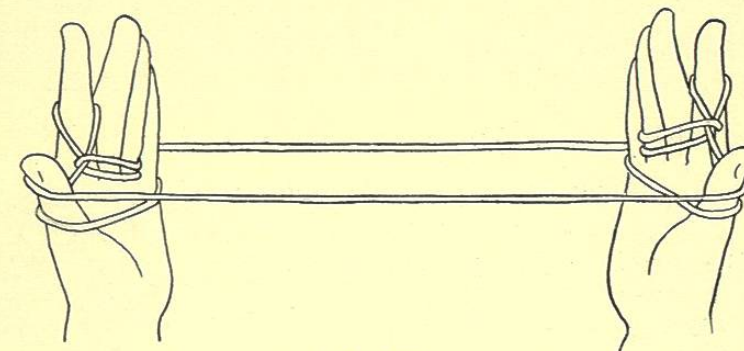


FIG. 799.

from hand to hand (Fig. 798, Left hand), and return the little finger to its position (Fig. 798, Right hand).

Fifth: Pass each thumb away from you, and pick up, from below, the near string of the figure, and return the thumb to its position (Fig. 799).

Sixth: Release the loop from the left index and hold it erect between the left index and thumb (Fig. 800). This loop represents a Yam. Offer this hand to another person: He says, "Have you any food for me?" You say, "I haven't

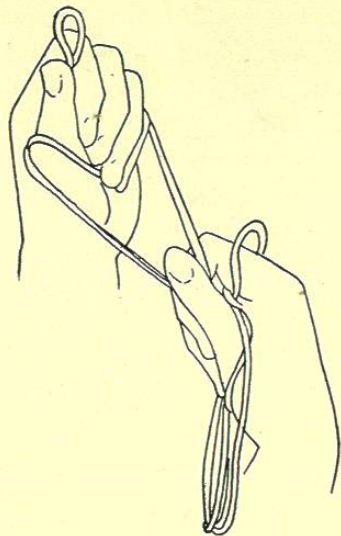


FIG. 800.

any," pulling the right hand strings at the same time; the "Yam" disappears and all the strings come off the left hand. The same can then be repeated with the right hand.

THREADING A CLOSED LOOP

This little trick is probably very widely distributed; it has been observed among the Omahas, the Pawnees and the Kwakiutls; the Japanese, and the Caroline Islanders. Dr. Boas informs Dr. Haddon (see *American Anthropologist*, v, 1903, p. 218) that there are two shamanistic societies among the Kwakiutls, and that this trick is used to identify the members of one of these societies when they meet in the forest. The members of the other society are recognized by another trick, which, since it requires the use of a stick, does not fall within our subject. The trick has also been described from Argyleshire by Dr. R. C. Maclagan (p. 189) as the "thumb loop."

First: Take a piece of string about eighteen inches long, and, holding it at the middle between the tips of the right thumb and index, wind a portion of one-half of it around the left thumb, toward the body above the thumb, and away from the body under the thumb, the left hand being held with the thumb and index pointing to the right.

Second: In the part of the string which you have been holding between the right thumb and index make a small loop and place it between the tips of the left thumb and index, so that it stands erect; hold it there and remove the right thumb and index.

Third: Pick up between the tips of the right thumb and index the end of the other half of the string, which is hanging down from the far side of the left thumb, then draw it to the right (Fig. 801). Now make several passes with the right hand

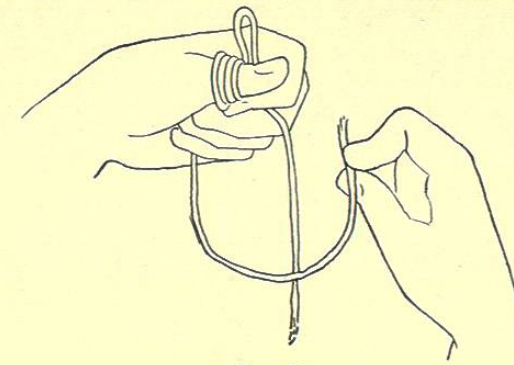


FIG. 801.

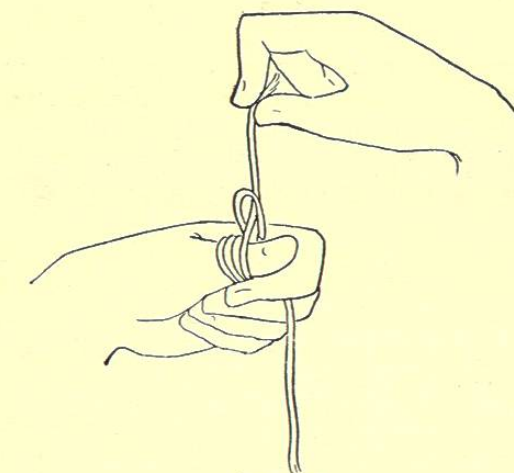


FIG. 802.

as if you were trying to thread the end of the right hand string through the erect loop held by the left hand; finally pass the right hand to the left over the left hand, apparently threading the loop, but really drawing the part of the string which hangs from the right hand, between the left thumb and index as far as you can (Fig. 802). The loop, which is still held by the left thumb and index, appears to have been threaded by the right hand string.

A SAW MILL

This little string game was shown to me by a young Irish girl.

First: Take one string of the loop between the teeth and let the rest of the loop hang down in front of you.

Second: Let the right hanging string lie across the palm of the right hand held palm up, the fingers pointing to the left (Fig. 803); let the left hanging string

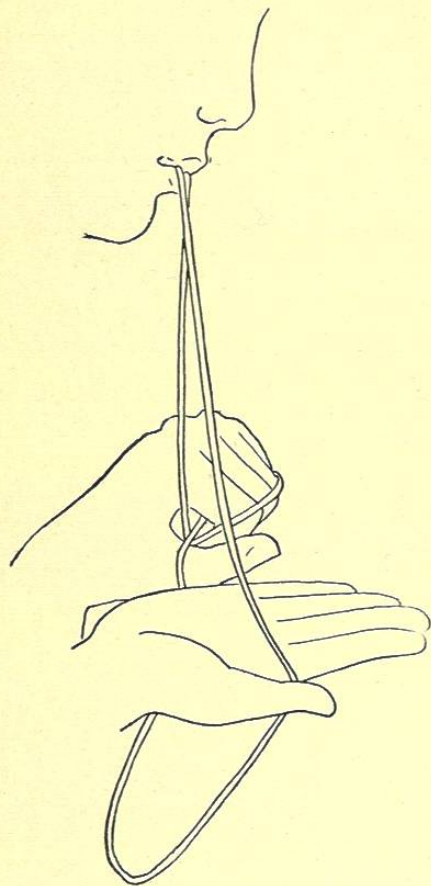


FIG. 803.

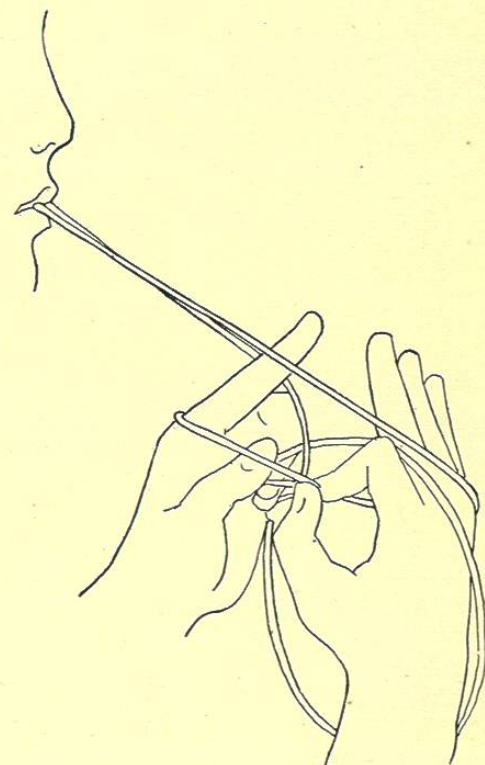


FIG. 804.

lie across the left hand held palm up, the fingers pointing to the right. Now holding each string between the thumb and index, close the fingers on the palm, and put a loop in each string, by turning the fist so that the thumb is uppermost and then passing the hand between the hanging string and your body (Fig. 803, Left hand).

Third: Exchange the loops held by the two hands, putting one loop through the other (Fig. 804).

Fourth: A second person now pulls out the hanging loop, and a sawing motion is produced by pulling alternately the loops held by the hands and the loops held by the teeth and the second person (Fig. 805).

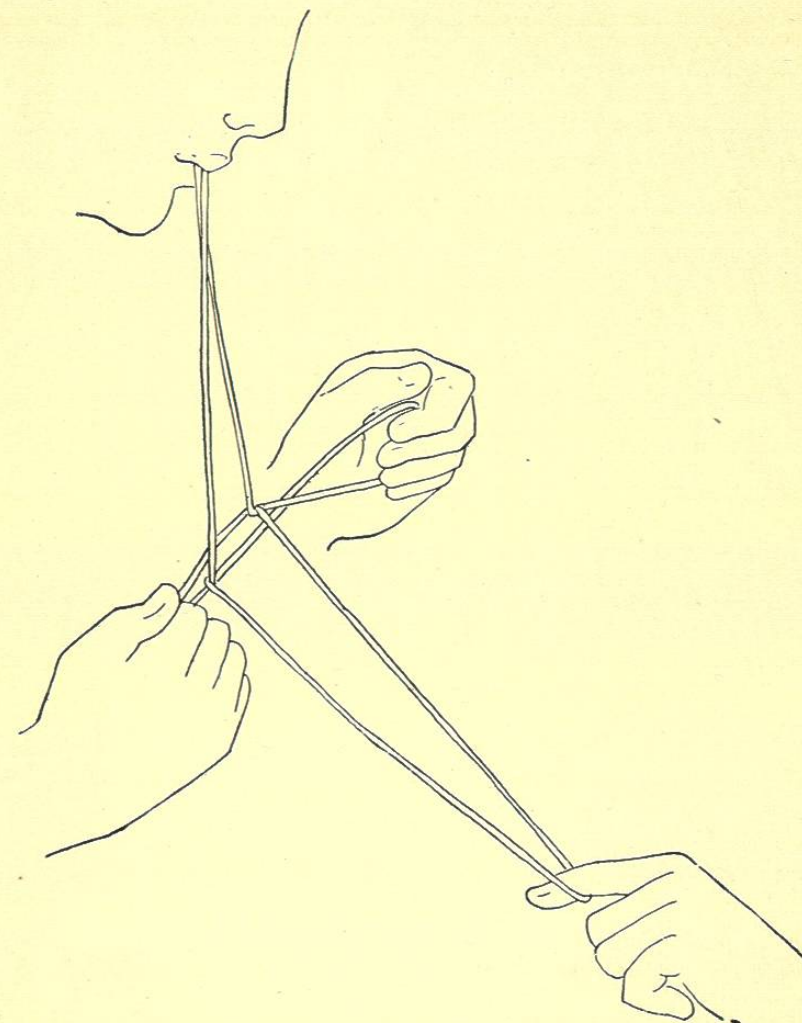


FIG. 805.