

wood set in the ground, and rising above it from seven to twelve centimetres. In the Sacramento Valley there was a game played in which a small pebble was batted with a deer's scapula, the winner being he who could bat the pebble the farthest. It was played chiefly by children. No cup-and-ball game, or anything resembling it, seems to have been known. Children played with a "buzzer" and a bull-roarer, but these were not used for any ceremonial purposes. A teetotum of wood was also used by children. Young men and boys also played a game in which they took a long stick and cut notches in it; then, taking a long breath, they tried to see how many notches they could touch before they had to take a new breath. A guessing-game was played by women and children, in which a small piece of twig or grass, about one centimetre in length, was hidden in the second joint of the bent finger; the opponent having to guess, from a scrutiny of the closed fist, in which finger-joint the object was concealed. During this process, the person holding the concealed stick waved the hands about, saying, "Ti'kEl, ti'kEl, ti'kEl!" The guesser, having decided under which finger the little stick was concealed, cried "Tët!" pointing at the same time to the finger in question. If the guess were correct, the guesser won a point, and took the object himself to conceal the next time. If he failed, the same person hid the stick again, and he must try once more. Cat's-cradle games seem not to have been much developed, although the women knew several figures. It was played merely for fun, and not, as among the Shasta, more or less ceremonially. No dice-games of any sort were in use.

The favorite game, however, of the Maidu, was, and still is, the so-called "grass-game," played for a stake, and, like all gambling-games, played with great earnestness, and often for days at a time without stop. The game is played in substantially the same manner throughout the Maidu area; and a description of the method in use in the foot-hill region is given here, the variations in use elsewhere being pointed out afterwards.

The implements used in the game are two sticks or "bones"

[*May, 1905.*]

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